

ART678 Graduate Research Seminar
Friday 9:30-12:30 pm
Zoom link: <https://udel.zoom.us/j/97843247451>
Passcode: 396562
Adjunct Professor Talia Greene

Objectives

The main objective of this course is to develop a body of writing that will form the basis of your second semester Master's thesis. Along the way, you will work to deepen the ideas and motivations behind your studio practice, and strengthen your ability to communicate in a variety of formats.

The course has been developed based on the following assumptions:

1. Writing and verbal communication is an essential aspect of art making. Writing enables artists to hone and clarify ideas, taking a step back from making and approaching the process from an analytical perspective.
2. Professional artists must be able to effectively communicate their ideas in a variety of formats, from lectures to short artist statements, to longer proposals.

Assignments

1. Weekly readings completed prior to class. Students may be asked to lead at least one discussion of a reading. *Readings are chosen to inspire thinking on the weekly writing topic, as well as to provide opportunities for discussion on writing styles and a diversity of ideas.*
2. At least five writing assignments. These must be typed in a google doc. Submit a link to the google doc in the assignment section of canvas. Initial format for writings is open, however ultimately everyone will be required to compile the writings into a clearly and professionally worded essay. The harder you work to clarify your writing initially, the easier your task will be in the end.
3. At least 1 interview of a fellow student, conducted during class time.
4. Two presentations (see weeks 10/1-10/8 and 11/19-11/26) Presentations must be completed in Google slideshow, and must include presenter notes.
5. 1 Bibliography of articles which you plan to read.
6. Final Collection of edited, professionally worded essays, including a one paragraph artist statement.

Expectations

This is a graduate level class, and as such, students are expected to comport themselves with professionalism in regards to attendance, timely submission of assignments, and participation.

Criticism should be given and received with generosity.

Grading

If you complete all assignments to the best of your ability, follow all instructions for assignments, and participate in class discussions, you will receive an A in the class. If you are not meeting these standards, you will be notified by mid-term.

Attendance is required. If for some reason you are not able to attend class, please contact me prior to class. Unexcused absences will cause your final grade to be dropped by one full letter grade per absence.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Sept 4 *Introductions, Studio Visits*

Assignment Topic: In the Studio

Readings:

The Grove Book of Art Writing, Gayford and Wright, ed. 1998. *Robert Hughes, Frank Auerbach, 1990.* p.11-15.

Writing: *Describe your studio either as it is currently, or your ideal studio. Then, describe how you use your studio. What is your routine? What does your studio and your studio routine say about your practice? What can you extrapolate about your process and what kind of artist you are, based on how you use or function in your space?*

Week 2: September 11 *Group Discussion of Readings (led by students), Interviews*

Assignment Topic: On Process

Readings:

- The Grove Book of Art Writing, Gayford and Wright, ed. 1998. *Quoted in Robert Motherwell and Ad Reinhardt, 1951.* p. 336-8.
- *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, Gloria Anzaldua, 1987. p.72-75.
- <https://art21.org/watch/extended-play/el-anatsui-studio-process-short/>
- <https://art21.org/watch/extended-play/el-anatsui-language-symbols-short/>

Writing: *Transcribe interview and then use it as jumping off point for discussion of your process. How do you begin a piece? What is your approach to making? How do you know when a piece is finished? What aspect of the process do you most enjoy?*

**Compile a 6 page essay of assignments 1-2 to submit to partner for feedback*

Week 3: September 18 *Discussion of Readings (led by students), Paired feedback discussions*

Assignment Topic: Biography/Practice

Readings:

- *Labyrinths: Selected Stories and Other Writings*, Jorge Luis Borges, 1962. *Borges and I*, p. 246-247.
- *Notes of a Native Son*, James Baldwin, 1955. *Autobiographical Notes*, p.3-9
- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/10/08/magazine/black-women-artists-conversation.html?searchResultPosition=1>

Writing: *Who are you? How have your life experiences influenced who you are as an artist? How does your identity influence your practice? This can be anything from what you make, why you make, how you make, to what you want to communicate.*

2-3 pages

Week 4: September 25 *Discussion of Readings (led by students), Paired feedback discussions*

Assignment Topic: Artistic Influences

Readings: *Develop a Bibliography of 8 articles which you would like to read for the remainder of the semester. These articles can relate to any of the following writing prompts: Artistic influences, other visual influences, thematic influences.*

Please submit a list of readings for this date. Choose one article to respond to - how does it relate to your practice?

Presentation: *Who are the artists you are looking at? Who are the artists who you feel your work is in dialog with? Who are you taking inspiration from? In what ways does your work diverge from these artists?*

**Please write out presenter notes*

Week 5: October 2 Presentations: Artistic Influences

Week 6: October 9 Presentations: Artistic Influences

Assignment Topic: Visual Themes/Influences

Readings:

- Conceptual Art: A Critical Anthology, Alberro and Stimson, ed. Statement: Yvonne Rainer, p.60-61
- <https://art21.org/read/janine-antoni-touch-and-moor/>
- Blindspot, Teju Cole, (introduction and selected passages to tba)

Writing: *What else are you looking at or thinking about which is not art? What aspects of our world are you drawn to visually? Are you drawn to formal elements for formal reasons, for the themes or concept the images represent, or both? Please include images in this essay.*

~4 pages

Week 7: October 16 Discussions of readings - themes in art, themes in writing, discussion of writing Assignment Topic: Themes/Influences

Reading: From personal bibliography

Writing: *What are the themes that you are addressing in your work? What concepts are you attempting to communicate? Do you want to communicate a specific message? If so, what is that message? What methods do you employ to communicate a specific idea?*

Week 8: October 23

Assignment Topic: Audience Experience

Reading:

- The Grove Book of Art Writing, Gayford and Wright, ed. 1998. *Leo Steinberg on Jasper Johns*, 1972, p. 296-301
- The Grove Book of Art Writing, Gayford and Wright, ed. 1998. *Richard Wollheim on Willem de Kooning*, p.131-132
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/09/arts/design/moca-cleveland-shaun-leonardo.html>
- <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/takeaway/segments/artist-shaun-leonardo-on-police-brutality>

Writing: *How important is the audience's experience of your work? If you are not interested in communicating a specific message or idea, what do you hope that your audience will experience from your work?*

Week 9: October 30 Discussion of readings and paired feedback discussions.

Assignment: Artist statement & project proposal

Write a concise one paragraph artist statement. 200 words

Write a concise one paragraph project proposal for your thesis. 100 words

Week 10: November 6 Discussion of artist statements and grant writing exercises

Individual meetings

Week 11: November 13 Individual meetings

Week 12: November 20 Final Presentations

Presentation: *This is an opportunity for you to succinctly bring together the ideas you have been working with during the semester. You do not need to address every writing prompt, but rather consider the aspects of the prompts which resonate the most for your practice. The slides should be a combination of your own work and other images which relate to your work, including biographical, inspiration, historical and contemporary works by other artists, etc.*

** Presenter notes are required for every slide*

Thanksgiving Break - No Class

Week 13: December 4 Final Presentations

Week 14: December 11 Final Collection Due