ART 208 FIBER ARTS  3 credits (lab/studio)  SPRING 2015
Monday/Wednesday 9:00–11:30 a.m. / CFA 20

Instructor:  Virginia Vogel
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Office:  CFA 1
Office hours:  Mondays/Wednesdays:  1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Course Description: Introduction to fiber based techniques and concepts as a form of the fine arts.

This course is a guided investigation of basic concepts and techniques of visual organization in two and three dimensions-- In other words, honing investigative skills, thinking visually and conceptually in order to communicate effectively though texture. Students will develop an awareness of the formal elements of composition, a working knowledge of their fundamental principles and sensitivity towards the interrelationship between form and content. Students will familiarize themselves with the basic vocabulary necessary to verbalize their creative process and critical thinking.

We will be investigating a variety of and its application in the 2d design practices through basic photo imaging, digital media into sculpture and mixed media. This course explores visual forms and contemporary concepts are a variety of fibers, applications, presentations and discussions.

This course is a web-campus hybrid course and you will need to participate in the discussions, quizzes and linked study explorations.

Course Pre/Co-requisites, Recommended Preparation:
There is no prerequisite required or previous experience necessary in order to take this class.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students will be able to [via individual assignments] demonstrate comprehension of, and ability to employ elements and principles of design. (CO 7)

Students will be able to use practical concepts to interpret and critically analyze works of art both verbally and in writing. (CO 7)

Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to engage in, comprehend and benefit from critiques [constructive criticism] both providing and accepting such information. (CO 7)
Students will be able to produce well-supported positions that thoroughly and respectfully consider alternative viewpoints and written assignments, class discussion and critique. (CO 7 and CO 3)

Students will be able to synthesize and integrate information from multiple sources to contribute to the creative and scholarly conversation. (CO 3)

Students will be able to develop and evaluate possible solutions to art studio assignments that lead to well-grounded and creative conclusions. (CO 7 and CO 3)

Students will be able to write coherently and observe the standards of academic English. (CO 1)

Students will be able to demonstrate awareness of one’s own beliefs, concepts, and biases in project interpretation, written assignments, class discussion and critique. (CO 1)

**CLASS GOALS:**

To successfully complete this course, students will sufficiently develop and demonstrate their capacities for the following: Having a broadened awareness of art works not only as objects, but also as the by-products of creative processes.

Understanding of content as an intrinsic part of form even at the exclusion of subject (i.e., that subject does not dictate meaning, i.e., understanding "content" as "form-meaning").

Identification and understanding of the varied functions of the Visual Elements of Form:
- Line, Shape, Value, Color, Texture, Volume

Identification and understanding of the Principles of Organization/Composition/Design.

Be creative within assigned project parameters - understand the importance of taking risks and inventiveness.

Be a constructive participant in the studio. Each student’s active presence benefits the creative environment of the entire class.

**Core Curriculum**

This course satisfies Core Objective 7 (Artistic Composition, Interpretation, and Expression) of the Core Curriculum. It also develops and reinforces Core Objective 1 (Effective Composition & Communication) and Core Objective 3 (Critical Analysis & use of information).

Fiber Arts, Art 208, includes attention to analysis or evaluation the creative process based on knowledge of relevant historical, cultural, aesthetic and theoretical traditions which are fiber based. An understanding of artistic composition with the medium of fiber, interpretation and expression are required to articulate a written or oral analysis. The students will apply techniques of critical analysis to study and interpret works of art in the context of culture and individual
identity. Students will have the opportunity to express their interpretations in a variety of required formats: research papers, assigned creative projects and critique/discussion. This course includes lectures, class discussions and writing components that will assist students in acquiring core objectives both in the area of arts as well as developing written and presentational skills.

**Required texts, course materials:**

**Required Reading:** *There is no formal text, which you will need to purchase*; however, there are some books available for you to borrow, if you wish; just ask your instructor. Many of the current materials will be brought to class as well as posted on web campus.

