

# Disciplinary Communication in Art

**[Draft]**

## **I. Educational objectives**

The Art Major offers an integrated program of study in theory and practice which explores the power of visual communication for personal expression and public interaction. The department provides students with means to pursue this exploration through courses that provide the practical skills for art production in a variety of media within the contexts of critical thinking and broad-based social perspectives.

In a culture where the dominant form of communication is visual, verbal, and written, art explores the power of each of these personal and public forms of communication. The Art Department provides students with the means to pursue this imagery with a foundation in visual studies. This foundation is necessary for students to develop practical and theoretical knowledge about a broad range of visual activity, both past and present; students are offered courses that expose them to the complex relationship between theory and practice. Oral communication, writing skills, and visual literacy are combined to provide students with a solid foundation of communication in the arts.

### ***Writing***

Students learn to

1. develop artist's statements to critically discuss their own work.
2. write critical essays on individual artists and art practices and/or on the expanded field of art, art theory and art history.
3. create exhibition and curatorial statements on either their own or other artists exhibitions.
4. develop grant funding proposals.

Assignments are distributed differently for different courses. They are primarily distributed evenly throughout the quarter. In Art courses students receive significant feedback for the majority of their written assignments.

We provide examples of artists statements, curatorial statements, and grant proposals. Students also read exhibition statements, curatorial statements, and examine artist's websites. Students read and provide written critiques of historical, and theoretical texts.

### ***Speaking/presentation***

Students learn to

1. orally present and articulate their ideas about their own art work.
2. present constructive verbal critiques of other artists' work.
2. respond to verbal critiques of their own work to both defend their work and improve the effectiveness and understanding of this work.
3. discuss visual images in artist's talks and presentations. In the visual arts this is very important as the "Artist Talk" is one of the major ways that artists promote their work and ideas. This is true because it is often impossible to transport the original art works with the artist.

All students in the art department give oral critiques and are critiqued on their artwork on a regular basis. This occurs at least 5 or 6 times throughout the quarter.

Students create slides, PowerPoint images, posters and other media. Conventions of speaking, and/or of slide or poster preparation are taught by example during work shops and in classes.

### ***Visual communication***

Students learn to

1. develop websites that include visual imagery (digital video and stills), sound, and textual presentations.
2. create performance art pieces that combine oral, physical and theatrical presentations.
3. produce PowerPoint or similar slide presentations to accompany the student/artist discussion of the presentations content.

All courses in the art department address production and artwork through disciplinary communication, as described above, in some fashion.

## **II. How the educational objectives are met in the curriculum**

### **List of course(s) committed to disciplinary communications objectives**

List all courses you commit to meeting disciplinary communications objectives, and make clear how each course fits within the major requirements. Is it required of all majors? If there are alternative pathways, it should be clear how all majors will satisfy the educational objectives.

As part of the Art foundation series, frosh in the Art Major must take Art 80C and either Art 10H or Art 10G . These courses will serve the disciplinary objectives described above.

#### Art 80C: Introduction to Visual Arts (GE codes T4, A)

This course focuses on contemporary practices in visual arts, which have extended traditionally developed expectations about the nature of art. Through lectures, readings, and discussions a variety of issues are examined in visual arts, including aesthetic, personal, and social objectives, audience and patronage, contexts of display and reception, the politics and economics of art, the social and subjective identities of artists, and the role of theory in informing the production of art. Particular attention is given to the ways in which these issues are suggested by the rhetoric of art—the language used to talk about its making value and meaning. Participation in class and section discussions is an integral part of this course. Primary written work for the course will consist of midterm and final examinations and two papers (approximately 4-6 pages each). Provides a foundation for visual literacy with communication in oral, written and practice components.

#### Art 10G: 2D Foundation (GE code A)

This course is an introduction to the theory, history, and practices of two-dimensional art making, which is addressed through lectures, readings, and studio work. The course focuses on constructing meaning and examines issues of content, representation, communication, and process. Four major outside projects are assigned and each must have an accompanying written statement, along with participation in class critiques, to help students develop a working vocabulary and approaches to articulating issues such as content, formal and aesthetic qualities, expression and style.

#### Art 10H: 3D Foundation (GE code A)

This course is an introduction to the theory, history, and practices of three-dimensional art making, which is addressed through lectures, readings, and studio work. The course focuses on constructing meaning and examines issues of content, representation, communication, and process. Class critiques, class discussions, studio projects, and readings are a regular part of the overall course content. Students are required to provide a written response to each lecture.

The following courses are requirements for junior transfer art students and will meet the disciplinary objectives described above:

#### Art 60: Forms and Ideas

Introduction to the art program, emphasizing awareness of contemporary visual practices and theory. Students will explore connections between private expression and public communication, art and social contexts, and what being an artist entails in the contemporary world through readings, discussion, and studio projects. All projects are documented digitally and weekly presentations of studio work are required. Students develop documentation of each project in a portfolio format. Provides a foundation for visual literacy with focus on oral, written and practice in disciplinary communication

One of the following:

Art 149A/B: Contemporary Visual Media: Issues of Theory and Practice

Through class discussions of core readings, selected issues in critical theory relevant to contemporary visual practices are examined. The class is global in scope and will engage artistic production occurring both inside and outside the Western context. Each week students write a brief summary (500-words) to enhance reading and writing abilities. In-class participation in discussion of an array of visual material is required. This course explores theoretical issues through writing, and oral discussion.

Art 150C: Issues in Collaboration and Interactivity (GE code "W")

This writing-specific seminar explores collaboration and interactivity in contemporary art and visual cultures. Emphasis is on artworks where interaction and collaboration produce controversial and challenging results. Examines the convergence of media forms and artist collaborations, and the intersection of competing theoretical ideas and ideologies. The intention is to understand how artists and visual producers respond to an increasingly shifting society where rapid cultural change, advances in technology, and the effects of globalization reconfigure how we perceive the world. Eight essays and a final research paper are required. Proposals, drafts, and final assignments receive comments from the instructor. Each student gives a 15-minute presentation on his or her artwork or a related subject. This is an advanced art theory course with an emphasis on communication in writing and oral discussion.

The following courses may be used as upper division major requirements and will meet the disciplinary objectives described above. All Art majors must take seven upper division studio courses. Two of these may be Senior Studio courses:

Senior Studio courses:

Art 106A and B: Senior Studio in Painting/Drawing

Art 116A and B: Senior Studio in Print Media

Art 133A and B: Senior Studio in Photography

Art 159A and B: Senior Studio in Intermedia, Electronic Art, Public Art, and Sculpture

All senior studio and upper division studio courses require written project statements and artist statements that are revised throughout the quarter. Students read critical work about other artists and discuss these readings in class. Courses require a combination of exhibition statements, digital presentations and/or web site production, peer and self-critiques, and oral presentations.

### ***Summer Writing Courses in Art***

Art170W and Art 171W (GE code "W")

These courses Integrate studio work and field study, combined with in-class

writing exercises, discussions, and group critiques. Students produce a minimum of 25 pages of written work through drafts, re-writes, and final papers.

We plan to add additional “W” courses to our curriculum as our resources allow.