**FAU Department of Art and Art History** Prof. Andrew Brown

**RI BFA Senior Seminar** email: browna@fau.edu

**ART 4955C Sec 1, 4CR** Office Hours by appointment

**T/R 4:00-6:50pm – VA 105** T-10. Room 2

**Prerequisites: Departmental permission.** Students must be in their final semester of their senior year. Prerequisites vary by studio concentration. Please check individual major worksheets to determine your eligibility for this course.

**Catalog Course Description**

Preparation for exhibition in annual graduating art students show. Examination of current opportunities and directions in the Art field; the assembling of an effective portfolio representative of the students work. Required for all B.F.A. Art majors.

**Course Description**

This research intensive course will function as a capstone for BFA majors. During the class you will hone your personal voice, advance conceptual and technical rigor, and lay the groundwork for future studio practice. You will also learn about professional practice through reading, writing, and attending art related events. The course will culminate in a student organized and produced senior exhibition.

**Objectives**

1. Develop a portfolio of professional work and relevant materials
2. Increase knowledge of critical theory and aesthetics through readings, discussion, and writing
3. Improve ability to write and speak articulately about art practice
4. Experience in the processes for exhibiting artwork in a gallery space through the BFA Exhibition
5. Critiques on artwork and students’ progress toward a cohesive and considered body of work
6. Become aware of the facets of the art community and one’s place within it
7. Complete a series of in-class and outside assignments, both written and studio based

**Course Content**

* *BFA Student Exhibition*-preparation and completion of senior show
* *Professional Packet*-this will include: artist statement, cover letter, résumé, portfolio, business card
* *Art Presentation*-learn the basics of discussing your professional practice and research
* *Knowledge of Critical Theory Through History*-Weekly assigned readings paired with written response and class discussion
* *Exhibition and Grant Application*-Learn about and complete application for a grant or show
* *Body of Work*-Continue Developing a cohesive body of work
* *Critical Writing*-Complete a research paper, artist statement and personal manifesto
* *Museums, Galleries and Artist Talks*- Attend a selection of them paired with written response
* *Create a working webpage*

**Methods for Learning Outcomes**

-Group and individual critiques of studio work with peers, instructors and graduate students

-Writing projects to improve communication skills and as a component of the creative process

-Oral presentations to improve verbal communication and public speaking skills

**Research Intensive Course Content**

This course contains an assignment or multiple assignments designed to help students conduct research and inquiry at an intensive level.  If this class is selected to participate in the university-wide assessment program, students will be asked to complete a consent form and submit electronically some of their research assignments for review.  Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI) for additional opportunities and information at <http://www.fau.edu/ouri>.

**Student Learning Outcomes and Research Intensive Criteria**

The BFA Senior Seminar also serves as the department’s primary vehicle for student assessment in the major for this cohort, and it satisfies the four components of the state’s learning compacts – content knowledge, skill in oral presentation, skill in writing, and collaborative work process.

The BFA Senior Seminar is the culminating course in the sequence that requires students to work on creative projects individually and together to compose an online public exhibition towards the end of the semester, which showcases the work of the student artists and also provides potential employers an opportunity to survey promising talent in the visual arts.

Research and creative activity takes place at several levels. Students complete and prepare existing or ad hoc artwork that serves as the basis for their exhibition (**SLO 1 - Knowledge**). Awareness of the theoretical contextualization of the work is developed through classroom discussion and selected readings. Work selected for the online exhibition is vetted and sponsored by qualified instructional faculty, and no work involves the reproduction of prior artwork or artwork by other individuals (**SLO 5 – Ethical Conduct**; n.b., issues of ethics in the arts are addressed also in classroom sessions during the course of the semester, including discussion of larger issues of the artist's role in our culture, the responsibilities an artist has to the viewers, and the impact (positive or negative) of individual works of art; on a more pragmatic level, discussion covers, also, copyright, appropriation, authorship, group work, reproduction, and even the question of whether or not to serve alcohol at an exhibition opening). Each student must compose two artist’s statements that address larger themes of the creative work and the student’s artistic enterprise (**SLO 4 – Critical Thinking**). This document is a synthetic often poetic overview that reflects the student’s internal maturity as an artist, and it is reviewed both by the instructor of the course and by the group of students and revised in a series of drafts (**SLO 2 – Formulate Questions**). Students also produce a packet for state compacts, which includes a *curriculum vitae*, a letter to a prospective employer, a corrected writing sample from a previous course, and an unofficial academic transcript. Students work together to compose a professional website and participate in an exhibition, which includes each student’s display area and the design of the show overall (**SLO 3 – Plan of Action**). This in itself constitutes research and creative activity, and the public exhibition is also the responsibility of the students (**SLO 6 – Communication**).