**Course Supplies:** Your course fees have been used to purchase some of the supplies required for the course. **Supplied with your lab fee monies:**

- Dynaflow silk dyes
- Jacquard metallic paints –Lumiere and Neopaque
- Gutta washable resists
- Tyvek
- Steam-a-Seam
- Discharge
- silk scarves (3)
- Citrasolve

**Additional supplies required:** (Purchase these supplies **ASAP**—by the end of the first week of the semester). Come to class prepared.

Sketch book (recommended size 11”x14”)
Foam brushes ($0.69 at Home Depot)
A plastic bowler container with lid
1 yard of muslin
1 yard of Michael Miller or Kona black cotton
½ yard of two different fabrics of your choice
A handful of buttons
A pair of scissors
An X-Acto knife or mat knife
3 #2 pencils B---**mechanical pencils are not acceptable tools for this class**
1 narrow black (fine) line marker pen
straight pins
needles—range—hand sewing
neutral thread--- could be gray, could be beige, could be pale blue
may want a spool of black thread

We will be taking a field trip to Mill End Fabrics for your convenience

Additional materials will likely need to be purchased as the course proceeds; these will be identified on a project-to-project basis.
Use of Electronic devices: You are invited to bring electronic equipment [I pads, Tablets, Laptops, etc.] to class and to use them to assist in your work. I would prefer that you not use them when either a guest or I am lecturing but, if you do hear a name, a genre, a style, etc. with which you are unfamiliar, write it down and look [Google] it up so that you KNOW that reference before you leave class. Once again, the purpose of this device in this situation is NOT for personal communication, rather for investigation.

REQUIREMENTS:
Attendance: Punctual attendance at all scheduled class meetings is required. Missing two or more class sessions, lateness and/or leaving class early will affect your grade. There are no exceptions! If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the assignment due next from a source other than the instructor and adhere to its requirements so that you are always prepared. We will also be using WebCampus to enhance the course. This does not mean that this is an excuse to miss class or to catch up on assignments. WebCampus will open areas of discussions, readings, announcements of openings, submission of assignments, etc.

Fiber Arts is a performance-based class and interaction with peers and the instructor cannot be duplicated outside of class. Students who miss class are putting both themselves and their classmates at a disadvantage. Students are responsible adults and if they miss a class, it is assumed they had good reason to do so. Therefore, the department does not distinguish between excused and non-excused absences. Students are responsible for completing any work missed during their absence and for obtaining pertinent notes and materials. Attendance will be taken regularly. Beyond three absences, a student’s Class Participation Grade average will be lowered a full letter grade. For example, a student who accumulates five (5) or more absences will automatically receive a lower grade.

Late arrivals and early departures are not appreciated. Students needing to leave early must give notification in advance. Leaving without such constitutes an absence. Non-participation constitutes an absence.

Please turn off your cell phones. Answering phone calls in class is unacceptable behavior. Texting is also not permitted in class nor are earbuds during lectures.

Assignments: In addition to the five scheduled studio hours, expect to spend a number of hours outside of class working on assignments. You will determine exactly how much extra time you will require to complete assignments by discovering your own work habits. It is important that you recognize that the work assigned is specifically planned to carry you from point to point in your acquisition of specific conceptual and technical skills. The more you put into an assignment, the more you will be able to pull out.

Assignments are generally individually based efforts. However, there can be projects that utilize a collaborative approach that requires sharing information, perceptions and preliminary work.

Out-of-class sketchbook activities may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.
Students are required to attend at least two (2) local art exhibits during the term. One possibility is to visit the Nevada Museum of Art. **Attendance at two (2) artist lectures is also required.** The reviews and papers will be submitted on WebCampus for the specific reasons discussed in class. Information is frequently posted under the Gallery's option on WebCampus. For events in other communities, you will need to do your own appropriate research. The response to the artist lecture should discuss your response to their philosophy and work. It is for your safety they are submitted on WebCampus in the proper digital format, (*doc, .docx or .rtf*). This is for your protection providing verification that you have submitted in a timely fashion. Hard copies will not replace the digital submissions. It is your responsibility to ensure that they are submitted in the proper style and format. The requirements for these papers are also on WebCampus under "content".

You will also have a paper assigned on an artist, submitted on WebCampus, an oral presentation in class and creative work which functions in relationship to the assignment.

