Updated Syllabus

Due to the unique circumstances of the semester’s disruption caused by the COVID-19 Virus, we have all been presented with an “online” format for the rest of the semester. This is problematic for many obvious reasons of access to materials, studios and equipment. It is in my interest to therefore present you all with work that will hopefully be relevant to printmaking, but more importantly be relevant to you, your creative growth and your future as artists. We have been forced into this predicament by forces outside of our control. Let’s do what we can with what we have. I am hoping that you will find the new direction and assignments of this course as potentially interesting to you as possible. It is my goal to keep you all creative and learning. Let’s communicate and make the most of this!

The format of the “online” course will follow a mixed format…it will be partly asynchronous (asynchronous meaning, we won’t necessarily meet at the same time every week) and it will be partly synchronous: I want to keep one day a week open for a Zoom conference call. This can be to simply check in, to ask questions, discuss projects or to feel like you’re not trapped at home in quarantine.

PRINCIPLES

1. **Nobody signed up for this.**
   - Not for the sickness, not for the social distancing, not for the sudden end of our collective lives together on campus.
   - Not for an online class, not for teaching remotely, not for learning from home, not for mastering new technologies, not for varied access to learning materials.

2. **The humane option is the best option.**
   - We will prioritize supporting each other as humans.
   - We will prioritize simple solutions that make sense for the most.
   - We will prioritize sharing resources and communicating clearly.

3. **We cannot just do exactly the same thing online.**
   - Most assignments are no longer possible
   - Some expectations are no longer reasonable

4. **We will foster intellectual nourishment, social connection, and personal accommodation.**
   - Accessible asynchronous content for diverse access, time zones, and contexts
• Optional (but encouraged) synchronous discussion to learn together and combat isolation

5. **We will remain flexible and adjust to the situation.**
   • Nobody knows where this is going and what we’ll need to adapt
   • Everybody needs support and understanding in this unprecedented moment

MAKE SURE YOU ARE TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF. If you’re having trouble (WITH ANYTHING: Covid-19, mental stress, etc), please talk to someone. I’m available of course, but you should also be aware that the University is offering support via the [Center for Counseling & Student Development](#) at (302) 831-2141 or (302) 831-1001 for after-hours emergencies. You can also contact Student Health Service at (302) 831-2226.

That said…here is the plan!
Let’s try and get back to the business of being creative people.

**Communication**: We are going to rely on Canvas. This includes messaging. Please keep your messages to me on Canvas as they are easier for me to find. Emailed messages get lost FAST in the 1000’s of emails circulating each day. Please stick with Canvas. It will allow me to find you quicker!

**“Attendance”**: Your attendance will be directly related to your participation in zoom, discussions with others and your communication with me and the class via various channels. If you aren’t “present” you aren’t in attendance. If you have family, work or personal considerations for not being able to make zoom meetings, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Long Term Final Assignment: FINAL GROUP PROJECT**
“Quarantine Zine” Issue #2
Files Due May 4, 2020

Everyone will contribute 6 pages of images to an 8”x8” zine that will be published, printed and distributed to everyone in the class. Within the 6 pages, your first page should be an “intro” page with your name somewhere on it. Your name can be simple (name on a blank white page) or hidden within images, collage, etc., or it can be a title page of sorts, introducing your article, artwork or theme. While the idea of a zine historically dictates a “home made”, cut and paste, xerox copied zine, I don’t know how we’re going to realistically produce that, SO…I will find a way to publish using online resources. Everyone in the class will get a copy at the end of the semester. I will personally send them out to everyone. I think it will be important in the future to look back at this moment and have a physical memento of the strangeness and potential
creative, collaborative projects that came out of the quarantine zine! I will also be creating this zine in another class, so there will technically be two issues! You can trade! (the only reason this class is “Issue #2” is because it is the second class of the day in Printmaking. Nothing to do with ranking!

In preparation for your contributions, we will go over a number of technical aspects and skills to create your pages including:

• Shooting/Scanning files to be used and manipulated in Photoshop and laying out your pages in InDesign.
• Your 5 page spread is up to you as to what you want to include: text, imagery, theme, content, etc.
• You will be expected to provide an artist statement with the zine (this does not have to go in the zine, but I will require it as part of the assignment to be handed in to me). In this way, the work you produce during this strange time will be relatable and useable in your “normal” work in the future OR if the work relates only to your current thoughts and circumstances, it will have a conceptual relevance and will be good use in your portfolio and as a record of your work now as well as being good professional practice).
• You will need to begin to think about the theme of your work (this can relate to what you were already thinking about for the beginning of the semester).

Inspiration

Everyone should check out the following links for some inspiration as to how to think about the zine. It is ours to create and formulate. I encourage everyone to be discussing how and what we want to include in the zine!

Printed Matter, Inc (many of you have been here on the VC trip to NYC)
https://www.printedmatter.org/catalog

People of Print
https://www.peopleofprint.com/
https://thecreativeindependent.com/guides/how-to-make-a-zine/
https://magculture.com/
https://www.wussu.com/zines/punk.htm
https://www.theguardian.com/music/gallery/2013/jun/30/punk-music
https://issuu.com/poczineproject/docs/evolution-of-a-race-riot-issue-1
https://issuu.com/poczineproject/docs/race-riot-2

(you can even request a free zine from here…although, they’re in London…not sure they ship free)

Printeresting
http://archive.printeresting.org/
http://ghost.printeresting.org/

Alternative approaches to print:
http://www.philagrafika.org/gomez-and-gonzalez.html
http://www.philagrafika.org/philagrafika-2010-artists.html

Weekly Exercise:

Keep a running log of creative ideas. 10 ideas per week. This will be an ongoing assignment through the end of the semester.