**Requirements and Individual Assignments**

1. A proposal and project timeline for the semester
2. Studio Project (Art work a day for 2 weeks=10 pieces) Due Week 3
3. 1st Oral Presentation
4. 1,000 word Artist Statement
5. Short Artist Statement
6. Cover Letter and C.V.
7. Art Theory Article Debate--2nd Oral Assignment
8. Research and Create Professional Webpage with minimum of 10 images
9. One critique with other artist/professor
10. Submission to Juried Show and Residency (these vary and are found through various art calls like artdeadline.com) - print out proof of submission (email receipt)
11. Documentation of Senior Work and professional package
12. Critical Theory Reading and Discussion (throughout the semester)

**Grading**

Attendance/Participation---10

Written assignments including: Artist Statement, Cover Letter, C.V.—10

Artist Talks/Debate---10

Studio Work and BFA Exhibition Participation---40

Critical Essay---10

Exhibition Committee---20

Total:100

**Course Grading Scale**

We will have scheduled individual mid semester and final critiques. All work will be reviewed at your final critique.

Grade scale:

A superior work and effort

B good work and effort

C competent work and effort (all works completed)

D no sustained effort, excessive absences, not all works completed

F no effort, excessive absence

**Academic Integrity**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

**Student Accessibility Services**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS)—in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 131 (954-236-1222); or in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8585) —and follow all SAS procedures.

**Attendance and Participation**

As this this is a capstone course encompassing professional and studio practice, absence is very detrimental to your understanding of the material. Unnecessary or unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. Students who are late three times will be assessed one absence.

Students are permitted 2 absences for when they are ill or unable to attend class. If a student exceeds two absences, her or his final grade will drop by one letter grade or more for the course.

**To be counted as present:**

Student arrives on time (3 tardy, more than 10 minutes late, will result in an absence)

Student comes fully prepared with all materials needed for the day

Student remains actively engaged for the duration of class

**Classroom Policies:**

**1. No Cell Phone Use Whatsoever-**In accordance with university policy(this includes calling, texting, surfing the net, listening to music, or any other technology of which this professor has yet to become aware).

**2. No headphones unless told otherwise-** This is a shared environment where everyone is expected to actively participate. If the student cannot hear, how can he or she stay engaged with the class?

**Late Work**

All assignments turned in late will be reduced by one letter grade for each class past its due date. After one week a grade of F will be given.University approved and documented excuses will be accepted without penalty if appropriate documentation is provided.

**Required Text**

1. How to Write About Contemporary Art

By Gilda Williams

ISBN 0500291578

1. Art in Theory 1900-2000

Charles Harrison and Paul Wood

2nd Edition, 2002

ISBN 0631227083

1. Art & Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking

By David Bayles and Ted Orland

**Recommended Text**

1. The Curator’s Handbook

Adrian George

ISBN 0500239282

5. The Practical Handbook for the Emerging Artist by Margaret Lazzari

**Contacting your Professor**

My office is on the other side of campus in the T-10 building, Room 2. As it can be quite challenging to find, if you wish to meet with me, please make arrangements ahead of time. Making an appointment through email is the most expedient and effective way to see me. Additionally, I am usually in the room 30 minutes prior to class and will stay for some time after.

**Course Calendar**

Week 1

Introductions and First Project: *Art a Day* with reflection and presentation

BFA Exhibition Planning with creation of committees

Submit Studio Schedule

Introduction to writing artist statement

*How to Write about Contemporary Art*: How to write and Artist Statement

Assigned Reading: Comparison of Plato’s Republic: Books II, II and X to Your own Philosophy of Art

Self-selected Reading from *Art and Theory* (weekly)

Week 2

Continue working on first project *Art a day*

First Artist Statement due-Present to class

Committees assigned with initial discussion

Assigned Reading: *How to Write about Contemporary Art*: Introduction, Section 1—pgs.9-41

Assigned Reading: Walter Benjamin’s *The Work of* *Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*

Self-selected reading from *Art in Theory*

*8-minute debate*

*Discuss Fundraising Possibilities*

Artist Manifestos

Week 3

What are Artist talks?

