

SYLLABUS

Course: BFA Senior Thesis ARTS 4950

Art Department secretary's telephone number and email address:
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Semester Offered: Fall 2017

Instructor: Lauren Razzore Phone: 973-720-3282
E-mail: razzorel@wpunj.edu (preferred)

Office Hours: Please make an appt to see me if you plan on coming by so I know to expect you but generally I am always available after class on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Course Description and Objectives:

ARTS 4950 provides students with a culminating studio experience for the BFA degree. The thesis project should demonstrate a student's ability to design, execute, defend, evaluate and present the results of a substantial and original research visual arts project. The class is comprised of students majoring in a variety of disciplines. Students are expected to complete a project in their concentration area of the major. Projects are expected to demonstrate a personal aesthetic, individual expression and unique artistic vision.

Simultaneous enrollment in a class related to your area of concentration may enhance your ability to succeed in this course. Overall, you should have a faculty member in your concentration mentoring you concurrently with this course. A journal of your research, readings and process will be maintained all semester. A final thesis presentation along with a 10 page paper is required for the successful completion of this course. You will be expected to present work in progress at a mid semester faculty critique, and then again at a final celebration and presentation.

Topical Outline of the Course Content:

The course requires participation in class critiques, guest lectures, demonstrations, progress reports on research and a final thesis presentation.

Requirements, Expectations, Guidelines:

- Being prepared and on time to all classes.
- More than 1 absence in this course will result in a lowering of your overall grade. It is important that you are here and on time for all class and individual meetings and participating in the critiques of your fellow students. Please contact me if you cannot attend class after your first excused absence should there be an emergency.
- All deadlines must be met.

- Preparation for class discussion and participation will effect your final grade. Incomplete grades will not be given unless there are documented medical or family reasons. Failure to complete assignments for any other reason will be reflected in your final grade.
- No texting or calling in class. When students and guests are presenting, critiquing, lecturing, any use of your phones will result in dismissal from the class and an absence. All sounds must be turned off including the vibrate setting.

Grading Policy:

Your final grade will be determined according to the following:

- * Final visual thesis project: 60%
- * Final thesis paper (with proper research and citations: 30%
- * Attendance and Class Participation: 10%

Grading will be based on the following criterion: concept (creativity and ingenuity of your ideas), exploration (how well you apply and pursue your ideas), technical proficiency (no bugs, everything works), aesthetic quality of your work, professionalism, class participation (oral and written), and attendance and punctuality.

Suggestions:

Always back-up everything! You should be saving your visual work in multiple places and documenting your processes as you go.

Semester schedule:

September 12: first class meeting, go over syllabus, introduce possible project ideas, understanding the thesis process and semester expectations. (Please note: last day to drop classes with 100% refund)

September 19: Class presents more robust description of their project, class critique.

September 26: Studio Week

October 3: Class Critiques and presentations.

October 10: Studio Week

October 17: Class Critiques and presentations.

October 24: Studio Week

October 31: Class Critiques and presentations.

November 7: Studio Week

November 14: Mid Semester Faculty Critique. Faculty will be invited to a critique and presentation of your work in progress. The purpose of this is to give you feedback in advance of completing your project. This should help you edit and hone your ideas with an eye towards completion and make any necessary course corrections.

November 21: Studio Week

November 28: Individual Meeting day. Each student will meet with me to discuss their progress and presentation plan.

December 5: Final presentation dry run

December 12: Final Thesis Presentation and Celebration, faculty, friends and family to attend. Students will present their final projects formally to the group.

Final Thesis Papers Due: December 22