

UGS 302 Visual Essay Through Print, a Signature Course

FALL 2017

UGS 302

Unique number: 61575

Meeting: 12:30 Mon-Wed

Location: Art B - Rm. 3.214

Instructor: Lee Chesney & Beili Liu

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Office hours: Lee/Art 4.412, Liu/Art 3.326

COURSE DESCRIPTION

When we think about communication, what comes to mind first is act or process of using words, sounds, or behaviors to express or exchange information. What we often take for granted or overlook, is the significance of communication through visual means. The information we perceive and comprehend through images, symbols, texture, color and form are oftentimes more immediate and essential than what is communicated through texts. Before electronic media, the internet, face book, computer and even before newspapers, magazines the printed word in its many versions, there was the visual image. The visual image told the story and it could influence the people, shake up despots and incite the population to riot. This is the history of the print. **Visual Essay Through Print** course will introduce students to a series of material and process based visual exercises, to help them gain the understanding of essential visual elements and methods of visual communication. We will explore the visual and conceptual potential of a variety of materials and processes, combining digital technology and traditional print and printmaking techniques. Through analytical and critical discussions, students go through collective and independent inquiries and learn ways of formulating creative concepts and genuine personal expression within a contemporary context. The final project of the course, **Visual Essay Through Print**, will investigate a topic of the students' choice— including but not limited to cultural issues, personal identities, social issues, technology, design, and political or environmental concerns.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** Practice creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. The course cultivates creativity, problem seeking, and problem solving skills. The course assignments emphasize conceptual clarity and innovative visual communication.
2. **Communication Skills:** Investigate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. Identify, describe, analyze, and evaluate the visual elements and effectiveness of communication in the work of classmates, and works of art, craft, and design from a variety of historical traditions.
3. **Teamwork:** Master the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
 - Group critiques and discussions: Students receive feedback through constructive criticism from peers in a supportive class environment.

- Students are assigned in small teams to go through the “brainstorm” exercise during their conceptual inquiry, and help each other refine their initial ideas into clear concepts.
 - One-on-one peer written review and critique of assignment.
4. **Craftsmanship:** to become familiar with various hands-on processes and several traditional and digital techniques and technology, and cultivate good studio working habits and time management

SIGNATURE COURSE MISSION & COURSE ESSENTIALS

The Signature Courses at the University of Texas at Austin will connect students with distinguished faculty members in unique learning environments. By way of this rigorous intellectual experience, students will develop college-- level skills in research, writing, speaking, and discussion through an approach that is interdisciplinary, collaborative, experiential and contemporary.

SITE VISITS/ GEMS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Over the course of the semester we will be making Site Visits. Several visits will be to UT’ s “Gems”, such as the Harry Ransom Center Archives, The Blanton Museum of Art, and the Landmarks collection. Other visits may be scheduled.

WRITING FLAG

This course is a Writing Flag Course. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Students are required to write a research essays based on course activities and visits to University Gems. Accompanying this essay, students will also deliver a digital presentation to the class. A project description informing the final Visual Essay project’s content, composition, and concept should be submitted with the final project.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. I allow up to 3 absences in this course considering special circumstances that you may encounter, such as illness or family emergency. Each additional absence may result in a one step reduction on the grading scale.
(For example, A becomes an A-; B becomes a B-.)
2. Two late arrivals of 15 minutes count as one absence. The same policy applies to early departure from the class.
3. You are responsible for getting all of the information that goes on in class regardless of your absence or late arrival. Demos or lectures will not be repeated for a student who missed class. Please obtain missed information from a classmate.
4. Religious Holy Days: Observe under University Policies
5. Official Withdraw Policy: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi04-05/ch4/ch4g.html>

GRADING POLICY:

A = Outstanding.

Demonstrates an exceptional quality of work, a high level of material comprehension, works well with peers and participates insightfully in class discussion. Attends class regularly and has work done on time. Hold high technical, aesthetic, and conceptual standards for work. Goes above and beyond class requirements.

B = Above Average.

Very good work and a ready demonstration of course material. Participates in lively discussion and critiques and has a good attendance record. All assignments done on time.

C = Average.

Meets all basic requirements for satisfactory work; assignments done on time. Participates in class discussion.

D = Below Average.

Work is marginal due to: lateness, poor craft, weak investigation of ideas, mismanagement of time, minimal critique contribution.

