SPRING 2015

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

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Class Meetings: T 9:00-10:15am, Capistrano Recital Hall.
Instructor: Prof. Christina Bellon
Office Hours: MW 11:00-noon and T 2:00-3:00pm in MND 3000; and by appointment.
Availability: Every effort is made to communicate with you quickly, effectively, and accurately. I take this as an important element of my responsibility to you. However, after 5pm M-F or on the weekend, please do not expect a response until the next business day. If the concern regards a due date problem or an assignment submission problem, please check for a response frequently, as often the best solution is one which can be implemented quickly.

Special Note: This faculty member is considered a ‘mandated reporter’ for suspected child abuse or neglect under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act and is bound by the requirements set forth in CSU Executive Order 1083 (available here http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1083.html).

Graduate Assistants: Marie Bischoff, TBA
Andrew Blandford, TBA

Contacts: The Instructor and GAs 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 events, as well as events on-campus. Students must ensure that they are able to attend events at various venues in the Sacramento region.

GENERAL EDUCATION

This course satisfies 3 units of Upper Division GE and GE Area C1: 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 topics.

**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. **Everyone must write one of the three required off-campus event analyses on an event with their membership group.**

**ONLINE REQUIREMENTS: BLACKBOARD/SACCT AND TURNITIN**

Please note, this course includes a significant online component. All assigned work, including projects and quizzes can be found in SacCT, as well as the general course calendar and class notification options. It is your responsibility to ensure you have regular and reliable access to computing facilities sufficient to meet the needs of this course. Technical problems must be reported to me at your earliest encounter of the problem. If the problem is more complex than instructor skills allow, you must address your problem to the SacLink Help Line @ 916-278-7337.
Consistent with Sacramento State’s efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, this course will use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student’s work with an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a ‘similarity score’. All submissions to this course will be checked for originality using this tool. Students should submit without identifying information included in the paper (e.g. name or student number), the system will automatically show this information to faculty in your course when viewing the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin.

**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 three events from the “OFF-CAMPUS Events” list.
- Submit one Event Analysis for each of the three required OFF-CAMPUS events attended that will provide critical analysis of the event attended. While three analyses must be submitted, you may replace the lowest score with an optional fourth event analysis. If you submit FOUR, your THREE best scores will be used to calculate final grades.
- Attend at least three events from a series of ON-CAMPUS events which instructor and students can identify and post to the ON-CAMPUS Events Discussion Board (with instructor approval).
- Submit one Event Analysis for each of the three required ON-CAMPUS events attended that will provide critical analysis of the event attended. While three analyses must be submitted, you may replace the lowest score with an optional fourth on-campus event analysis. If you submit FOUR, your THREE best scores will be used to calculate final grades.
- Completion of THREE online quizzes based on lecture content and reading assignments.
- Completion of the Public Art Project, including finding and posting about a public art display in the region, and writing an essay about it.
- Completion of the Creative Expressions Project, in which students can create something of their own, post an account of the creative process, and showcase it in a special class session at the end of semester.

**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 10 bonus points for a total of 110/100 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Off-Campus Event Analyses: best 3 of 4 @ 10 points each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>On-Campus Event Analyses: best 3 of 4 @ 10pts each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**EVENT ANALYSES: OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS & ON-CAMPUS EVENTS**

Students must submit three off-campus event analyses drawn from the list of approved off-campus events. **One of these three required submissions must be on an event with your membership organization.** 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 400-500 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 three 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 you, or better yet – walk around campus, pick up the student newspaper, 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 administered through SacCT. They 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 presentation. This project will be completed in two parts (see instructions in SacCT for complete information):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Online Quizzes: 3 required @ 5 points each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Public Art Project @ 15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Creative Expression Assignment @ 10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Learner Responsibility Survey (Are you ready for this course?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Academic Honesty Assignment (Must be completed for any written work to be accepted for grading.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Getting to Know You Blog Post (Fostering community!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10)</td>
<td>Membership (one event must be with your membership group = 10pts for one Off-campus Event Analysis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Total Points Possible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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, then post the photos and description 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. Postings of art already used 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 eligible to submit an essay for Part II.

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

CREATIVE EXPRESSION PROJECT

Later in the semester, we will ask everyone in the class to create something themselves. You will capture it in some way, describe it, and post the creative process and final product to the course blog. Creative Expression Project 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) in various media, OR it can 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 poetry 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. Whatever your mode of expression, capture it, convey it, share it!

“GETTING TO KNOW YOU” BLOG POSTING

This is a fun assignment – you just have to tell us a bit about yourself, why you’re here, what your hopes and dreams are, what you do for fun or relaxation – anything really, to give us all a sense of who you are and where you’re coming from. We’ll be doing some collaborative work in this course, and it will be so much more enjoyable if we knew a bit about who we are. That’s also the biggest obstacle to building a sense of community in any course – so go ahead, tell us about yourself!

ACADEMIC HONESTY ASSIGNMENT

This is the first assignment for the course and must be completed before any written assignments are submitted – by the end of the second week of semester. This assignment has no specific point value, but failure to complete it means I will not accept any of your written coursework. This would be a very costly omission! Find the assignment in SacCT. Read more about Sac State’s Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned, which are assigned as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-100%</td>
<td>Excellent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-95%</td>
<td>Nearly Excellent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-90%</td>
<td>Very Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87%</td>
<td>Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>Mostly Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-80%</td>
<td>Above Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77%</td>
<td>Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>Mostly Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-70%</td>
<td>Below Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-67%</td>
<td>Poor Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
<td>Failing Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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. Take the Learner Responsibility Survey in SacCT, and decide whether you can really commit to this course. It is not hard, but
it is demanding! Review the events schedule and decide if this is what you want to engage in. 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 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 http://www.csus.edu/sswd/applicationProcess-Forms.html.

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. Read more about Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

Important Note: All written assignments will be verified using Turnitin for originality assurance. 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.