

SPRING 2014

ALS 151: THE STUDIO — CRITICAL EXPLORATIONS IN ARTS & LETTERS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor 1. Dean Ed Inch, College of Arts and Letters

Instructor 2. Professor Christina Bellon, Philosophy

Course meets: T 9:00-10:15am, Capistrano Hall 142A (Recital Hall); Th Hybrid/online/events.

Office Hours: MW 10:00- 11:30, and by appointment; Mendocino Hall 3000.

Lead Instructional Student Assistant: Nicolas Fletcher

Grading Assistant: Marie Bischoff

Contact: The Instructors and ISA can be contacted via **Messaging** in Blackboard. Please keep all course-related communications within Blackboard **Messaging** as the principal means of communication outside of class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Studio: Critical Explorations in Arts and Letters provides students with an opportunity to become informed and engaged participants in the cultural, artistic and literary dimensions of their communities. Students will explore the ways our experience of and appreciation for cultural products is informed by exposure to theory and practice in each of the Arts and Letters disciplines.

NOTE: This course requires attendance at various off-campus and on-campus events outside of class time. Students must ensure that they are able to attend events at various venues in the Sacramento region.

GENERAL EDUCATION

This course satisfies Upper Division GE and GE Area C2: Introduction to the Arts.

As an introduction to the various Arts and Letters disciplines, students will be exposed to the variety of disciplinary methods and theoretical perspectives of the Arts and Letters. Each week students will engage in an examination of the methodologies and theories of each discipline: Art, Communications, Design, English, History, Humanities and Religious Studies, Foreign Languages, Music, Philosophy, Theater and Dance.

Students will also be required to attend a variety of events (performances, galleries, etc) on offer in the region. These will vary from theatrical and dance performances, musical performances, to art displays,

and lectures by authors, etc. The breadth of exposure to arts and letters, upon which students will have opportunity to reflect critically, is unmet in any other course in GE Area C2.

The course is explicitly designed to expose students to the breadth of the heritage of arts and letters and is intended to focus students' attention not merely on ONE arts form or ONE artistic heritage, but on the breadth of those available in the College of Arts and Letters and which are demonstrated regularly in the performing arts community. In this course, students will develop their understanding and appreciation for the variety of arts and letters and their value in community.

Through the selection of the weekly assigned readings and the selection of required events, students will be exposed to and have opportunity to examine critically the variety of dimensions that comprise the human condition. The selection of required events is such as to ensure that students are exposed cultural and artistic products which represent and explore issues of diversity or are themselves the direct contribution of peoples from diverse backgrounds.

COURSE MATERIAL

REQUIRED TEXTS & OTHER READINGS

No Required Textbook, however there are multiple required readings which will be made available in Blackboard. See Weekly Schedule for required readings.

MEMBERSHIPS

Because the nature of the course is to facilitate student engagement in arts and literary works in the community, students are required to engage in cultural and creative events on campus and in the region. Every student will become a member of a cultural or creative/performance organization and participate in one or more of their scheduled events. Memberships can also reduce the price of tickets for events, as well as bringing other benefits, which may include special events, opportunities to meet with performers or artists, gala openings, members-only receptions, etc.

ONLINE REQUIREMENTS

Please note, this is a hybrid course which includes a significant Blackboard component. All required course work will be completed and submitted online via Blackboard. You will need a SacLink account to participate in this component of the course. Be sure you are familiar with basic functions within Blackboard. Technical problems must be addressed to the ITC Help Line @ 278-7337.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is designed to provide a hybrid learning experience, which includes both in-class (50%) and online/out-of-class (50%) components.

- **Online sessions** will be a blend of individual and group activities and assessment via Blackboard, including blogging, quizzes, event attendance, research.

- **In-class sessions** are series of lectures by various speakers, held on the Sacramento State campus in the Capistrano Music Recital Hall, CPS 142A.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about regional creative and cultural venues by attending several different venues for performing/gallery/studio arts.
- Students will develop an understanding of BEING an audience member as a means of engaging in creative and cultural activities.
- Students will be able to critique, discuss, and express opinions about creative and cultural events by applying the theories and methods from lecture to the events they attend.

The objectives listed above will be met through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Attend at least FIVE events from the “Required Events” list.
- Submit one Event Analysis for each of the FIVE required event attended that will provide critical analysis of the event attended. While FIVE analyses must be submitted, the lowest score will be dropped from your total final grade. If you submit more than five, your four best scores will be used to calculate final grades.
- Participate in and contribution to Discussion Boards, an online series of moderated discussions; at least TEN substantive responses to prompts and TEN responses to peer postings (at least one posting and responses must be provided for each of the ten board topics).
- Completion of THREE online quizzes based on lecture content and reading assignments.
- Completion of TWO substantive argumentative essays.

EVALUATION AND REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

This course is valued on a 100 point (100%) scale. All required assignments will total 100 available points. Bonus opportunities will occasionally be offered, at a value of one point each. You may earn up to 5 bonus points for a total of 105/100 points.

Points	Description
40	Off-Campus Event Analyses: 4 best of 5 required @ 10 points each
20	On-Campus Event Analyses: 2 required @ 10pts each
15	Online Quizzes: 3 required @ 5 points each
15	Public Art Project @ 15 points
10	Creative Expression Assignment @ 10 points
0	Community Cultural/Performance Membership
100	Total Points Possible

EVENT ANALYSES: 5 OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS & 2 ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

Students must submit **five off-campus event** analyses drawn from the list of approved off-campus events. Students must take what they learn in lecture and apply it to critically analyze the performances/lectures/exhibits they attend. These have a required length of 750-1000 words. Events cannot be substituted. Analyses written on events not from the approved off-campus list will not be accepted.

