

SCHOOL OF ART
George Mason University
Fall 2016

AVT 600

Research Methodologies

M 4:30-7:10p; AD1007

*Prerequisite: Admission to the School of Art graduate program
or permission of the instructor.*

Contact Information

Professor: Paula Crawford

Office Hours: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. (other times by appointment)

Office: 2018

email: pcrawfo1@gmu.edu

Course Description:

This seminar is a venue for independent research as it informs and enhances your individual studio practice. In that spirit, students are expected to conduct and present research as it pertains to their particular areas of inquiry in the studio. This will be conducted through presentations, the gathering and distribution of pertinent readings, a video presentation and final publication. Beyond relevant art historical precedents and contemporary practices, student research may intersect with areas of inquiry, such as philosophy, science, history, aesthetics, the social and political sciences, and literary theory. Personal experience may be a catalyst for investigation as well as a research area unto itself. Emphasis is both on relevant art historical precedents and contemporary trends, as well as philosophical and theoretical underpinnings.

This course is divided into two parts. In the first, we will concentrate on gathering information and producing writings about the studio work and the territory of ideas surrounding each artist's practice. We will then synthesize and extract from this process, the most pertinent writings and observations to produce a 'group-book,' which documents and illuminates each artist's work. Each artist will also produce a short Art 21 style video about her/his studio practice.

These are exercises geared toward deepening your own understanding of (and fluency in) the idea territory you are exploring with your work. If you have a deeper sense of what it is you're doing, you will do it better. You will also be able to talk about it.

Grading/Course Requirements:

- Full involvement in weekly class meetings
- Timely and consistent email responses to presenting artists that are rigorous and instructive
- Significant contribution to class publication
- Presentation that is organized, deeply reflective, well-researched, and pertinent to studio practice, including the selection and timely distribution of prepared readings
- Soft and hard copy of organized and edited gathered writings relating to your studio practice. These include a refined artist statement and bio, the interview or interviews of you by your peer(s), and gathered articles relevant to your practice.

Highly Recommended Text:

Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art, A Sourcebook of Artist's Writings, 2nd edition

Authors: Edited, Stiles & Selz

University of California Press Berkeley

ISBN: 0-520-20253-8

Recommended (Optional):

The Critique Handbook: The Art Student's Sourcebook and Survival Guide

Buster & Crawford

ISBN-13: 978-0205708116

ISBN-10: 0205708110

Deadlines: Presentation #1	Variable TBA according to your date
Presentation #2	Variable TBA according to your date
Interview	Variable TBA according to your date
Memoirette	10/31
Art Review	11/7
Art 21 Video	11/28 (last meeting day)

COURSE SCHEDULE¹

Week

I

M 8/29

Introduction to course/overview of goals. Syllabus.
Personal introductions—work, history, interests, ideas.
Artist research presentation scheduling.

Presentations: *(See hand out)*

Each of you will give a class presentation that explores the subject matter informing your art practice. The first presentation will engage directly with your subject matter and the idea territory around it.

1. Begin to pinpoint writings relevant to your own work using *Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art* and/or other sources, including websites.
2. *Each presenter will distribute short readings to the group no later than the Thursday before Monday's class.*
3. Prepare a one-page statement about your work to be distributed in class on the day you present.

II

M 9/5

Labor Day Holiday

III

M 9/12

These first presentations will focus on you introducing yourself as an artist and conceptualizing your subject matter

Artist Presentations focusing on subject matter: *Discussion of readings*

¹ Schedule is subject to change as needed

#1 _____ #2 _____

Class to email Responses over the next few days (including other suggested texts)
Next week's presenter distribute short readings

IV
M 9/19

Artist Presentations focusing on subject matter: *Discussion of readings*

#1 _____ #2 _____

Class to email Responses over the next few days (including other suggested texts)
Next week's presenter distribute short readings

V
M 9/26

These next presentations will focus on the conversation around your work—what other artists are doing, what other works are in conversation with yours. What is that conversation?

Artist Presentations focusing on other artists in the conversation *Discussion of readings and/or related artists' work:*

#1 _____ #2 _____

Class to email Responses over the next few days (including other suggested texts)
Next week's presenters distribute short readings

VI
T 10/3

Artist Presentations focusing on other artists in the conversation *Discussion of readings and/or related artists' work:*

#1 _____ #2 _____

Class to email Responses over the next few days (including other suggested texts)
Next week's presenters distribute short readings:

VII
T 10/11

Monday is a holiday (Class meets Tuesday)

Meet at Johnson Center Library, Room 228 (the Instruction Room) at 4:30 sharp.

Introduction to library resources and research with Steve Gerber. The computer lab room is in the Johnson Center Library on the second floor. After coming up the main stairs, the room will be off to the right. Be there at 4:30 sharp.

VIII

Interviews:

The interview is where you will learn a lot about what you are up to in the studio by seeing your work through the eyes of the interviewer. (See handout on interviews.)

Interviewer's Role in Interview Presentation: You know more about this artist than most. You are expected to raise pertinent questions and supplement the presentation.

M 10/17

Interview presentations (one pair—switch sides)

Artist _____ Interviewer _____
Artist _____ Interviewer _____
Class to email Responses over the next few days

IX

M 10/24

Interview presentations (one pair—switch sides)

Artist _____ Interviewer _____

Artist _____ Interviewer _____

Class to email Responses over the next few days

Assign: Review Writing

X

M 10/31

Short memoir assignments presented in class

Assign: Art 21-style videos: find a video partner

XI

M 11/7

Reviews due

XII

M 11/14

Bring in edited reviews AND all writings on your work so far—email responses, your statement, images

Meetings to envision and begin work on publication. Solidify job distribution.

