

Pont-Aven School of Contemporary Art
Spring 2010 BFA Syllabus
Course Title: Image and Text

Instructor: Dahlia Elsayed
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Credit Hours: 3
Class Meeting Time: Wed.13-18h

Course Description

Inspired by the binary nature of maps, this class explores the often fluid boundaries between visual art and writing, and the fusion of text and image as devices of visual communication. We will experiment with the combinative power of words alongside or integrated into image, from the meaning of the words themselves to the way they are visually depicted. How does text augment a visual narrative? What are the best compositional strategies for your work? Using your own writing or found text, we will make work that incorporates text into visual art through painting, drawing, or installation. Our objective is to move deeper into the interdisciplinary possibilities of your artistic practice.

Our studio time will be rigorous. Each class session will begin with critique and discussion. Work should be displayed when you get into the classroom, along with any sketches/evidence of process available for discussion. We will then have a conversation about the assigned reading and go over the next assignment in detail. The remainder of class time will be to begin your assignment, which you will then complete on your own, in time for next week's class.

Expected Learning Outcomes

As a student in this class you will:

- Show a practical understanding of materials and processes
- Analyze and discuss creative methods and decisions
- Show an understanding of compositional and organizational strategies
- Be able to discuss your work within a contemporary and historical framework
- Produce work that communicates your selected concepts effectively

Course Requirements, Grading, Expectations and Policies

Requirements:

Sketchbook (20% of grade): You are required to make regular entries into your sketchbook, ideally daily entries, but at least 5 a week. These should include writing and drawing, critical ideas, planning sketches, questions, process notes etc.

Assignments (40 % of grade): You are expected to complete all assignments as scheduled.

Critique (20% of grade): Be prepared to thoughtfully discuss your own work, as well as contribute to the conversation on others work.

Readings & Discussion & Responses (20% of grade): You must complete all assigned readings, contribute to their discussion in class, and will be occasionally asked submit short (200 words) written responses to the readings. You will also submit one longer response paper (1000 words) after the Paris trip.

Attendance: **Your attendance during the full time of all classes is expected.** You are allowed one excused absence. Should you use this absence, you are required to find out about any missed discussion and assignments and be prepared completely for the next class session. Any unexcused absence will be a 10% deduction of your grade. More than one absence of any kind will affect your grade as follows:

2 unexcused absences: one letter grade drop (B to C, for example).

3 unexcused absences: a second letter drop (B to D).

4 unexcused absences: you fail the class.

More than four absences of any kind, excused or not: you fail the class.

Classroom Policies:

Turn off cell phones. Arrive on time. Be prepared. Participate. Do your work as required.

Clean up your materials when you are done

Schedule:

Each class starts with critique of the prior week's assignment, discussion of assigned reading, and introduction of new assignment followed by studio time. Below are abbreviated descriptions of assignments- we will fully discuss objectives, methods and processes, sources and references for each in class prior to assignments.

1/27 Week 1: Orientation & Introduction, slides, in-class reading, in-class drawing assignment on Translation.

2/3 Week 2: Data & the Quotidian

2/10 Week 3: Found, Appropriated

2/17 Week 4: Landscape/Mapping pt 1

2/22 Week 5: Madrid/Barcelona Trip

3/3 Week 6: Landscape/Mapping pt 2

3/10 Week 7: Mid-Term Critiques

3/17 Week 8: Portrait/Self-Portrait

3/24 Week 9: Sequential Art, Conveying Narrative

3/31 Week 10 Berlin/Paris

4/7 Week 11 Spring Break

4/14 Week 12: Response Paper due on Wordworks; Wordworks assignment due. Individual meetings on final project.

4/21 Week 13: Proposal for Final Project due, Artist statements due, Final Project studio time

4/28 Week 14: Final Project Studio time, selection of work for open studio

5/3 Week 15: TBD

Materials:

You will need basic painting and drawing materials. This includes pencils, erasers, pens, brushes, a good set of paints (watercolor, acrylic or oil- whatever you like) and any other medium specific materials you use (solvents, mediums etc). If you are using paper please get sheets that support your medium. Since this class is open to multidisciplinary work, bring any materials (within the PASCA guidelines) that you are comfortable about working with, particularly any non-traditional materials or things you might not be able to get easily in France. I find it most useful to come prepared with a basic set of materials, and then find some fun stuff along the way.