



### **Course Description**

This workshop is a critique seminar where students of different disciplines can evolve conceptually and aesthetically. In particular, students gain critical skills in analyzing established visual languages and are encouraged to utilize such languages. Students learn to merge scholarly practices with workshop practices, thus challenging the barriers between academic and creative areas. Coursework involves readings, viewing and critiquing artwork, and hands-on experience in the production of video art, performance, and installation, as well as the creation of objects. Students from Studio Arts, Dance, Music, Theater, Cinema, and English are welcome and should contact the instructor in advance.

### **Goals & Objectives**

- Develop and refine your self-directed studio practice.
- Place new artworks in critical, historical, and cultural context
- Build formal, analytic, and critical vocabularies for understanding and discussing creative work.
- Produce a strong artwork or body of creative practice to share with the larger campus community at Intermedia Open House
- Gain exposure to professional practices in an arts-academic environment.

### **Course & Instructor Information**

01J:110:001: Intermedia Workshop  
<http://intermediaworkshopfall09.blogspot.com>  
1703 Studio Arts  
Mondays, 3:30-7:30 PM

Instructor: Sarah Kanouse  
1642 Studio Arts  
319-384-0992 (email preferred)  
Mondays, 12:00-3:00 PM and by appointment  
[sarah-kanouse@uiowa.edu](mailto:sarah-kanouse@uiowa.edu)

DEO: John Scott  
School of Art & Art History  
Seashore Hall, 6th Floor  
The administrative home of this course is the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

### **Course Structure and Assignments**

The verbal critique of student work is the backbone of this course. We will conduct four, 45 minute critiques most class meetings. Students are expected to show work to be critiqued three times during the semester and to participate freely and frequently in discussions of the work of fellow students. A digital portfolio of studio work completed during the semester will be due during finals week. Portfolios will be archived by the Intermedia program and may be used for demonstration and promotional purposes.

No later than one week prior to their **first** scheduled critiques, students must distribute written articles, book chapters, etc. that will inform discussion by providing some critical, methodologi-

cal, conceptual, or thematic context for their work. These readings may provide a basis for students' eventual thesis papers as well as orienting the class as to the area of creative practice being engaged by each student.

This class has an online presence in the form of a blog, which will only be as useful as the quality of the posts and comments. In addition to creative work and critique, all students should write at least one review of an art exhibition, screening, lecture, or book for the class weblog. We will sign up for the one required posting in the first week of class. In addition, the instructor will ask for volunteers to attend Iowa City events from time to time and blog them for the benefit of the class. Please check the blog regularly (about once every three days or so), leave comments on others' posts, and post more than you are required to do. We will sign everyone up for the blog on the first day of class and show you how to subscribe to an RSS feed so you will know when new content has been posted. We will set aside some time at the beginning of every class to talk about recent updates to the blog.

Participation in Intermedia Open House, which will be scheduled around midterm, is required of all students enrolled in Workshop. Other course activities will include informal presentations, readings and discussions, and professional development presentations designed to help with the academic job search.

### **Texts and Materials**

There is no required text for this course; any readings will be distributed as photocopies, pdfs, and web links as assigned.

There is a \$30 course fee to cover the cost of maintenance for lab software and equipment available for checkout from the Intermedia Equipment Pool. Students are expected to acquire any additional supplies their work requires.

Experimentation with different materials is encouraged, but students must exercise good judgement. Due to the communal space of the Studio Arts Building, the use of solvents, spray paint or any fume producing chemical outside of a properly equipped workshop is prohibited. Guns, blood, bodily fluids, live animals, smoke, fire, alcohol, and broken television tubes (which contain lead) are absolutely prohibited. Be aware of the toxicity of your materials and consult with the instructor in advance if you are uncertain about the safety of a material.

### **Grading and Attendance**

In keeping with the "oral tradition" of studio arts practice, verbal and written critique is emphasized in this course. Traditional letter grades, including plus/minus, will be assigned at the end of the semester based on a holistic evaluation of the quality of each student's work, the degree of technical, formal, and conceptual growth demonstrated over the term, and their participation in critique and online.

The final grade will be based on the following rough weightings:

70% - Portfolio

20% - Participation in critique

10% - Written review and participation in blog

As this course meets only once per week, grades will be automatically lowered by one-third for every absence beyond the first (e.g. an A- becomes a B+ for a student with two absences), excepting extreme and documented circumstances. An unexplained habit of late arrival or early depart-

ture will also result in a grade reduction. Late creative projects and written work will not be accepted under any circumstances.

