



ARTS 404 - Directed Study in Studio Art II (3 Credit Hours)

Prerequisites: Senior standing. Open to Studio track Visual Arts majors only.

Spring 2012 • T/H 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 8 • 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Professor: Mark S. Welch
Room: V140 (next to classroom)

Office Hours: T/H 5-6 PM or on request
Phone: 574-210-0072 • Email: mwelch@hcc-nd.edu

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a visual arts capstone course sequence in which students further their artistic practice in an area of particular interest (drawing, painting, photography, etc.) under the direction of the art instructor. The sequence prepares student artists for graduate study and provides the practical tools necessary for professional success. Participation is restricted to Visual Arts majors in their final two semesters.

Students must produce a cohesive body of work and learn how to assemble their work into professional portfolios (physical and electronic). The course covers preparation of business materials such as contracts, slides, business cards, and postcards; mounting and matting artwork; and presentation techniques. Critiques are an integral part of the course with students required to present work to internal and external evaluators.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- a) Content
 - Develop a cohesive body of work
 - Understand and explain the historical relationships to and content of the work
 - Demonstrate a healthy disposition toward self expression (including that of others)
 - Refine aesthetic sensibilities through experience and analysis
- b) Core Competencies
 - Critical and Creative Thinking
 - Communication – Visual, Written, and Oral
 - Personal, Moral, Social, and Cultural Development
 - Technology and Information Management

3. COURSE MATERIALS

- a) Required Text: *The Practical Handbook for the Emerging Artist (2/e)* by Lazarri
- b) Supplies appropriate to the student's medium of choice

4. COURSE FORMAT

Students will be guided in developing a cohesive body of work by exploring their own past work and experiences and by exploring the work of historical and contemporary artists. For the latter, students must attend and review special exhibitions and collections of local museums and galleries, summarize art critical writings (past and present), and participate in a trip to a major museum in Chicago or Indianapolis (included in course fees).

Students must work independently, producing a minimum of four presentation quality pieces per semester (with supporting studies and sketchbook work). Students must demonstrate proficiency with their medium of choice in achieving a virtuous marriage of form and subject matter appropriate to their work's content. Students also must demonstrate a professional attitude, managing their own time and productivity as if they were working at the graduate level. Progress will be evaluated periodically through group critiques, including critiques by visiting evaluators. This is primarily a studio course; wear proper work attire.

Assignments, discussions and written responses to reading assignments will lay the foundation for the professional

documentation that is expected of a working artist. Work will include final versions of professional materials such as an artist's resume and statement.

Some materials, including any updates to the syllabus or course schedule, are made available via [Moodle](#).

5. CLASS POLICIES

Attendance Policy

It is very important to get to class each day, to be on time, and to come prepared. All students are allowed a number of free absences equal to the number of meetings per week over the course of the entire semester. For example, if the class meets MWF, students are permitted three (3) absences. If the class meets MW or TH, students are permitted two (2) absences. In addition, on the first day of class all students automatically receive points equal to 10% of the total points available in the course toward the final grade. These points are awarded for expected course engagement (i.e., participation, attendance, preparedness, maturity of attitude, etc.). However, if you miss more than the permitted number of classes, all of these points will be deducted from the final average and you will receive 0 points in this dimension. Losing these points could dramatically affect your final grade! Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to approach me at the end of that class to ensure that the record is corrected. The record will not be adjusted retroactively.

As with any serious commitment, advance or immediate notice of any absence or delay is expected. Email is the preferred means of notice. Failure to provide timely notification will disqualify you for consideration for an excused absence. Emergency absences will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and are subject to the professor's assessment and judgment.

The annual Holy Cross College Arts Day Salon is held each spring. Participation is a course requirement for all studio-based courses (Fall and Spring). Attendance is a required course component for Spring courses.

For Fall semester studio courses, selected work must be matted and submitted at final exam time with the appropriate accompanying paperwork (available on Moodle). For Spring semester studio courses, selected work must be submitted at the announced time (usually one week prior to the show). All work must be picked up the day after the event! Abandoned work will be disposed of.

See Policies Regarding Student Athletes, for attendance requirements for athletes.

Late Work Policy

Late work will not be accepted. A 0/F will be recorded for failure to attend an exam or to present a deliverable at the time it is due. In the event of an excused absence, you will be allowed to make up exams or work without penalty. For exams, the make-up test must be rescheduled within two days. For projects, you must make arrangements to have the finished work delivered to the studio or to the professor's office within two days. If you fail to do so, you will not be given credit.

