

ARTS 132: Collage

UNC Chapel Hill

Maymester 2019

Teaching Assistant Professor: Joy Drury Cox
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Office Hours: TBA + By Appointment

Monday - Friday
11:30 am - 2:45 pm
Hanes Art Center: Room 226
Class website: www.arts132maymester2019.wordpress.com
Prerequisite: none

Overview

This course is an introductory art course that explores foundational art and design concepts through the medium of collage. The word collage is derived from the French, *coller*, "to paste." Collage is traditionally defined as the gluing together of a variety of materials, including paper, found objects, fabric, labels, cut up drawings, transfers, and any other material found suitable by the artist. In this course, we will work primarily with a variety of paper types, including found and printed surfaces like photographs, advertisements, and other paper ephemera. Over the course of the semester, students will develop and expand upon their knowledge of historical and contemporary artists working in collage through blog posting, presentations, readings, and field trips.

Course Learning Objectives

- To develop a basic understanding of formal aspects of art making
 - To develop technical skills working with a variety of tools and materials
 - To become acquainted with some historical and contemporary artists working in collage
 - To explore a variety of strategies for creative thinking and making
 - To engage in formal and conceptual analysis of various art works
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Methodology

Classroom time will consist of technical demonstrations, in-class assignments, lectures, discussions, classroom critiques, video screenings, field trips and open lab time. Outside of class, homework will be comprised of collage projects, reading and writing assignments, and class blog posting.

Participation

Class participation is a vital aspect to your successfulness in this course. It is also integral to creating an environment in which we all, collectively, help one another move forward with their work through a process of constructive criticism and support. Participation extends to all facets of the class, including:

- Offering thoughtful contributions during class critiques
- Approaching assignments & projects with a positive, experimental, and inquisitive attitude
- Utilizing class work time effectively
- Contributing to the class blog
- Taking notes during lectures, demonstrations and video screenings
- Showing up on time and being prepared for class.

Your participation in these areas will be noted and will comprise a portion of your final grade.

PLEASE NOTE that using your cell phone during class (for texting, checking email, etc) will adversely affect your participation grade, as will utilizing personal computers for any purpose other than working on class assignments and research.

Participation is different than attendance.

Attendance

Attendance for every class and critique is expected. Your presence in class is crucial to your development in this course. Unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your grade by a 1/2 of a letter grade (5 points) for each absence. So, for instance, if you have an A- and 1 absences, you will receive a B+, 2 absences = B, 3 absences = B- and so on. Absences will be excused only with a note from a doctor or Campus Health Services. If you miss three or more classes, including excused absences, you will receive a failing grade in the class.

Your presence at critiques is especially important. Missing a critique without an approved excuse will result in a failing grade for that project.

Lateness will not be tolerated in this class. Class will start promptly at 11:30 am. For every 3 instances of lateness, you will acquire one unexcused absence that will count toward your overall tally of absences, which ultimately could result in the lowering of your final grade.

When absent, it is the student's responsibility to contact the Instructor to find out what was covered in class and what they need to make up.

Electronic Device Policy

As I mentioned above in the participation section, electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc) are strictly forbidden during critiques, discussions, and presentations. If you do bring electronic devices to class, please keep them turned off and stowed in your backpacks, unless the instructor approves usage for the class.

Projects & Assignments

You will be required to complete assignments both in and out of class. There will be three main out of class projects. There will also be a select amount of in-class assignments. I will introduce new concepts in class sessions, clearly explaining the technical and conceptual parameters in advance. When applicable, slideshows will be given highlighting key ideas and artists relevant to the content of the assignment. Class projects and assignment information will be posted on the "Assignments" page of the class website the day they are assigned.

Late assignments and projects will be penalized half a letter grade for every day they're late. This means that if you earned a B+, but turned in your assignment a day late, your grade would be reduced to a B. If you have extenuating circumstances and know that you will be unable to complete the assignment on time, please contact me in advance to discuss this.

Readings

You will be assigned some readings on creativity and collage. These texts are written by a variety of different thinkers and are designed to help to you contextualize collage's evolution and (hopefully) plant seeds for new ideas within your own studio practices. It is imperative to know the history of whatever medium you're working in, so we will dedicate a portion of class time to exploring the issues raised in these texts. All assigned readings will be posted on the class website as PDFs under the "Readings" header.

