

ART 489 IMDA Senior Projects
UMBC Visual Arts Department, Spring 2004
Timothy Nohe, Associate Professor

Office hours: Tuesday 2:00 - 3:00 PM
Office Location: FA 342
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Course Objectives:

IMDA Senior Projects is directed toward the development of professional practices and a mature artwork. Assignments, critiques, and demonstrations will stress a practical and critical approach to art making. Students will engage in advanced verbal analysis and criticism; refine skills related to the creation of a resume, documentation, portfolio or video "reel;" and craft proposals and applications. "Traditional" studio tools and computers may be used to create a finished artwork. Work is independent for much of the semester, and with that degree of autonomy students must (perhaps for the first time) work without the structure and guidance of faculty directed assignment topics. Students who are not accustomed to self-directed creative work may find this course to be very difficult; others will use the freedom to make breakthrough projects.

Course Requirements:

Professional skills will be developed through the creation of: a curriculum vita (CV or resume), a portfolio, and a proposal directed to a screening, exhibition or graduate school program. The CV must be delivered as hard copy and via the Internet. A one-page artist's statement will be developed to position an artwork. The final project will be executed in the medium and format that most fully realizes a student's concepts. Students should begin conceptualizing final projects in the first weeks of class. The final is only constrained by a student's personal resources and the time limits imposed by a semester long development cycle. Work in progress must be discussed with the faculty during one-on-one meetings. The completed work will be due during Exam Week, and will be presented to the gathered class.

Attendance:

IMDA Senior Projects is a demanding course. Handouts, critiques, and demonstrations will contribute to each student's formal technical and critical growth. Interaction and collaboration with your peers and with the faculty will play an important role in the learning process. Please note that three or more unexcused absences from mandatory class meetings or one-on-one sessions will result in failure of IMDA Senior Projects. During mandatory class meetings the instructor periodically will call attendance. Please do not arrive late or depart early from class meetings. Absence from a class is not an excuse for skipping a tutorial, reading assignment, or project. You are fully responsible for completing work.

UMBC Statement of Academic Conduct:

"By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal."

Grading:

Work must be completed on time and in full satisfaction of each project goal. Late work (assignments handed in after the start of in-class critique sessions) will be automatically downgraded by one letter grade unless the faculty has been directly consulted in person, by email or by telephone contact. An Incomplete can only be assigned to students with a passing record unable to complete work due to some unforeseeable serious illness or personal tragedy. Non-allowable excuses include foreseeable job assignments or work from other courses. Students must assume responsibility for preparing all necessary incomplete status paperwork for faculty signature and for submission to the department.

Assignment 1 Printed Matter and Hypermedia CV/Portfolio	20 %
Assignment 2 Exhibition, Screening, or Graduate Program Proposal	30 %
Response to Assigned Texts & Participation	10 %
Final Project	40%

Assignment 1: Portfolio and Curriculum Vitae, due February 24/26

Create a curriculum vitae (CV) delivered in paper and via the Internet (PDF, Flash, HTML). Students will be required to produce a comprehensive CV that outlines academic, work, extracurricular and art experience. Documentation of artwork in one or more forms -- slides, VHS tape, DVD and or printed matter is required. Examples of artists' CVs will be provided as source material. Students must proactively seek resources available on campus at the A. O. Kuhn Library and through the Writing Center to realize this assignment. Documentation with video, digital images and still photography will be discussed and demonstrated.

One-on-One Meetings, March 2/4 and 9/11, FA 221

Site Visit: CHELA Gallery, Baltimore, with Jay Perry and Chris Smith, March 16

Visit by Renee van der Stelt to discuss Senior Exhibition in the CAVC, March 18, FA 221

Spring Break: March 22 – 28

Assignment 2: Graduate School, Exhibition or Screening Application: due March 30/April 1

Apply to graduate school in the visual or media arts or submit to a call for entry to the CAVC, School 33 Art Center, SIGGRAPH, or other suitable venues for your work. This "real world" assignment allows the student to build upon experience acquired in Assignment 1. The materials developed for Assignment 1 may be adapted, revised and refined for this proposal. Video, slide, WWW, and CD-ROM portfolio *revisions are strongly encouraged*. Students will be required to create concise and descriptive one-page installation proposals and artist's statements to fulfill the requirements.

Final Project Proposal, Due April 13/15 (no class meeting, submit via faculty mailbox, FA 111)

A typeset 500-word printed matter proposal must be submitted framing the final project. This will be discussed during work in progress meetings.

Work In Progress Meetings April 20/22 and 27/29, FA 221

Final Project: Artwork, May 13/18, FA 221 or Senior Exhibition

The final project for ART 489 will allow for a long development cycle, and students should begin conceptual work at the very start of the semester. The piece may be executed in any appropriate medium: digital media, animation, WWW, sound works, projection, printed matter, performance, etc. The work must be conceived realistically within the scope of a student's ability to complete the piece in one semester while balancing other UMBC course work. The work will be reviewed and critiqued by guest reviewers.

Suggested Text:

The Practical Handbook for the Emerging Artist, 2nd ed., Margaret R. Lazzari, Harcourt College Publishers, ISBN 0-15-506202-6