MFA WORKS ON PAPER in Florence Italy

ASTU 5000: Topics in Studio Art Summer 2018
Instructor: Andrew DeCaen
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Santa Reparata International School of Art, Florence Italy
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: (Florence, Italy)
This course will focus on an interdisciplinary approach to artworks on/of paper employing skills and experiences developed in Studio Core classes and within a studio area classes. We will work within the broader contexts of “works on paper” with special emphasis on integrating experiences with experiences in this culturally rich city. Instruction and projects will be shaped around your instructor’s studio practice and expertise in 2d and 3d works on paper, but students are welcome and encouraged to integrate media from the student’s major concentration.

ASTU 5300 PREREQUISITES: Consent of instructor. May be repeated for credit as topics vary.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
• Develop fluency with works on paper
• Create a body of work that shows conceptual ethos of works on paper.
• Document and discuss individual contextual research in the city of Florence.
• Document experiences and activities through daily entries in sketchbook/journal.
• Install a group exhibition of works on paper.

COURSE STRUCTURE:
Pre-Trip Meeting 1: Logistics of travel and living in Italy. (group)
Pre-Trip Meeting 2: Discuss and determine a customized graduate research plan (Individual)
In Italy, we will typically meet 3 days per week for work on location in the morning and studio time in the afternoons or evenings. Class sessions will be oriented towards a series of projects, sketchbook assignments, and a final project. (3rd pre-trip Meeting if further discussion needed.)
In Italy, we will alternate teaching days with your other class working on location at museums or public places of interest in the morning and studio time in the afternoons/evenings.
Morning Classes In Italy: We will document your time in Florence’s museums, and other places of interest through drawings, photographs, and written reflections in your sketchbook.
Afternoon Classes In Italy: Afternoon classes will include demonstrations, discussions, studio time to work on individual’s projects and collaborative activities, and critiques in the studios of the Santa Reparata International School of Art (SRISA.)
Weekends will usually have three days of open time to explore Florence or travel with friends. The weekend research sketchbook assignments are designed for portability, but the SRISA studio will also be open if you want to work in a comfortable studio.
Siena Day Trip: SRISA will arrange a bus to explore the medieval hill town of Siena with its magnificent cathedral, museums, public spaces, restaurants, and shopping.
Venice Weekend: We will take a class trip to get lost among the bridges and canals of Venice.
STUDENT GRADE EVALUATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sketchbook</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class and Blog Contribution</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects**</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohesion &amp; Progression of themes &amp; form in all Projects</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* Class Contribution grade will be dramatically affected by poor attendance or poor punctuality.
** All project work is graded on form, technique, craft, and conceptual development.

Grading Scale for Projects/Assignments: The plus/minus system of grading will be used for
A (4.00) Excellent work
A- (3.75)
B+(3.25)
B (3.00) Good work
B- (2.75)
C+(2.25)
C (2.00) Acceptable work
C- (1.75)
D+(1.25)
D (1.00) Inferior work
D- (0.75)
F (0.00) Failing work.

Grading Scale for End of the Semester Averages:
The University of North Texas only allows for whole letter grades to be recorded for the semester grade.
A (4.00-3.51) B (3.50-2.51) C (2.50-1.51) D (1.50-0.51) F (0.50-0.00)

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION
The nature of this course requires that you attend all classes (whether in the studio or on location). It is expected that students be on time and prepared each session.

Full Class Participation means:
Coming to class on time and staying the duration. Coming to class prepared to work. Coming to class with appropriate art materials and preparatory work complete. Being respectful for the spaces and people where we work. Paying close attention during class demonstrations and discussions. Using class time productively to make clear progress on projects. Cleaning up after oneself, both in the studio and on location. Coming to critique sessions with completed artworks. In Critiques: Giving engaged, relevant, and critical attention, comments, and questions with respect to your peers’ work AND thoughtfully discussing & answering questions about your own work. Not meeting any of the above will significantly lower your participation grade.

FUNCTIONAL CAPABILITIES NECESSARY
Some physical/emotional functional capabilities are essential and cannot be modified to participate. For example, we will encounter many buildings with stairs and no elevator, uneven sidewalks and cobblestone streets, and hot/humid environments. Students must carry their own
luggage, have the ability to function in a close-knit group, and endure walking and standing for extended times and distances.

COMMUNICATIONS IN ITALY
Communications between instructors and students outside of classtime in Italy will primarily be made via text message. All students will be required to have a device that can send/receive international text messages. This device may be one from the USA that that you update with an international text plan or an Italian rental phone that you acquire in Italy. SRISA will identify a rental phone company during orientation in Florence. Text messages will typically deal with routine updates to the schedule or other class details. Your UNT instructor will be available via text for regular issues, or by phone call (24-7) for issues that may need more immediate action.

EXTRA CURRICULAR TRAVEL IN EUROPE
Long weekends in the course schedule are designed to encourage students to plan excursions to places in Italy that enrich the educational and overall study abroad experience. For the sake of safety, students must contact the professor via text before departure with the location (city, lodging), travel itinerary (train/bus info/times) and names of travel partners. For the sake of safety, students making an excursion outside of Florence must travel with no less than one (preferably two) other accompanying students from our program. If you contact the instructor early, he may be able to give you travel advice for your excursion.

