MCMA 557
MFA Studio Arts Practice
Fall 2015

Location: Communications 0012
Time: Mondays 6:00pm-9:00pm

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Course Description

This course for all incoming MFA students in MCMA is the first semester introduction to our program, with an emphasis on aesthetic and conceptual development within a variety of media arts. The course is oriented to examine some of the histories, limits, and possibilities of various media art forms - inclusive of still image, time-based, spatial, and interactive works - that have an impact on contemporary culture. Students are encouraged to experiment with new media, concepts and processes.

Students will expand their ability to speak about their work, their process, the ideas they generate, and the relevance of these ideas to art and to society. We will engage with contemporary issues, and with the meanings of particular media and processes.

Objectives

1) Discuss contemporary issues and strategies in ranging artistic practices.

2) Produce original artworks in response to these currents.

3) Expand creative repertoire technically, formally, and conceptually.

4) Gain experience sharing insights and in formulating ways of evaluating work.

5) Position your art practices within the historical and theoretical issues that are important to contemporary art making.

Course Requirements and Expectations

• Be productive as an artist throughout the semester, and stay abreast of all assignments.

• Present projects-in-progress and completed work to our class, with a summary of your research and process.

• Develop good work habits, in order to build a sustainable media art practice.

• Keep current with the readings, and come to class prepared to discuss.
• Participate actively in all group critiques and discussions. Share constructive criticism with your peers, and respect their differing perspectives and opinions.

• Work toward developing an open and receptive attitude to the suggestions and criticism that are offered to you by the instructor and your peers.

• Write regularly in a journal or sketchbook, documenting your thoughts and the development of your creative process. Also include your personal responses to readings, presentations, discussions, and group/individual critiques.

• Demonstrate a willingness to try new approaches, techniques, and unfamiliar artistic processes and strategies.

• Synthesize what you already know with new ideas and practices.

• Effectively articulate (both verbally and in writing) the significance of your creative work, and situate it within the context (aesthetic, political, historical, theoretical) of contemporary culture.

**Evaluation**

Evaluation in a graduate arts course is necessarily holistic. It will take into account the depth and quality of your engagement with course material as evidenced by class participation and projects; artistic development evidenced by an increasing sophistication of concept, form, and technique of projects completed during the semester. Students should further be demonstrably developing a consistent and self-motivated studio practice with a clear evolution of technique, ideas, expression and use of media.

**Class attendance and participation policy**

More than two absences (or four late entries or leaving early) will impact your grade.

**My Assumptions**

Students come here from different programs and backgrounds, and with different experience. We hope for generosity and patience in sharing your knowledge. We expect students to question their assumptions as part of honing their critical voices. We benefit by encountering the different ideas, opinions and experiences of our colleagues and we ask students to participate in good faith and with receptivity to the course content, the curriculum and each other. The classroom should be a safe environment for these activities.

**Policies on Academic Integrity**

Know university policy on academic integrity: [http://policies.siuc.edu/policies/conduct.html](http://policies.siuc.edu/policies/conduct.html)

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with fair use discourses if relevant to their work. Projects are to be created exclusively for this class; turning in the same work for more than one class will be considered a breach of academic integrity.
Schedule of Activities

1st Week

• Introduction to course syllabus and requirements.

• Email the instructor documentation of your previous media work (photography, films, audio and video files, media installations, performances, happenings, interactive work, etc.), along with your current media artist/creative practice statement.

• Meet individually with me to talk about your work.

2nd Week

• Student presentations of past work in class.

3rd Week

• 1st seminar discussion on the topic of “Material Culture and Everyday Life.”

During seminar discussions, you will present an introduction to (and moderate a discussion on) a couple of the artists that we are reading about.

4th – 6th Weeks

• “Media Workshop” series: create short, quickly executed, original media art projects. Present new work in class each week, and be prepared to discuss your working processes, ideas, techniques, influences, goals, etc. You are encouraged to take this opportunity to work in a variety of media, using different artistic strategies and approaches.

7th – 13th Weeks

• Focus on the creation of new work, in preparation for an end-of-semester exhibition/screening event.

• Meet together as a class to present and discuss your work in group critiques.

• Meet individually with me to discuss your progress and provide feedback and guidance.