Student Conduct Statement

See Student Handbook: Holy Cross College presumes a high moral character and an attitude of self-respect in its students regarding such matters as discipline, integrity, and personal behavior (Student Handbook, 2009-10, p. 33).

Academic Honesty Statement

See Student Handbook: As a community, faculty, staff, and students have a moral and ethical responsibility to uphold the principle of unquestioned honesty, and refrain from any activity or behavior that would suggest academic dishonesty and lack of personal integrity. Students shall be honest in their academic work and shall support the honesty of others. They shall, moreover, guard against any appearance of dishonesty (Student Handbook, 2009-10: p. 8)

Any dishonest act (e.g., plagiarism or cheating) will be handled according to the handbook. Furthermore, such acts will garner a 0/F for the assignment/exam on the first offense and a grade of F for the course on the second.

Statement about Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with a documented disability are eligible for accommodations as specified by the Director of Student

Counseling Services. Students must inform the instructor of their eligibility for accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

Policies Regarding Student Athletes

Student athletes must provide the instructor with the proper documentation signed by their coach or the Athletic Director at the beginning of the semester. Furthermore, students participating in athletic events requiring them to be absent from class must inform the instructor in writing before the class is missed using the official form (signed by the Coach or Athletic Director).

If the signed official notice is presented in advance, then work due on that date may be delivered between one day before and one day after the scheduled absence. Make arrangements with me to deliver the work at a specific time. Simply leaving your work in the classroom is not equivalent to turning it in.

Personal Technology Policy

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be set to off or silent mode. Calls may not be accepted during class. If you have an emergency situation and need to be available by phone, alert the professor before class. Personal music devices may not be played during class. Hearing the instruction of others is a frequent learning opportunity. Texting is not permitted in class under any circumstance.

Statement on Workspace Responsibilities

The studio is a communal workspace. It should be kept clean and arranged in an orderly fashion. Supplies should be stored in designated areas. Possessions (including supplies and work) must be collected at the end of class or after an independent work session.

Class Cancellation Plan

In the event that a class is cancelled, the instructor will contact the college and have a note placed on the door and on the whiteboard. If possible, notification will be sent directly to students via email.

Changes to the Syllabus or Course Calendar

The syllabus and course calendar are subject to change as deemed necessary by the instructor. Should there be any changes, they will be announced in class and published to Moodle (<http://moodle.hcc-nd.edu>).

6. GRADING CRITERIA

Studio work is assessed using the five criteria identified in the standard rubric for assessing visual art projects: *Originality*, *Compositional Quality*, *Craftsmanship*, *Effort/Concept Development*, and *Other Considerations*. The specific guidelines for applying each these criteria are available in the college's course management system located at <http://moodle.hcc-nd.edu>.

In addition to portfolio work, you will be evaluated on the written assignments delineated below. Requirements for each written assignment will be published to Moodle.

Your sketchbook is part of your portfolio grade. Use it to support ideation. Live in it. Write daily summaries of progress, like a diary. Use it to write reviews of art exhibits and to analyze art reproductions in the library or online. Obviously, it is a sketchbook, as well. Use it to draw from life and to explore/expand your ideas. *Your sketchbook and preparatory work will figure heavily in your mid-term and final portfolio grades.*

The following grade scale will be used to quantify evaluations of all course work:

Grade	Description	Points	% Equivalent
A	Excellent	4.0	>= 96%
A-		3.67	>= 91%
B+		3.33	>= 88%
B	Good	3.0	>= 84%
B-		2.67	>= 81%

C+		2.33	>= 78%
C	Satisfactory	2.0	>= 74%
C-		1.67	>= 71%
D	Pass	1.0	>= 61%
F	Failure; No credit	0.0	<= 60%
I	Incomplete	0.0	

Grades will be assessed using the following values:

- Mid-Term Portfolio - 300 points
- Final Portfolio - 300 points
- Written Assignments - 300 total points
 - Article Summaries 3 @ 25 points each
 - Gallery Review 1 @ 25 points
 - Art Museum Reflection 1 @ 50 points
 - Exhibition Venue List 1 @ 75 points
 - Graduate Program Research 1 @ 75 points
- Participation/Attendance - 100 points

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 1000

7. COURSE CALENDAR

The course calendar (including assignments, recommended readings, and exam schedules), is available in the Holy Cross College course management system located at <http://moodle.hcc-nd.edu>.

The Final Exam is Tuesday, May 8 from 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM. Participation is mandatory. Make your travel plans accordingly!