

Pont-Aven School of Contemporary Art Spring 2010 BFA Syllabus

Course Title: You are Here

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

Course Description

This class focuses on using the body as the tool for exploration of place, both literally and metaphorically. We'll approach the idea of mapping by using the body as a starting point: the figure as narrator, tracking movement, gesture, charting expression, sequential drawing, identity and location, psycho-geography and go deeper into the idea of representing internal and external states through painting and drawing. The goal is to make new work, and on an individualized basis, to explore figuration beyond traditional forms.

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, 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 word) written responses to the readings. You will also submit one longer response paper (1000 words) after the Madrid/Barcelona 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 last 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.

2/2 Week 1: Orientation & Introduction, slides, The Mouth (due 2/9)

2/9 Week 2: The Editing Eye (due 2/16)

2/16 Week 3: Aural Landscape (due 3/2)

2/23 Week 4: Madrid/Barcelona (sketches due 3/2)

3/2 Week 5: Portraiture of Place (due 3/9)

3/9 Week 6: Macro/Micro (due 3/16)

3/16 Week 7: Mid-term Critiques

3/23 Week 8: Internal/External (due 4/13)

3/30 Week 9 Berlin/Paris (location based assignment, due 4/13)

4/6 Week 10: Spring Break

4/13 Week 11: Dual Locations- topography & the mind (due 4/20)

4/20 Week 12: Proposal for Final Project due, Final Project studio time

4/27 Week 13: Final Project Studio time, Artist statements due, selection of work for open studio

5/4 Week 14: 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. This is primarily a 2D class, but should you feel the need to work with additional materials (within the PASCA guidelines), I am open to that and we can discuss it. I find it most useful to come prepared with a basic set of materials, and then find some fun stuff along the way.