SAFETY & COURSE RISK FACTOR:
According to university policy, this course is classified as a category 3 course. Category 3 courses are described as: Courses in which students are exposed to significant hazards that have the potential to cause serious bodily injury or death. In this class, those risks are related to (exposure to various chemicals, heavy tools, and sharp tools). Students enrolled in this class will be informed of potential health hazards or potential bodily injury connected with the use of materials and/or processes and will be instructed about how to proceed safely. Students who are pregnant or will become pregnant during the course of the semester are advised to check with their doctor immediately to determine if any additional risks are reason to postpone this course until a later semester. Upon request, your professor will provide a list of chemicals and safety issues for your doctor to review. Material Safety Data Sheets are available on all chemicals. It will be up to you and your doctor to determine what course of action to take.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course. If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at

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www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

CENTER FOR STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
“Each University of North Texas student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See www.unt.edu/csrr for further information.”

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Standards of academic honesty will be upheld. All work must be the product of the student’s own ideas and efforts. Any form of cheating will earn an F and referral to the Student Center for Rights and Responsibilities.

NOTE: I retain the right to change the syllabus and announce changes if the needs of the course or students change.

SYLLABUS AGREEMENT & LIABILITY RELEASE FORM:
Every student must fill out and sign the Syllabus Agreement, Liability Release and Artwork Image Reproduction of Artwork Waiver Form on the first day of classes. If a student is under 18 years of age a parent or legal guardian must sign.

SKETCHBOOK
Portable: 4” x 6” Hard-bound (at least 80 sheets)
This sketchbook is to be separate from any that you are keeping for another class.
Label each page with date, time, place, and simple description of the assignment or prompt.

Morning class Sketchbook Assignments: Your sketchbook will be a primary means of learning and evaluation in this class. It affords us a compact way to draw on-site in various museums, and public spaces such as piazzas, train stations, and markets to have a more fully integrated sense of art and life in Florence while documenting the time spent in this historically and culturally rich place. In addition to a physical sketchbook students will contribute to a group Blog highlighting each day of the trip.

Weekend Sketchbook Assignments are designed to allow you to continue your creative development while traveling to another city in the region or exploring local interests. Travel and exploration should always be done with at least one (preferably two) other students from our program.

Pre-trip Assignments will include the following:
Research about Florence (specific places, artworks, etc).
Pre-trip impressions and musings about Italian language and culture.
An introduction (to me) to your personal creative direction, interests, and current artworks.
A series of drawing assignments that demonstrate your technical abilities.

Evaluation will be based on the development of the the sketchbook with attention to responsiveness to daily objectives. Your sketchbooks will be reviewed regularlyto mark regular progress. All sketchbooks will be re-submitted after returning to the US for grading. Turn in your and sketchbook to Hickory 160D, Andrew DeCaen’s Office.

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BLOG
We will make a class Blog to record your experiences in Florence. These will include a selection of text descriptions of your personal and class experiences with accompanying photos of your experiences and activities in Italy. Students will submit photos and text to the instructor for this blog on a regular basis. The goal of this assignment will make a record of the personal and academic experiences. The grade for your blog contribution will be integrated into your class contribution grade.

PROJECTS
Projects will explore works on paper in terms of various kinds of technical processes and thematic points of departure.

Evaluation will be made based on project objectives including form, technique, craft, and conceptual development. All projects will be re-submitted after returning to the US for grading. You will photograph sculptural works before returning to the US and present these photographs to document the work that may be too difficult to transport. After you return to the US, carefully unroll your artworks then place them under weights in a safe place for several days. Turn in your work in a clean portfolio that contains the work completely and has your name on the outside. Turn in your portfolio to Hickory 160D, Andrew DeCaen’s Office.

PROJECT COHESION & PROGRESSION OF CONCEPTUAL THEMES, IMAGERY, & FORM:
You are asked to develop your creative direction by focusing your conceptual themes, imagery and formal design issues. This will mean continuing some lines of conceptual and visual interest throughout the term. This may be a creative direction that grows organically over the weeks but with clear efforts to keep cohesion in the portfolio aesthetic and conceptual ends.

SUPPLIES:

The cost of materials for the projects required to complete this course will vary according to the choices made by the individual student.

Provided: Some limited art materials will be provided for the student.

To be purchased Prior to the Trip: Some materials will be purchased prior to the trip and brought to Italy. Some of these materials may be ones that you have left from Core Drawing, Core Design, or other studio art classes. Other materials you will need to buy specifically for this course. An updated list of supplies will be issued with the official syllabus in Spring Pre-Trip Meetings. Do not bring any sharp products in your carry-on baggage. Do not bring any dangerous, aerosol, or flammable products in either checked or carry on bags.

To be purchased After arrival in Florence: Some materials are impractical to bring with us to Italy. These will be purchased in Italy. Some excellent art suppliers in Florence include Zecchi’s, Salvini, and others.

Bring your Syllabus and Pre-Trip Hand-outs with you to Italy and to class. Mark all your materials with your name.
STUDENT COPY

MFA Works On Paper, University of North Texas, SRISA Instructor: Andrew DeCaen

Your Name: ____________________________
Name you want to be called: ______________________

Phone #: _______________________________ (I will use this to contact you.)
Email: _________________________________ (I will use this to contact you.)

“I have read and fully understand the course content, structure, attendance, and grading requirements as outlined and described in the course syllabus. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions. I understand that there are certain risk factors assumed with this course, and I assume full responsibility for any injury that I may incur as a result of the course’s activities.”

“I grant CVAD and its representatives permission to use my artwork and my likeness for public display, exhibition, publication, or other research and educational purposes. I understand no commercial use will be made of the images, but that the images could be used on the College and University’s public website and possibly in other educational or public relation campaigns.”

Course Risk Factor: 3

Student Signature: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________