Editor _____ Editor _____

Graphic Designer _____ Photographer _____

XIII

M 11/21

Final Publication work/ Video Projects

XIV

M 11/28

Art 21-style videos—presentations—last meeting day

XV

W 12/5

No class

Class List Serve: efussner@gmu.edu, ehopkins@gmu.edu, kjohns86@gmu.edu, jlillis@gmu.edu

Preparation for Presentations

Presenting Artist:

In preparing for your presentations, you will be gathering information about your work. Here is an outline of the stages of gathering:

1. Write an artist statement (This is the starting point and a living document to be revised as you learn more about what you are doing.)
2. Research your idea territory
 - a. Find writings by and about artists with whom you have an affinity

- b. Find articles and books that examine the ideas and concepts that you are dealing with in your work (and generally thinking about)
3. Select one or two illuminating writings that would like to discuss and distribute them to the class by the Thursday before we meet.

Class:

1. Read distributed writing before we meet so that you can come to class informed
2. During presentations, take notes.

Post Presentation Class Responses:

1. After presentation, email your thoughts to the artist: suggestions, incongruities, suggested research, even gut reactions to ideas presented.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students with Disabilities and Learning Differences: If you have a diagnosed disability or learning difference and you need Academic accommodations please inform me at the beginning of the semester and contact the Office of Disability Services (SUB I room 234, 703-993-2474). You must provide me with a faculty contact sheet from that office outlining the accommodations needed for your disability or learning difference. All academic accommodations must be arranged in advance through the Office of Disability Services.

Technology: In accordance with George Mason University policy, please silence all cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at the start of class. The instructor of the class will keep his/her cell phone active to assure receipt of any Mason Alerts in a timely fashion; or in the event that the instructor does not have a cell phone, he/she will designate one student to keep a cell phone active to receive such alerts.

Commitment to Diversity: This class will be conducted as an intentionally inclusive community that celebrates diversity and welcomes the participation in the life of the university of faculty, staff and students who reflect the diversity of our plural society. All may feel free to speak and to be heard without fear that the content of the opinions they express will bias the evaluation of their academic performance or hinder their opportunities for participation in class activities. In turn, all are expected to be respectful of each other without regard to race, class, linguistic background, religion, political beliefs, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, veteran's status, or physical ability.

Statement on Ethics in Teaching and Practicing Art and Design: As professionals responsible for the education of undergraduate and graduate art and design students, the faculty of the School of Art adheres to the ethical standards and practices incorporated in the professional Code of Ethics of our national accreditation organization, The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

Open Studio Hours: SOA teaching studios are open to students for extended periods of time mornings, evenings and weekends whenever classes are not in progress. Policies, procedures and schedules for studio use are established by the SOA studio faculty and are posted in the studios.

Important University Dates:

Consortium Registration Deadline	TBD
First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date	August 29
Labor Day, university closed	September 5
Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	September 6
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	September 20
Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)	September 30
Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web	September 26 – October 21
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	October 3 – October 28
Columbus Day recess (Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet this week)	October 10
Incomplete work from spring/summer 2016 due to instructor	October 28
Incomplete grade changes from spring/summer 2016 due to Registrar	November 4
Thanksgiving recess	November 23 – 27
Last day of classes	December 10
Reading Days Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions, but regular classes or exams may not be held.	December 12
Exam Period	Tues December 13 – Tues December 20
Degree Conferral Date The Winter Graduation Ceremony will be held on Wed December 21.	December 21

ArtsBus - Dates for Fall 2016: September 24th, October 22nd and November 19th.

ArtsBus Credit and Policies: You are responsible for knowing and following Artsbus policies and rules. Please go to the ArtsBus website: <http://artsbus.gmu.edu> "Student Information" for important information regarding ArtsBus policy. For credit to appear on your transcript you must enroll in AVT 300. This also applies to anyone who intends to travel to New York independently, or do the DC Alternate Assignment.

If you plan/need to go on multiple ArtsBus trips during a semester and need them towards your total requirement, you must enroll in multiple sections of AVT 300.

Non-AVT majors taking art classes do not need Artsbus credit BUT may need to go on the Artsbus for a class assignment. You can either sign up for AVT 300 or buy a ticket for the bus trip at the Center of the Arts. Alternate trips must be approved by the instructor of the course that is requiring an ArtsBus trip.

Visual Voices Lecture Series: Fall 2016 Visual Voices is a year-long series of lectures by artists, art historians and others about contemporary art and art practice. Visual Voices lectures are held on Thursday evenings from 7:20- 9:00 p.m. in Harris Theater: <http://soa.gmu.edu/visualvoices/>. Dates for Fall 2016: September 1st, September 8th, September 22nd, October 6th and October 20th.

Masonlive/Email: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

Attendance Policies: Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.

Honor Code: Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code. Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

Writing Center: Students who are in need of intensive help with grammar, structure or mechanics in their writing should make use of the services of Writing Center, located in Robinson A116 (703-993-1200). The services of the Writing Center are available by appointment, online and, occasionally, on a walk-in basis. The Collaborative Learning Hub Located in Johnson Center 311 (703-993-3141), the lab offers in-person one-on-one support for the Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office, Blackboard, and a variety of other software. Dual monitor PCs make the lab ideal for collaborating on group projects, Macs are also available; as well as a digital recording space, collaborative tables, and a SMART Board. Free workshops are also available (Adobe and Microsoft) through Training and Certification; visit training.gmu.edu to see the schedule of workshops and to sign up.