

## **ART 5390: Selected Topics in Art**

Fall 2009

Professor Merrie Wright

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903-566-7423

Office hours: M/Tu/W 10-11am

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an Independent Study course for MFA candidates; therefore candidates must have been accepted into the MFA program, be in good standing, and gained permission from the Graduate Coordinator as well as the candidate's Graduate Committee in order to participate. Candidates are expected to have established a strong direction for their work, and be prepared to function at a high level within the conservatory tradition. The intent of this course is to provide candidate's opportunity to develop technical, conceptual, methodological, and formal possibilities in response to the candidate's existing tendencies. Candidates are expected to accept the challenges of developing multiple works simultaneously, which could be considered as *variations on the form*.

Candidates must develop thorough bodies of works, which endeavor to expand the degrees of sophistication, complexity, and experimentation. Candidates are expected to push themselves to become more informed contemporary artists. We expect candidates to make an impressive quantity of work.

EACH MEETING, CANDIDATES WILL BE EXPECTED TO DEFINE THE STATUS OF THEIR CURRENT WORK, TO DEVELOP QUESTIONS FOR THE PROFESSOR/COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE WORK, AND BE OPEN AND RESPONSIVE TO QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND INSTRUCTION OF THE PROFESSOR/COMMITTEE.

### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

The number of required works depends greatly on the complexity and scale of each "cycle" of work. Students are required to produce multiple related works simultaneously.

Students will have the opportunity for individual critiques by the professor, as well as scheduled group critiques. Please take advantage of conversation outside of the scheduled studio time, by communicating with the professor and your peers. Schedule an individual discussion, email ideas/questions, call. Benefit from your artistic community by challenging yourself and your colleagues to push one another to improve.

### **GRADUATE COMMITTEE CRITIQUES/UPDATES**

Graduate students are required to schedule regular critiques/updates by members of their graduate committee at least **once every month** during each semester in which the candidate is registered for credit (it is important to realize that these critiques/updates may be with individual committee members, and need not be formal critiques. The critique/update is intended to maintain an appropriate level of communication between student and committee members). It is the candidate's responsibility to schedule these critiques/updates and to maintain a *critique confirmation form* signed by the professor who conducts the critique/update. This form must be turned in to the graduate coordinator at the end of each semester.

## **SEMESTER FINAL REVIEWS**

Each semester the graduate student will schedule a final review at which time the entire MFA Graduate Committee will review the work and interview the student, this review is open to the entire faculty and student cohort. It is required that every MFA candidate will participate by the showing of current work at the date and time scheduled.

\*Although the primary responsibility rests with the professor of record, all graduate committee members may make recommendations as to the grades assigned.

## **MFA ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **1. Analyze objects**

Students will analyze the components of their visual object(s) and articulate the intended and discovered content of their aesthetic.

### **2. Contextualize aesthetic**

Students will contextualize the artist's aesthetic to the canon of art history and contemporary art theory.

### **3. Document works**

Students will digitally document their art works for the purpose of archiving, application, and presentation.

### **4. Exhibit works**

Students will participate in juried exhibitions of their work.

### **5. Interpret works**

Students will demonstrate ability to define and interpret their works of art within the context of contemporary art.

### **6. Relativity**

The graduate committee will review student work questioning the works relativity to traditional standards v. innovative standards.

## **AGREEMENTS**

1. Every student will maintain close communication with the professor/committee
2. Every student will present works in progress every meeting, and completed works on critique days.
3. Every student will explore the various issues discuss with the professor/committee.
4. Students must agree to participate with their discussion, in a receptive and respectful manner to both peers and faculty.
5. Every student will keep the studio orderly, maintain the facilities, and be respectful of others possessions.
6. Students must spend several hours per week outside of class researching and producing works.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Required on organized critique/discussion days**

One absence = 1/2 letter grade

Two absences = 1 letter grade

Three absences = 1 1/2 letter grade

And so on.

And so on.

\*More absences than three, and the student should consider dropping the course.

## GRADING CRITERIA

- 1/2 Quality of work, (technically, conceptually, formally), and consideration of personal progress.
- 1/2 Quantity of work, (number of works completed, scale and ambition in those works).
  