The ideas should not be hampered by money, lack of materials or feasibility. Each idea can be as simple as a dust bunny sculpture and as complex as a rocket-ship to Mars flown by four 7 legged dogs that speak 9 languages each and follow the commands of a ferret named Sol LeWitt. No idea is too great or too small. It is the idea that counts.

A weekly list will be compiled and expected of each of you at the beginning of each week for our Zoom meeting.

Zoom Meetings

I will make myself available for Zoom meetings every week on Mondays during “normal” class time. This time will be used to go over projects, ideas, questions and concerns. I can address technical issues and questions of Photoshop or I can tell you how much fun I am having in quarantine.

If no one wants to meet to Zoom, then so be it, but we will start by trying. I think that some of our conditions and opinions are going to change quite a bit as we move forward into our new quarantined lives. We may hate Zoom or we may love the new “social” time.

REMAINING SCHEDULE

Week 8 – Getting back into Print…
4/01 – Zoom Meeting 1pm-2:30pm: discussing the new semester. Going over any questions, concerns that people have.

Homework: “Papitas Fritas de Compañeros de Huevo”
This will be a light and humorous way to get back into things. It will also you to print without many materials. Everyone will create a meal at home using potatoes, condiments and household items (see attached recipe and instructions). You get a meal out of it. You get to think of friends and you document prints for all of us to see.
*Download Photoshop and InDesign if you haven’t done so already. https://helpx.adobe.com/enterprise/kb/covid-19-education-labs.html*

**Week 9 – Alternative Printmaking Projects**

4/06 – Zoom Meeting 1pm-2:30pm  
10 ideas due  
**Homework:**  
Upload images of Papitas Fritas project.

**Weekly Project: Alternative Printmaking**  
Alternativa-Print Projects: Looking at the list of Alternative Printmaking methods (uploaded as a separate “Announcement”), consider what materials you have at hand and create a project/image using one or more of the processes. Due on 4/13.

**Getting Started with Photoshop (tutorial to be posted)**  
• Creating a New Project: 8”x8”  
• Basic Tools and text  
• Image/size Adjustments  
• Saving and copying files

**Homework:**  
Create three 8”x8” image in Photoshop (other than a straight up photograph). This is meant to be frustrating and exploratory. It is also meant to get you to open the program and explore on your own.  
Open InDesign and create an 8”x8” page.  
Create an image using an alternative Printmaking method (see attached announcement).

**Week 10 - Print Strategies**

4/13 – Zoom Meeting 1pm-2:30pm  
10 ideas due relating to process.  
3 8”x8” photoshopped images due. These should be sketches and experiments.

**Weekly Projects: Printmaking Strategies**  
• Think about print strategies as opposed to process. Think like a printmaker: question any aspect: the matrix (screen, plate, woodblock, paper, etc), ink, layering/layers, the edition, the multiple and dissemination of the information and voice of the image.  
• Combine print thinking with other disciplines- can social practice be a part of this? Promotional materials? Copy culture, collage, pop-art, photography, etc.

See the following:  
http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/p/prints-21st-century/
Look at the artists and the works that have been produced at Gemini GEL.
https://www.geminigel.com/

**Continued Photoshop**
- Layer, Groups and Guides
- Making selections.
- Creating wallpaper/repeated patterns.

**Homework:**
Remix the previous 8”x8” photoshopped images using collage, composite images and text. Consider how to rework, copy/paste and reconsider your previous images. Scan/shoot your previous alternative print project and find a way to reconsider it in an image on Photoshop. Consider surface, pattern and texture. OR revisit an alternative print project and use the method involved as a means of creating a new piece to be scanned/shot into a photoshop piece (example: sample a pattern or texture created using a printing process).

**Week 11 - Photoshop**
4/20 – Zoom Meeting 1pm-2:30pm
10 ideas due relating to Strategies.
Remix the previous 8”x8” photoshopped images using collage, composite images and text. Consider how to rework, copy/paste and reconsider your previous images. Scan/shoot your previous print project and find a way to reconsider it in an image on Photoshop. Consider surface, pattern and texture.

**Weekly Projects: Photoshop**
Work out ideas for 5 images to be realized towards Zine project. These are test images, not finals. They will be critiqued and reworked next week.

**Week 12**
4/27 – Zoom Crit of Zine images/ideas: 12:30pm-2:30pm
Rework images.
Begin work on a proposal for a special set up of work: hashed out in Photoshop using an image of the crit spaces as the back-drop of space for your work.

**Week 13**
5/04 – 6 pages due for zine project.
Discuss Artist Statements, portfolios and proposals.
Continued work on crit space proposal and plans.

**Week 14**
5/11 – Submit Artist Statements, portfolio and proposals for a future project.
Feedback and critique

**Week 15**
5/18 – Zoom discussion: zines! (should have arrived to you)