F = Unsatisfactory

Overall performance is severely lacking including: Lack of participation in class, poor craft, incoherent communication of visual ideas, missing assignments, lethargic or troublesome behavior in class.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

1. Sketch Book: 15% Students are required to keep a sketchbook throughout the semester. Students will use the sketchbook for note taking, response to lectures and site visits, brainstorming and collect images and information.
2. "Zines" (instead of 3 studies, maybe one complete based on their response of a landmarks artwork?) 15%
3. Mono Print Story Telling 10 %
4. Research essays and presentation 30% (20%+10%?); with rewrites (Extra Credit 5%)
(University Lecture Series Response Essay? Should it be entered in the sketchbook?)
5. Visual Essay Final Project: 30%

University Lecture Series

<https://ugs.utexas.edu/uls>

Attending one of the University Lecture Series is mandatory for Signature Course Students.

Fall 2017 Lecture Series

Turning Points

Featuring former UT Presidents William Cunningham and William Powers, Jr.
Monday, September 11, 2017

7:00-8:00 p.m. | Bass Concert Hall

Careers are often not linear in trajectory, and today's students need to prepare for a dynamic and unpredictable workplace. Many will undoubtedly take on multiple positions, likely involving opportunities that unexpectedly come their way. Please join us for an informative and inspiring University Lecture Series event in which former UT presidents, William Cunningham and William Powers Jr., will discuss memorable turning points in their lives that led them to their important positions at UT Austin.

To Your Health!

Featuring professor Patricia Carter, School of Nursing and Jaimie Davis, College of Natural Sciences

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

7:00-8:00 p.m. | Bass Concert Hall

Should we include other lectures as alternatives for students? These seem a bit off.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. Please review academic calendar for dates. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog, as well. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, you must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Incompletes

No incompletes will be given for a semester grade. Exceptions to this policy will be granted only if severe physical and or mental/emotional difficulties prevented you from functioning in the university system as a whole. Incompletes will be given by the above terms if a passing grade was expected at the time of the difficulty or interruption and 75% of the course work has already been completed. The basis for removal of an incomplete will be discussed relative to the individuals given situation. If you have a problem please discuss it with me or let me know what is going on at the time if possible and don't wait until the end of the semester to come up and say you want and incomplete.

If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary

penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For future information please visit the Student Judicial Service Web Site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.

Disabilities

The University of Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY. <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Emergency Evacuation

Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/> :

- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050
- Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency

Required Material Kit:

Please purchase course material kit at the University Co-op Art Store.

<http://www.universitycoop.com/> 2246 Guadalupe (512) 476-7211

Kit includes:

- 1 Binder's Needle (comes in a pack of 5) 12840-1005 \$3.35/ 5pack
- 2.5 yards of Lineco Binder's Thread
- 1 craft awl
- 1 bone folder
- Blick White Sulphite Drawing Paper 9" x 12" (50lb)(each student should get 40 pieces)
- Daler-Rowney Canford Paper 150 gsm, Black 30 sheet- pad 11 3/4" x 16 1/2"(each student gets two sheets)
- A 12" Ruler
- X'acto knife with blade
- Sakura 30064 6-Piece Pigma Micron Assorted Colors 005 Ink Pen Set <http://www.amazon.com/Sakura-30064-6-Piece-Micron-Assorted/dp/B00161NK54>
- 5 sheets of 5 Masa paper (what Lee used in his beginning print class).

Recommended Text:

The 5 Elements of Effective Thinking. Edward B. Burger and Michael Starbird. Princeton University Press, 2012

Additional readings may be assigned at a later date.

Other art supply stores

Jerry's Artarama 6010 N IH 35 Exit 238A (512) 420-9359

<http://www.dickblick.com/> (1 800 828-4584)

www.utrechtart.com (1-800-223-9132)

Writing: Research paper, video screening written response, written critique, final essay accompanying the Visual Essay assignment. 30%

Oral Presentation: Oral presentation with projected images (Power point or Keynote) of assigned artist, based on library and University Gem visit and research. 20%

Discussion: Students are expected to actively participate in small group and full class discussions. Students will critique peer work, discuss artist work samples and evaluate visual elements, strategies, creativity and meaning. 20%

Information Literacy: Library research assignment. Students will make use of university literacy and technology resources including Lynda.com. 10%

Gems of the University: Site visits and discussions. Research project designed around University Gems such as the Blanton Museum of Art and the Harry Ransom Center. 10%

University Lecture Series: 10%

Students will provide oral and written feedback for their peers. Students will conduct critique and provide feedback for the visual components of the assignments as well as the oral research presentation and the research essay.