Students must also attend at least **two events hosted on-campus at Sacramento State**. These events are frequent, diverse, and usually FREE – and may include any number of possible Sac State venues, from student music performances and art gallery showings, to visiting faculty speakers and professional groups. These events are proposed by students in the class, approved by Prof. Bellon, and listed in the appropriately titled Discussion Board. Keep checking for an event that captures your interest, or better yet – walk around campus, pick up the student news paper, listen up when your professors announce something, and FIND an event that you want to attend → then propose it on the discussion board → when Prof Bellon approves it (it has to be within the topical scope of the course) → then GO! And bring a friend! These analyses follow the same format as the off-campus event analyses.

ONLINE QUIZZES

This course will offer 3 quizzes roughly every month of the semester. These will be based upon the lectures, guest speakers, assigned readings, and any other relevant material for the period. They are worth 5 points each and will be opened for at least three days. No make-up for missed quizzes.

PUBLIC ART PROJECT ASSIGNMENT

Early in the semester, students will be required to undertake the Public Art Project, which involves multiple modes of communication and expression. This project will be completed in two parts (see instructions in Blackboard for complete information):

Part I involves seeking out an example of public art in the Sacramento Region (yes, you will have to go out and FIND art, but it's everywhere, so this won't be hard). Once you have found public art, take a photo of it (or several photos, to convey its public setting), research some relevant information on it, you will then post this in the Public Art Project Blog. The catch here is that once an art piece has been posted, it cannot be used by anyone else. Everyone in class must work on a unique piece of art. So, you will have to get an early start, be efficient in your research, and post promptly. Art that has been previously posted will be disqualified and deleted. You will have to start again.

Part II involves a formal written essay (1000 words) addressing several questions and concerns about public art and the piece you selected. This essay will be submitted after all the posted art has been confirmed and approved. Students may not write their essay on a different piece of art from what they submitted in Part I, and students who neglected to submit Part I will not be able to submit an essay for Part II.

See Blackboard for complete details and instructions (including map of the eligible region).

CREATIVE EXPRESSION ASSIGNMENT

Later in the semester, we will ask everyone in the class to work on some creative mode of expression, capture it in some way, describe it, and post this to the course blog. Creative Expression Assignment means exactly that, create an original piece of art – it can be art in the traditional sense of painting, drawing, or sculpting (still or kinetic or motion) in various media or something untraditional like a creative cake or artistically presented meal, OR it can be performance based. For the former, create and submit a photo/video of it or upload it if it's digital. If the latter, you can video yourself slamming some personal poetry, knocking 'em dead at an open mic comedy night (have a friend video you), or engage in a rap street fight (again, have a friend video you), create some dance moves, put a performance together, or create a short animated video piece. Upload it, and give a brief description, including what it means to you, of your art. Whatever your mode of expression, capture it, convey it, share it!

DISCUSSION BOARD

There is no formal requirement to participate in the discussion board, but this is an excellent way to ask general questions about the course, contact me or Nick about problems you have (which we can fix... i.e., we are not IT techs), and to follow the list of approved on-campus events for your on-campus event analyses.

LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned, which are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	96-100%	Excellent Work
A-	90-95%	Nearly Excellent Work
B+	87-90%	Very Good Work
B	83-87%	Good Work
B-	80-83%	Mostly Good Work
C+	77-80%	Above Average Work
C	73-77%	Average Work
C-	70-73%	Mostly Average Work
D+	67-70%	Below Average Work
D	60-67%	Poor Work
F	0-60%	Failing Work

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend all face-to-face class sessions as listed on the course calendar. Attendance at face-to-face class meetings and participation in online activities is essential for the success of the hybrid experience. Information and content delivered during the class meetings will not be available elsewhere, so absences can have a dramatic deleterious effect on your ability to complete the event analyses, weekly discussions, and essay assignments.

BUILD RAPPORT

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

LATE POLICY

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Blackboard unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline. Extensions will not be given. ***Late or missing discussion assignments will result in a penalty of 10% per calendar day late.*** This can significantly, detrimentally affect your grade, so be sure not to miss deadlines.

UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU MAY DROP THIS COURSE

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider dropping from a course. Review the events schedule and assess whether you can meet the requirements of this course. If you are unable to commit to performance dates, you must address this problem before the drop deadline has passed. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration, dropping and withdrawing from courses.

INFORM YOUR INSTRUCTOR OF ANY ACCOMMODATIONS NEEDED

Every effort has been made to ensure this course is designed to maximize opportunities for student success across the diversity of the student body. However, it may be the case that some elements of the course will require modification to ensure equal opportunity for students with documented disabilities to succeed. Students who have a documented disability (visible or invisible) and require accommodation or assistance with assignments, tests, attendance, note taking, etc., must see the instructor by the ***end of the third week of semester*** to allow arrangements to be made. Failure to notify and consult with the instructor by this date might impede her ability to offer you the necessary accommodation and assistance in a timely fashion. Also be sure to consult with the Services for Students with Disabilities (Lassen Hall) to see what other campus services and accommodation options are available for you. All information shared with the instructor will remain confidential.

SSWD is located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at sswd@csus.edu.

COMMIT TO INTEGRITY

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

SAC STATE'S ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY & PROCEDURES

“The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. California State University, Sacramento expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades.” Read more about Sac State's [Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures](#)

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the office of Student Affairs for administrative penalty and oversight. Assignments in which cheating or dishonesty has been found will be graded at 0 (zero) and, if determined to be egregious by the instructor, an F will be issued for the course.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The weekly schedule is available as a separate excel file. Please consult the schedule to track availability dates for required events as well as due dates for all assignments and speakers for in-class lectures.