**In addition to the above requirements, all students must participate in Open House and submit a digital portfolio of their creative work during finals week. Failure to participate in Open House or submit a portfolio will result automatically in a failing grade in the course.**

**Schedule of Class Meetings and Events (subject to change)**

August 24	Introduction, Scheduling, Blog Signup
<b>August 29</b>	<b>Intermedia/Sculpture BBQ in City Park, 3 PM</b>
August 31	Readings due for discussion (see blog); 10 x 10 presentations
	Cotter, Holland. "The Boom is Over: Long Live the Art!" <u>The New York Times</u> , February 15, 2009.
	Sholette, Gregory. "State of the Union: Artistic Labor." <u>ARTFORUM</u> , April 2008.
<b>September 7</b>	<b>Labor Day Holiday</b>
September 14	Blog: _____ Critiques: _____
September 21	Blog: _____ Critiques: _____
September 28	Blog: _____ Critiques: _____
October 5	Blog: _____ Critiques: _____
October 12	Blog: _____ Critiques: _____
October 19	Blog: _____ Critiques: _____
October 26	Blog: _____ Critiques: _____
<b>October ____</b>	<b>Intermedia Graduate Open House</b>
November 2	Blog: _____ Critiques (2 only): _____ Surviving Your First Academic Job Search
November 9	Blog: _____ Critiques: _____

November 16    Blog: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Critiques: \_\_\_\_\_

**November 23    Thanksgiving Recess**

November 30    Blog: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Critiques: \_\_\_\_\_

December 7     Blog: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Critiques: \_\_\_\_\_

**December 16     Digital Portfolios Due, 9:45 AM**

## School of Art and Art History Syllabus Information

### The University of Iowa

#### Course policies are governed by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

#### Homework Expectation

For each semester hour of credit that an Art and Art History course carries, students should expect to spend approximately two hours per week outside of class preparing for class sessions. That is, in a three-credit-hour course, instructors design course assignments on the assumption that students will spend six hours per week in out-of-class preparation.

#### Your Responsibilities

Your responsibilities to this class -- and to your education as a whole -- include attendance and participation. This syllabus details specific expectations the instructor may have about attendance and participation. You have a responsibility to help create a classroom environment where all may learn. At the most basic level, this means you will respect the other members of the class and the instructor and treat them with the courtesy you hope to receive in return.

#### Academic Fraud

Plagiarism and any other activities that result in a student presenting work that is not his or her own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is reported to the departmental DEO and then to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Services. See **Academic Fraud** at [www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic\\_handbook/ix.shtml](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml) for the complete policy.

#### Making a Suggestion or Complaint

Students have the right to make suggestions or complaints and should visit with the instructor, the course supervisor if necessary, and finally with the departmental DEO. For more information visit, **Student Complaints** at [www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic\\_handbook/ix.shtml#5](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml#5)

#### Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations registers with Student Disability Services and meets with a SDS counselor who determines eligibility for services. A student approved for accommodations should meet privately with the course instructor to arrange particular accommodations. Visit **Student Disability Services** at [www.uiowa.edu/~sds/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~sds/)

#### Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. Visit this **site** [www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/](http://www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/) for definitions, assistance, and the full University policy

#### Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

The University of Iowa Operations Manual section **16.14** outlines appropriate responses to a tornado (i) or to a similar crisis. If a tornado or other severe weather is indicated by the UI outdoor **warning system**, members of the class should seek shelter in rooms and corridors in the innermost part of a building at the lowest level, staying clear of windows, corridors with windows, or large free-standing expanses such as auditoriums and cafeterias. The class will resume, if possible, after the UI outdoor warning system announces that the severe weather threat has ended.

#### Resources for Students

- **Writing Center** 110 English-Philosophy Building, 335-0188, [www.uiowa.edu/~writingc](http://www.uiowa.edu/~writingc)
- **Speaking Center** 12 English-Philosophy Building, 335-0205, [www.uiowa.edu/~rhetoric/centers/speaking](http://www.uiowa.edu/~rhetoric/centers/speaking)
- **Mathematics Tutorial Laboratory** 314 MacLean Hall, 335-0810, [www.uiowa.edu/mathlabTutor](http://www.uiowa.edu/mathlabTutor)
- **Referral Service** Campus Information Center, Iowa Memorial Union, 335-3055, [www.imu.uiowa.edu/cic/tutor\\_referral\\_service](http://www.imu.uiowa.edu/cic/tutor_referral_service)

#### Student Classroom Behavior

The ability to learn is lessened when students engage in inappropriate classroom behavior, distracting others; such behaviors are a violation of the **Code of Student Life**. When disruptive activity occurs, a University instructor has the authority to determine classroom seating patterns and to request that a student exit the classroom, laboratory, or other area used for instruction immediately for the remainder of the period. One-day suspensions are reported to appropriate departmental, collegiate, and Student Services personnel (Office of the Vice President for **Student Services** and Dean of Students).

#### Missed exam policy

University policy requires that students be permitted to make up examinations missed because of illness, mandatory religious obligations, certain University activities, or unavoidable circumstances. Excused absence forms are required and are available at the Registrar web site: [www.registrar.uiowa.edu/forms/absence.pdf](http://www.registrar.uiowa.edu/forms/absence.pdf)

#### University Examination Policy Final Examinations

An undergraduate student who has two final examinations scheduled for the same period or more than three examinations scheduled for the same day may file a request for a change of schedule before the **published deadline** at the Registrar's Service Center, **17 Calvin Hall**, 8-4:30 M-F, (384- 4300).

#### Plus-Minus Grading

All the department's instructors can append plus or minus grades to the letter grades they assign for the course. If the instructor does not specifically indicate in the syllabus that he or she will not assign pluses or minuses, students should assume that this form of grading will be used.