• Continue seminar discussions on these key contemporary art topics:

  Art and Technology

  Installations, Environments, and Sites

  Process

  Performance Art

  Language and Concepts
14th Week – End of Semester

Final revisions and completion of works-in-progress. Preparations and collective staging of an end-of-semester exhibition/screening event. Final revisions of your artist/creative practice statement, based on feedback from the instructor and your peers.

Final Day to turn in work for course credit: Friday, December 11, 2015

Primary text source for seminar discussions

Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists’ Writings (Stiles)

Supplementary text sources for seminar discussions

Contemporary Art 1989 to the Present (Dumbadze and Hudson)
Theory in Contemporary Art Since 1985 (Kocur and Leung)
Art Since 1900 (Foster et al)
Art in Theory 1900-2000 (Harrison et al)

Building Emergency Response Protocols

University’s Emergency Procedure Clause:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering**
emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Students With a Disability:

Instructors and students in the class will work together as a team to assist students with a disability safely out of the building. Students with a disability will stay with the instructor and communicate with the instructor what is the safest way to assist them.

Tornado:

During the spring semester we have a Storm Drill.

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will lead you to a safe area of the basement. No one will be allowed to stay upstairs. Stay away from windows. The drill should not last more than 10 minutes. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. Students need to be quiet in the basement as the BERT members are listening to emergency instructions on handheld radios and cannot hear well in the basement.

Fire:

During the fall semester we have a Fire Drill.

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will lead you to either the North or South parking lot depending on what part of the building your class is in. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. As soon as the building is all clear, you will be allowed to return to class.

These drills are to train instructors and the Building Emergency Response Team to get everyone to a safe place during an emergency.

Bomb Threat:

If someone calls in a bomb threat, class will be suspended and students will be asked to pick up their belongings, evacuate the building and leave the premises. Do not leave anything that is yours behind. We will not allow anyone back into the building until the police and bomb squad give us an all clear. DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONES. Some bombs are triggered by a cell phone signal.

Shooter in the Building:

If it is safe to leave, move to a safe area far from the building away from where the shooter is located. If anyone has any information about the shooter, please contact the police after they have gone someplace safe.

If it is not safe to leave, go into a room, lock the door and turn out the lights. Everyone should spread out and not huddle together as a group. Don't stand in front of the door or
in line of fire with the door. Students' chair and desks should be piled in front of the glass and door as a barricade and the teacher's desk, podium and anything movable can be pushed against the door. This is intended to slow down any attempts to enter the classroom. If it looks like the shooter is persistent and able to enter, make a lot of noise and have the students use everything in their backpacks to throw at the shooter to distract him.

Silence all cell phones after one person in the room calls the police and informs them of their location and how many people are in the room. Be quiet and wait for the police to arrive. The police are looking for one or more shooters, and they have no way of knowing if the shooter is in the room people are hiding in. For this reason, when the police enter the room, no one should have anything in his/her hands and each person MUST raise his/her hands above his/her head.

**Earthquake:**

In the event of an earthquake, you are advised to take cover quickly under heavy furniture or crouch near an interior wall or corner and cover your head to avoid falling debris. Outside the building are trees and power lines and debris from the building itself that you will need to stay away from. In the building, large open areas like auditoriums are the most dangerous. Do not try to escape on a stairway or elevator. Do not hide under a stairway. We do not recommend that you stand in a doorway because the door could shut from the vibrations and crush your fingers trapping you there.

**Rave Mobile Safety Alert System:**

We recommend that you sign up for the Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. It is a new system that replaces the WENS system to alert you through emergency text messages on your cell phone and emails for emergencies on campus, weather reports and emergency school closures. You have to sign up. If you were signed up for WENS it does not roll over. You have to sign up for Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. Go to Saluki Net, go to my records tab, under SIUC Personal Records, click on View My SIUC Student Records, Under Main Menu click on Personal Information, click on View and Update Addresses and Phones, in the middle of the page click [Update Addresses and Phones], under phones click Primary: This will take you to Update Addresses and Phones – Update/Insert, under primary phone number for this address put in your cell phone and submit. For more information, visit dps.siu.edu, contact SalukiTech at 453-5155 or salukitech@siu.edu.

**CPR/Defibrillator and First Aid Class:**

If you would like to take a CPR/Defibrillator and/or First Aid class, contact LaVon Donley-Cornett, lavong@siu.edu or call 453-7473.
Women's Self Defense Classes are offered to female students faculty and staff by the Department of SIU Public Safety. For more information contact Officer Mary Stark marys@dps.siu.edu.