**All of your assignments will be assigned verbally.** It is important that you learn to take thorough notes on what you have interpreted the assignment to be, ask questions to clarify understanding and emerge with a clear idea of what is expected. This first assignment is given you in a way that you will begin to understand what it is you need to know before you can adequately know how to begin.

**Quizzes and Papers will be submitted via WebCampus in the appropriate format and file type. No exceptions.** There are frequent deadlines associated with assignments and it is your responsibility to meet those deadlines.

**Basic Assignment Breakdown**

---Subject to constant and continual revision

**Weeks: 1-4** Emphasis upon smaller works, use of cardboard

- Definitions of Fiber and Fabric, Patterning, Color and Texture, Weave and Inherent Structures
- Function vs. Aesthetic, Machine Techniques
- History and contemporary practice of Mail Art
- New fibers, heat activate fibers
- Framing and Presentation

*Assignment:* 3 Journal Sized works (minimum 8.5 x 11) bound

6 –4.5 x.6” works to be bound into as a work of book arts

[All works need an artist statement in folio—see Portfolio sequence above]

**Weeks 5-7**

Manipulation of fabric; Embellishment—techniques and equipment

*Assignment:* 2 Journal Sized works (minimum 8.5 x 11)

Minimum size 6 x 8

[All works need an artist statement in folio—see Portfolio sequence above]
Weeks 8-9
- Computer Driven Design and application
- Materials
- Layering of Images
  Assignment: 2 Journal Sized work in fiber using computer imagining techniques
  [All works need an artist statement in folio—see Portfolio sequence above]

Weeks 9-11
- Dyes and Painting; Applications and Fabrics; Techniques and Preparations
- Immersions, Reverse Dying, Resist, wrapping
  Assignment: 2 Journal Sized work in fiber using a minimum of 2 dyeing and painting techniques
  2 silk scarves—one wrapped and one patterned through gutta or shabori technique
  [All works need an artist statement in folio—see Portfolio sequence above]

Weeks 12-15
- Vessels, Sculpting with Fiber and Soft Sculpture
- Roll of Patterning and Piecing
  Assignment: 2 (minimum size may be larger) Journal Sized work in fiber using the pattern created through block method and using 2 different color pathways
  Creation and presentation of a fiber vessel and or soft sculptural piece
  [All works need an artist statement in folio—see Portfolio sequence above]

FINAL

Critiques:
Critiques are informal discussions of each student’s progress while developing projects in class. Through active participation in the critique process you are able to demonstrate a grasp of the principles and elements of art, its composition, its place in the historical realm and/or an ability/confidence to engage in a conceptual dialogue as both our audience and viewer.

Each project will be submitted for a formal group critique.
- Group critiques will be announced in advance and are mandatory in both attendance and participation.
- All work should be dated and signed.
- All work should be retained for final portfolio presentation - discard nothing.
- If your work is not completed, do not expect credit for it. If your work is not finished for critique, the response may not be overwhelming which will not provide you with the appropriate insights.

Portfolios: All assigned work should be kept. You will also be expected to present a digital portfolio of your work. You will be expected to use PowerPoint for this assignment. A hard copy portfolio presentation and a digital portfolio presentation will both be required to pass the course.
**Sketch Books:** You will need to acquire a sketch book (recommended size 11”x14”) in which assignments and ideas are recorded, concepts explored, ideas formulated, etc. Treat this as an important tool. Develop a habit of using it each and every day. The sketchbook/journal may be collected or reviewed anytime during the semester and will be collected for evaluation at the end of the term.

- Certain sketchbook exercises will be assigned as part of class projects. These preparatory assignments will not always be turned in with class projects, but will be collected at the end of the term and will constitute a large part of the sketchbook grade. It is important that all sketchbook activities remain in the sketchbook and in presentable condition for submission at semester’s end. All handouts should be kept in the sketchbook.
- Sketchbooks should also serve as a class notebook and should be brought to every class meeting.
- Students should make written entries in the sketchbook/journal on a daily basis. These entries may be brief and informal though they should be of sufficient substance to receive credit and serve as a reference source of vocabulary and concepts explored in class (i.e., merely restating what was done in class during a given day will not be considered of sufficient enough substance to receive credit). You are also expected to record your reflective responses to the critique.