Additionally, you will be required to write written responses to the readings. These will be posted on the class website. Please see the class schedule for specific due dates.

Writing

ARTS 132 - Collage fulfills the University's General Education requirements and over the course of the semester, students will be asked to complete the equivalent of up to 10 pages of writing. This writing requirement will be dispersed across a few different areas: readings responses, artist statements, and blog posts featuring work by contemporary and canonical artists.

Class Website

The class website will be where you will post your reading responses and out of class assignments. Additionally, the class website is an archive and a resource for you. It will have pertinent information relating to the syllabus, your assignments, readings, the schedule, material needs, technical handouts, and a list of links to various photographers and organizations for you to find inspiration.

Everyone is required to accept the Wordpress invitation that I will send out the first week. Simply follow the instructions provided to become an author of the site. Please note: if you already have a Wordpress account, you will still need to become an author on OUR class site – you may not post to your existing Wordpress. This site is private and is only visible to students enrolled in the class.

Sketchbooks

Your sketchbook is a place for note-taking and in-class exercises. It is also a place for you to work through ideas for larger projects. Your sketchbook should not be used as a calendar or notebook for other classes. It should contain only images, ideas, sketches etc that pertain to this class.

These will be collected on the last day of class - May 30th. Make the most of this space to express yourself...experiment and get creative! These will be graded.

Blog Posts

Over the course of the Maymester, you will be required to create three blog posts each featuring one collage artist's work. Your post should include at least three images and at least 300 words discussing the artist, their work, and why you chose them. The particulars of the blog post format and posting deadlines will be further explained in class.

Grading

Merely completing an assignment does not ensure a good grade for that assignment. Your work in this course will be evaluated in terms of technical proficiency, evidence of experimentation and risk-taking, comprehension of specific assignment concepts, improvement and level of effort demonstrated. As noted above, late assignments will be penalized half a letter grade for every day they're late.

Overall assessment will be broken down as follows:

45 points – 3 projects (15 points each)

15 points – Artist Blog Posts (3 total - 5 points each)

15 points – Reading Responses (3 total - 5 points each)

5 points – Sketchbook

20 points – Overall participation and engagement in the classroom

Grade Scale

A 100 – 95 points

A- 94 – 90 points

B+ 89 – 87 points

B 86 – 83 points

B- 82 – 80 points

C+ 79 – 77 points

C 76 – 73 points

C- 72 – 70 points

D+ 69 – 67 points

D 66 – 60 points

F 59 – and below

Grade Explanations

- A** Exceptional, Superlative work. Both technical and conceptual elements of the project show a level of significant mastery and originality.
- B** Above average work that displays well executed compelling ideas.
- C** Average work where basic technical and conceptual requirements met. Work is satisfactory.
- D** Inadequate work that fails to meet the assignment requirements. Often this work is incomplete and displays a clear lack of effort.
- F** Unacceptable work and effort.

*** Final assessment of student progress in this course is determined by a comprehensive review of work done in the class. This review takes the place of the final exam generally given in academic classes.

Note on Academic Integrity & The Honor Code:

Any violations of the UNC Academic Integrity Policy will not be tolerated. Infractions including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, or falsification, or turning in old artwork or images created for other classes. Anyone in violation of the Academic Integrity Policy will be reported to the dean of students and will receive a failing grade in the course.

*The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus or class schedule at their discretion. Students will be notified both verbally and in writing.

Materials

See the class website for more specific details on materials and where to purchase them.

ARTS 132 Course Schedule - Maymester 2019

Important Dates:

W - May 15 - 1st Day of Class. Introductions and go over syllabus.
Class Trip To The Scrap Exchange

Th - May 16 - Class Visit To The Sloane Art Library

F - May 17 - Reading Response #1 Due
Blog Post #1 Due

T - May 21 - Project #1 Due

W - May 22 - Reading Response #2 Due
Blog Post #2 Due

F - May 24 - Project #2 Due

W - May 29 - Reading Response #3 Due
Blog Post #3 Due

Th - May 30 - Last Day of Class. Sketchbooks Due.

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 31st during our regular class time

The final examination will be in the form of a presentation, discussion, and critique of the third and final project.