Writing a Résumé

Assigned Reading: Greenberg’s Modernist Painting

Self-selected readings from Art in Theory

Group Critique/Presentation on first project

Committee Proposals-Exhibition planning including:

Committee Assignments/responsibilities, Show name and promotion,

And promotional webpage

Begin Fundraising

*8-minute debate*

Week 4

2nd Artist Statement Due

Introduce Research Writing Assignment

Committee Duties Update

Research and begin working on Postcard, Poster and Catalog-Determine Printing company, cost and time to print

Individual discussion of final work

5 Obstructions Movie and Exercise

Assigned Reading: Susan Sontag’s *In Plato’s Cave*

Self-selected readings from *Art in Theory*

*8-minute debate*

Week 5

Work on C.V.

HTWACA How to Write Op-ed art Journalism (pgs. 183-189) and How to write and academic Read:Essay (pgs. 107-125) \*\**Complete this reading by next class (Thursday)*

Sontag's Against Interpretation

Work approval for BFA show

Self-selected reading from *Art in Theory*

Class Webpage up and running

Thesis Paper Workshop: Part 1

-Artist Interviews

*8-minute debate*

Week 6

Begin Cover Letter

Group Critique of Studio Work

Writing Workshop on Essay writing and Cover Letters/Bio

Applying to Shows and Residencies

Read: Danto’s Philosophy and Art

Self-selected readings from *Art in Theory*

*8-minute debate*

Week 7

Outline and research materials for Research Essay Due

Thesis Paper Workshop: Part 2

Assigned Reading: Douglas Crimp’s *The Photographic Activity of Post Modernism*

BFA Committee report and schedule decisions

Update on Fundraising and Trajectory of Printed Materials

Post Card Final Design Decisions

Self-selected reading from *Art in Theory*

*8-minute debate*

Week 8

Introduce building website and workshop

Finish Designs for Postcard Completed and sent out for printing

Assigned Reading: Michael Fried’s *Art and Objecthood*

Self-selected reading from *Art in Theory*

*8-minute debate*

Week 9

Prof. Landes—artists' webpage

Committee Planning Reports with final decisions and preparation

Assigned Reading: Joseph Kosuth’s *Art After Philosophy*

Cover Letter Due

Self-selected readings from *Art in Theory*

*8-minute debate*

Week 10

Guest Lectures

Rough draft for Essay Due--Discuss final Essays-Peer and Group

Final Design of Poster Due

Discuss progress of Catalog

20 slide portfolio due with image list

*8-minute debate*

Week 11

Exhibition Plan Meetings

Week 12

Prep for BFA Exhibition

Websites Due

Final Critical Essay Due

Week 13

Workshop for Professional Materials

Final Committee Discussions

Week 14

BFA Show Installed

Organizing for Opening

Week 15

Final Discussion and Critique

BFA Opening Reception-April 20th

**Important Dates:**

Last day to Drop/Add Courses---------------------------------------------*August 25th (Friday)*

**Last day to drop a course or withdraw without receiving an "F"--------*-November 17th***

**Last day of class before finals------------------------------------------*December 2nd (Saturday)***

**Final Exam----------------------------------------------------------Tuesday, Dec 12th, 4:00-6:30**

**BFA Exhibition Opening Reception--------------------------------------Thursday, Nov 16th**

**Senior Seminar BFA Exhibition Student Work Permission and Release Form**

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**List all works of art being submitted for the exhibition:**

* Title and Date:

Media and Dimensions:

* Title and Date:

Media and Dimensions:

* Title and Date:

Media and Dimensions:

* Title and Date:

Media and Dimensions:

Each submitted work must be approved by a faculty member in your major area. The faculty member may indicate her or his approval by signing below, or by email me. Only complete work may be approved.

Faculty Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

By signing, you, the student/exhibiting artist, acknowledge that you are personally responsible for the artwork(s) included in the BFA exhibition. No other student, faculty member, and or gallery staff member is responsible for your work at any time during any phase of installation, exhibition and or deinstallation. Nor is the university responsible for your work. Furthermore, you acknowledge that you are responsible for removing your work from the gallery immediately after the show closes. Finally, you acknowledge that failure to collect your work within the times outlined above may result in the lowering of your final grade and disposal of your work.

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_