Your entries might consider the following:

- It might include a paragraph expanding on your notes taken during the day in class. When writing this, expand on definitions and concepts in your own words. You might relate your notes to an evaluation of your own progress, both in class and in your sketchbook activities (your perception of your strengths, weaknesses, etc.).
- It might include a short summary/response to class, homework, critiques, discussions, etc. Reinforce applicable vocabulary by including such in your responses whenever possible.
- It may include your thoughts, comments and questions as they have occurred to you outside of class.
- It may include anything you feel to be pertinent to the course content (i.e., independent readings, exhibition reviews, etc.).
- All entries should be dated.

**GRADES AND EVALUATION**

Grades are generally not given for each assignment. This course is based on process, growth, development, presentation and attention to detail. There are also multiple opportunities given during studio time in which you are able to further enhance, develop and improve upon your work – and thus your grade. Critique should give you a clear idea where you stand. If you have questions or wish to discuss where you stand or what you can do to improve.... please just ask.
GRADING: Will use the +/- system within a straight scale percentage system.

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A simple rule of thumb for the assignment component would be that:
- C—means that you have met the basic understandings and expectations of the assignment, was presented at the appointed deadline and considered for critique
- B---means that you have done C work, plus explored unusual and well-grounded concepts, presentations are solid and technique is clean and professional
- A—means that all of the above is present and you have blown my socks off with your brilliant concepts, craftsmanship and presentation---these are not given lightly ….one additional thought—to obtain an A—what have you taught me?

A. FINAL PORTFOLIO/PROJECT GRADES - 70% of semester grade (35% FOR THE HARD COPY AND 35% FOR THE DIGITAL COPY).

Work for any given project that is not presented at the appropriate and defined deadline for critique will not be signed off, indicating that it failed to meet the deadline. However, it can be included in the portfolio, as an acknowledgment of completed work. The following criteria are considered in the grading of all work:

*It is your responsibility to ensure the digital portfolio is submitted in the correct format and can be read. You will be submitting your digital portfolio on WebCampus. If it is not submitted or cannot be "read", you risk losing a part of your grade value.*

Your portfolio will be both digital and original work. The digital copy will be presented before the final, the originals presented during the final exam. Please remember that this is an exercise in what will be required of you in real life. Professionalism is vital.

Your portfolio will include all work, organized, including supporting documents and:
1. Demonstration of a working process utilizing techniques covered in class.
2. Level of involvement in the process.
3. Strength of design (includes presentation/craftsmanship).
4. Response to and use of critical suggestions in an effective manner.
5. Adherence to assigned parameters.
6. Artistic merit.

B. SKETCHBOOK/JOURNAL - 5% of the final grade. Please see the above section for a duplicate description of the role the sketchbook plays in your development as an artist.

C. CLASS PARTICIPATION, QUIZZES, READINGS, DISCUSSIONS, CRITIQUES, and ATTENDANCE- 25% of the final grade.
There are a number of factors involved in the determination of grades: quality of work, improvement, execution, presentation, preparedness, and attitude toward work. Grades may not be assigned to each piece of work submitted. Grades are not a mystery—all one needs to do is pay attention during critiques. If you have questions—ASK. Non-participation constitutes an absence.

**SEE WEBCAMPUS FOR THE FINAL SCHEDULE AND IMPORTANT SEMESTER DATES**

**DISABILITY STATEMENT:**
Students with documented disabilities may have different examination requirements and conditions of examination to accommodate their needs. Reasonable accommodation in the learning process will be made for students with documented disabilities by the university (documented at Student Services).

If you have a disability and need to request accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Phone: (775) 784-6000  
Fax: (775) 784-6955  
Monday - Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm  
Website: http://www.unr.edu/stsv/slservices/drc/

**Statement on Academic Dishonesty:**
"Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses" constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student’s enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course or for the assignment. Academic dishonesty of any kind (plagiarism or cheating) is incompatible with the work and growth of an artist. Plagiarism is defined as submitting the language, ideas, thought, images or work of another as one’s own; or assisting in the act of plagiarism by allowing one’s work to be used in this fashion. Plagiarism or any form of academic dishonesty will result in an F for the assignment.