- \*\*\*\* Discussion with professor, attendance, work habits, Utilization of class time, clean up, and participation in critiques. These requirements will not raise your grade, but will certainly lower your grade if not fulfilled.  
Grading is the primary responsibility of the Faculty of Record, but advice/recommendations will be considered from the graduate committee.

### **CRITIQUES: All work presented for critique must be finished.**

When preparing for critiques please present work, which is:

1. clean
2. documented
3. fixed (when appropriate)
4. flat (no rolled up works)
5. edges of the work must be considered
6. the back of the work clean
7. installed on a clean surface, with no visual competition

### **DOCUMENTATION: All work must be documented in a variety of ways.**

1. signed, dated, title optional.
2. curated (cleaned, fixed, trimmed, flattened)
3. photographic (**digital images of three works due at the end of the semester**) digital documentation is required, and may be emailed or burned on a CD) I will retain these CDs.

## ART STUDIO SAFETY

For access and use of the art studio at The University of Texas at Tyler, students must be currently enrolled in an art studio course and complete a safety training session conducted by the Environmental Health and Safety office or the Art Program. Also students must have on file a signed Art Program Safety Agreement and follow all requirements and guidelines stated in that safety agreement. Violations of the agreement will result in loss of art studio access.

### **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

Health and Safety guidelines are posted and will be extensively discussed and enforced. It is the student's responsibility to use the equipment and chemicals safely and wisely. MUCH OF THE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL IN THE STUDIO IS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS. Do not use any equipment or chemical if you have not been instructed in their use. Consult the professor. Respirators, safety glasses, and gloves are recommended. There is an eyewash station near the sinks. Basic first aid supplies are maintained in the studio. In

Emergency situations dial 911, this will connect you with the University Police. Fire extinguishers are located in and around the studio. Please familiarize yourself with their location.

Any questions concerning the health requirements for or the health risks of a particular chemical or solvent may be found in the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) book located in the printshop.

**NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE STUDIOS AT ANY TIME.**

Any questions concerning the health requirements for or the health risks of a particular chemical or solvent may be found in the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) book located in the print shop.

**SAFETY PROCEDURES**

- Always turn the exhaust fan on when working in the spray booth, the acid area, and the clean up booth.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of the eyewash and shower.
- Be sure all cans, containers, jars are tightly capped before you leave-even if you didn't use them.
- Be familiar with the location of the fire extinguishers, fire alarm switches and emergency phones.
- Wear protective clothing, gloves, and safety glasses whenever using solvents or acid baths.
- Do not use saws or other power equipment while alone in the studio. No equipment may be used without training by faculty.
- Do not prop open studio doors after hours, or permit non-art major's admittance to the studio.
- Do not use spray paint or spray fixative inside the studio, unless using the paint booth with the fan on.
- Do not climb ladders without assistance
- Don't eat the glue, paint, paper, or anything that isn't meant to be consumed.
- Don't set yourself or anyone else on fire.
- Breathe deeply, relax it will be OK.

**POLICY STATEMENTS:**

**Cell phones should be turned off or placed in "silent" mode during class.** Please don't disrespect your peers or your professor by allowing your phone to ring. You may take or make calls at designated break times outside the studio.

**Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html>

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness**

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file intent to receive grade

forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to do so will result in both the original

and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average.

Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three courses repeat; graduates, for two courses repeat during his/her career at UT Tyler.

### **State-Mandated Course Drop Policy**

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from

dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses

dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the 12th day of class (See Schedule of Classes for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule include, but are not limited to, the following: totally withdrawing from the university; being administratively dropped from a course; dropping a course for a personal emergency; dropping a course for documented change of work schedule; or dropping a course for active duty service with the U.S. armed forces or Texas National Guard. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Registrar's Office and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Registrar's

Office if you have any questions.

### **Disability Services**

In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office in UC 282, or call (903) 566-7079.

### **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to

inform the instructor of such absences by the second-class meeting of the semester.

### **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### **Social Security and FERPA Statement:**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.