Arts 5391.001  
MFA Seminar in Art  
Spring 2016  
Professor: Rich Gere  
Email: rich.gere@tamucc.edu  
Office Phone: 361-825-5531  
Office: CA 105A  
Office Hours: by appointment

Class Location: CA228  
Meeting Times: MW 12:30-3:20  
Department of Art  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Students will be introduced to contemporary readings addressing aesthetics and theory as they relate to art. Art will be considered in light of socio-economic conditions, political trends and the progress of technologies. Professional practices will include development of artist statements, CV’s, gallery packets, the investigation of non-profit organizations, artist residency programs and curatorial practices.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Students who successfully complete this course should:

- Become familiar with important works of theory and cultural criticism as they relate to art.
- Participate in an active and productive discussion regarding contemporary art, its history and its relationship to present culture.
- Examine the contemporary creative practice with regards to historical, social, political and scientific events.
- Develop a professional dossier

EVALUATION:
Grades will be based on student progress as demonstrated through active participation during group discussion, a positive and open attitude and completion of all written assignments. An active participant is on time to class, mentally present, brings all necessary materials and volunteers thoughtful comments during group discussion/critique.

GRADING OPPORTUNITIES:

- CV PDF 15%
- Artist Bio and Statement 15%
- Written reviews 15%
- Powerpoint Presentation 15%
- Group Exhibition 25%
- Classwork binder 15%
RECOMMENDED TEXTS:


Bhandari, Heather Darcy and Jonathan Melber. ART/WORK: Everything You Need to Know (and Do) As You Pursue Your Art Career. Print. ISBN 978-1416572336


GUIDELINES:

- When commenting on classmates’ ideas and art works, be constructive and positive.
- Violent or disrespectful language or behavior will not be tolerated in the classroom.
- Turn your cell phone off during class.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

Week 1  Introduction to the course (including classwork binder and group exhibition) Exploration of fine art websites (including students' own websites and blogs) Discussion about CVs

Week 2  Discussion about artist's bios & statements First drafts of CVs

DUE  Peer critiques of CVs  3 artist's CVs that you admire DUE in binder

Week 3  First drafts of artist's bios and statements DUE  Peer critiques of bios and statements  3 bios and 3 artist's statements that you admire DUE in binder
Week 4  
Exhibition opportunities: galleries, alternative spaces, juried exhibitions  
Group exhibition preparation: needs and duty assignments

Week 5  
Images and Flash Drive/CD formatting  
Bring one (or more) artwork to class to photograph

Week 6  
Websites, blogs, art registries, and social media

Week 7  
Discussion about group exhibition, venue commitment & show title  
Gallery visit  
3 living artist's websites that you admire DUE in binder

Week 8  
15-20 minute PowerPoint Presentation of artwork  
List of art registries, list of current juried exhibitions and 1 completed juried exhibition entry  
DUE in binder

Week 9  
Teaching: higher education and workshops  
Mock teaching interviews  
Review #1 DUE in binder

Week 10  
Artists residencies

Week 11  
List of teaching jobs qualified to apply for DUE in binder

Week 12  
Work on group exhibition: selection of work, layout & labels  
List of artists residencies DUE in binder  
Review #2 DUE in binder

Week 13  
Teaching application DUE  
Peer critiques of applications

Week 14  
10-15 minute Powerpoint Presentation on exhibition reviews  
Work on group exhibition: produce press release and announcements (digital and print)  
Review #3 DUE in binder

Week 15  
0-15 minute Powerpoint Presentation on exhibition reviews  
Work on group exhibition: produce press release and announcements (digital and print)

Week 16  
Work on group exhibition: finalize exhibition installation and reception strategies, produce exhibition signage, labels and CVs/statements binder  
Portfolios and binders of all classwork DUE
ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance and punctuality are mandatory for this class and considered in the participation and professionalism element of your final grade.
On your 4th absence, your participation grade will affect your final grade, lowering it by one letter.
On your 5th absence, your participation grade will affect your final grade, lowering it by two letter grades.
On your 6th absence, you will fail this course.
If you are tardy to class three times, this counts as one missed class.
If you leave before the end of the class three times, this counts as one missed class.

LOCKERS:
See Art Office to reserve a locker in the hallway.

COURSE CONDUCT:
Students will adhere to the student Code of Conduct. To summarize – Students will be kind and respectful to one another, staff, faculty and visitors. Abusive behavior, outbursts, offensive language or intolerance will be immediately reported to campus police and the Dean of Students. Homophobic, racist, sexist or hateful language of any kind will not be tolerated.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:
Student handbook: students who violate academic integrity and regulations by plagiarism, other academic dishonesty or disruptive behavior will be held accountable by faculty and may have their grades adjusted accordingly.

PROFESSIONALISM:
Professionalism is a student’s activity that addresses the class and the university environment as their profession. Students are expected to engage themselves fully in the subject matter of the class. Students are expected maintain a positive attitude towards learning and investigating the subject matter. Students are expected to be proactive in homework assignments. Students are expected to be on time, prepared and ready to work everyday.

CELL PHONES:
Believe it or not, there was a time when this was not a problem. So just a few reminders of the facts surrounding these weapons of mass distraction; countless studies, backed by mountains of research conclude unanimously the following. You cannot multitask; you don’t work best with all these things going on in your head. You can survive a day without your phone. So at the beginning of class you will turn it off. If your phone goes off during class you will be asked to bring donuts for the whole class the following class period.
ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
My signature below indicates that I have read and understand this syllabus and have been given a copy of my own to keep.

______________________________
Student Signature Date