The student handbook defines academic dishonesty and its consequences as: *Any form of cheating, plagiarism, falsifying of research data, or assisting another student in cheating. These incidents, if you are found guilty, usually result in suspension!*

In the general catalogue, please see *University Code and Policies: Section III.*  

**Surreptitious or covert videotaping of class** or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.
Statement for Academic Success Services:

"Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (784-4433 or www.unr.edu/mathcenter), Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring-center), and University Writing Center (784-6030 or http://www.unr.edu/writing-center). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student."

Other official postings:

The newly revised University absence policy is also posted on web campus.

Student Absences: It is the personal responsibility of the student to consult with the instructor regarding absence from class. It is the expectation of the instructor to accommodate absences of students participating in official University functions and to be sensitive to the needs of students who face serious personal issues. In the event that a student misses a class because of a serious personal issue, the Office of the Vice President for Student Services may, at its discretion, send an explanation to affected faculty. The instructor shall make the final determination on whether the missed work can be done at a time other than during the regularly scheduled class period. It is the policy of the NSHE to be sensitive to the religious obligations of its students. Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall, whenever possible, be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor in advance in writing, if the student intends to participate in a religious holiday that does not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the assignment at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the institution that could not reasonably have been avoided.

Absence due to university approved extracurricular activity: The University of Nevada, Reno deeply values and supports the participation of undergraduate students in university-approved extracurricular activities. It is the spirit and intent of this policy to offer fair and equitable opportunities to all students, including those who must miss class due to participation in university-approved extracurricular activities. University-approved extracurricular activities are defined as those sanctioned by the college dean and/or the provost, and may include, but are not limited to, intercollegiate athletics, band, drama, forensics and recruitment. Students who represent the University at such events shall be provided with alternate, timely accommodations for exams, quizzes, or other course assignments missed as a result of their participation. The alternate accommodations should in no way penalize or disadvantage the student. It is the responsibility of the student to provide written notice to their instructor of their participation in official University activities as soon as the student is aware of the potential need to miss class.

Medical Excuse Policy: The Student Health Center does not provide medical excuses for missed classes, exams, or assignments. This policy is based on their limited resources, which are better dedicated to providing health care; their inability to make valid determinations about illnesses or injuries students may have effectively managed through self-care; and a commitment
to student privacy. Exceptions to this policy may occur if, in the judgment of a health care provider at the Student Health Center, the student will be out of class for an extended period of time due to a serious illness or medical condition. Examples of serious illnesses or medical conditions may include but are not limited to:

- Mononucleosis, which may require bed rest and/or removal from campus
- Hospitalization and/or surgery
- Severe injury or illness requiring prolonged bed rest
- Highly contagious diseases (chicken pox, measles)

This policy is consistent with the recommendations of the American College Health Association and is similar to other colleges and universities. Reference: Policy adapted from Nazareth College and Drexel University

Relevant NSHE and University policy:
http://www.unr.edu/administrative-manual/3000-3999-students/3010-policies-relating-to-student-activities


**Religious Holy Days:** It is the policy of NSHE (Title 4 Chapter 20 A, Section 3, paragraph 2, http://system.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/BoardOfRegents/Handbook/T4-CH20%20-%20General%20Policies%20Regulating%20Students%20and%20Student%20Government.pdf), to be sensitive to the religious obligations of its students. Any student missing classes, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holy days should, whenever possible, be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holy day absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor in advance in writing, if the student intends to participate in a religious holy day that does not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the assignment at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the institution that could not reasonably have been avoided.

**Final Week:**
It is university policy that all classes are required to meet during the final week at the appropriate times and dates indicated in the Final Week Class Schedule http://www.unr.edu/academic-central/academic-resources/finals-schedule. This is in keeping with accreditation requirements for the appropriate number of hours for classes.

**Designated prep day.** Please remember that the intent of prep day is to allow students a day of preparation for final exams. Therefore, exams or any required classes or activities should not be scheduled on that day. Conducting optional activities like review sessions or specifying prep day as a due date for papers and projects are allowed activities.