WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART, DESIGN & FILM
COURSE SYLLABUS

SEMINAR II
ART 471
ARIEL LAVERY
MONDAY/WEDNESDAY 6-9 PM
FALL 2015

I. CONTACT INFORMATION
Professor Ariel Lavery
alavery@watkins.edu
Office hours: Monday – Thursday: 4-6 pm and by appointment
Office 406.5

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION
Studio, 3 Credit Hours

Following Seminar I, students will research topics and artists important to
their personal and professional development while working with faculty to
develop a body of work that represents depth and breadth. Three times
during the semester the content, process, and form of student work is
presented and discussed with a committee of regional art professionals.
Business aspects of being an artist, such as applying for grants and
residencies, photographing artwork, and writing resumes and artist's
statements are further developed (ART 371 and completion of 60 credit
hours; Advisor approval required)

III. MAJOR LEARNING OBJECTIVES
All students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate these
skills and/or knowledge:

- Demonstrate a developed methodology for one’s practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to draw on multiple literary/scholarly sources in
developing ideas and concepts behind one's work.
- Developed an understanding of the conceptual underpinnings of one’s
work, including the ability to write about one’s work in multiple contexts.
- Demonstrate a developing lexicon of artists from which inspiration is
drawn.
- Demonstrate the ability to present one’s work and research cohesively to
a group.
IV. **MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Blog:** Everyone will be required to keep a blog and send me the URL. Items such as writing responses to readings, research, studio notes, and notes on studio visits will be posted here.

**Critiques:** All students will be required to be present AT ALL CRITIQUES. We will have full faculty critiques at midterms and finals. You are required to install and present your work in a professional manner including installing in a clean space and properly lighting your work.

**Readings and Responses:** We will have a list of readings we will be doing as a class. You are expected to take notes/annotate each reading and write a response on your blog before the due date of each reading. We will have in class discussions over each reading.

**Studio visits:** Everyone is required to have studio visits with at least two fine art faculty, preferably with a faculty member you are not very familiar with. You may have to beg and plead for them to come to your studios. Offer them coffee, donuts, lasagna, whatever it takes. You are then required to record your post-visit studio notes and reflections on the blog.

**Research:** Everyone is required to engage in research that develops the concepts and ideas behind their work. This means developing an awareness about particular artists and movements you align yourself with, developing an awareness of contemporary cultural/social/environmental/institutional/etc. issues that your work might have a dialogue with. This research process can be documented on the class blog, in your studio spaces, or in your sketchbook, but there must be evaluative evidence of this process recorded somewhere.

**Artist Statement:** Everyone will be required to write an artist statement. You will have three deadlines for these statements, to be turned in at various stages of the editing process.

**Exhibition Proposal:** Each student will be required to prepare an exhibition proposal for a particular space. You will have to find the spaces/calls for entry and choose one to apply to. As you will discover, all exhibition spaces and calls for entry have varying requirements you will need to pay close attention to. We will talk more about this later.

**CV:** Everyone will be required to turn in a Curriculum Vitae.

**Bibliography:** At the end of the semester, every student will be required to turn in a bibliography. This requirement is designed to help prepare you to
enter your thesis semester. We will talk more about what types of sources to include in your bibliography.

V. **EVALUATION**

**No late work will be accepted.** If a paper is not turned in on time or a project is not presented on the day of critique that project/paper will receive a 0 as a grade. Projects may be reworked after critique for a better grade.

**Total grade breakdown:**
Projects and exercises: 65%
Research/notes/readings: 15%
In-class participation: 20%

Your grade reflects both your participation in class, the level of commitment you show to the subject matter, and your proficiency in assigned projects and exercises. If you want to get an A, you will be in class every day, eager to learn, participate and produce good work.

**Project Grades:**
For full credit on projects you need to turn in the project by the due date and participate fully in the critique. You may remake projects for a better grade ONLY IF your project was completed by the due date and you participated fully in critique. Projects are graded based on the criteria below:

**A**
Truly extraordinary work, which has gone far beyond the description of the stated problem. Work that makes evident a significant understanding of the problem, shows exceptional competence in the required skills, extraordinary craft, and an advanced conceptual clarity and depth. The student exhibits an attitude of exploration, of open-mindedness, and a willingness to benefit from criticism.

**B**
Good work that shows an understanding of the problem, displays a conceptual foundation, and is well crafted. Shows overall competency, as well as mastery in some areas. Is attended with an open and inquisitive attitude.

**C**
Work that meets the minimum requirements of the problem and course. The problem is minimally understood, and there is clear room for improvement.
D
Unacceptable work, which does not meet the requirements of the problem or course, shows a serious deficiency in the mastery of skills, and suggests that this course of study may be inappropriate for the student.

F
A grade of “F” is obvious: clear failure to meet basic criteria of the assignment.

*Please remember that a certain amount of subjectivity always comes into play when grading. I will strive to be as fair as possible and give balanced consideration to effort, participation, technical proficiency, and understanding of the problem to each project.*

**Attendance policy:**
**Attendance to this class is mandatory!**

*Absence policy:* Students are required to attend all meetings of each class, to be in class on time, and to remain for the entire class period. **I will not allow anyone to leave during class to procure materials.** More than three unexcused absences will lower your grade by one grade level. Six or more unexcused absences results in an F for the course. It is your responsibility to keep track of your attendance. If you are sick or have extenuating circumstances that keep you from attending you will need to give me some form of documentation to excuse your absence. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what was done and what is due in subsequent classes. I recommend getting contact info for at least one of your peers in the class so you can do this. Students should consult the Student Handbook for more information on the attendance policy.

*Tardies:* Four tardies will be counted as one absence. You will be counted tardy if you are more than 10 minutes late to class. Please remember that I may make announcements or give instruction in these first 10 minutes that I will not repeat individually to latecomers.

**Critiques:** **You must be present for all critiques!** If you miss a critique, your overall grade will drop one letter (ie. If you are receiving a B+ in the class your grade will drop to a C+.) Critique days will be listed on the outline for each new project so, if you have preexisting engagements that conflict, you will need to let me know ASAP.

**VI. SAFETY**
Make sure you are always adhering to the shop safety guidelines. If you are working with power tools after hours, there must be another person present
in the shop with you. If you plan to use the table saw, do any welding, or plasma cutting there must be a studio monitor present.

**Safety guidelines:**
- Always where eye glasses when in the metal or wood shops.
- Always where ear protection when working with power tools.
- Always where close toed shoes when working in the shops.
- Always where cotton pants when working in the metal shop.
- Always keep long hair tied back and take off dangly jewelry or clothing.
- NEVER where anything with polyester, or other plastic fabrics when doing hot metal work.
- When welding always where appropriately shaded eyewear, flame retardant jackets, and appropriate welding gloves.

VII. **EMAIL AND WEB ACCESS**

*Email:* All students must have a Watkins College student e-mail account and check it often. Emails are an official form of communication for this class. You will be expected to have read and accounted for any emails I send within 24 hours of their send time.

*Web Access:* You will be expected to use Google docs/Lib guides to download articles, view lecture notes, and check your grades.

VIII. **CLASSROOM AND STUDIO CONDUCT**

*Cell Phones, earbuds and computers:* You should NEVER have your cellphone out during class. You may not listen to your own music with your earbuds in during class or whenever you are working with tools in the shops. Computers should not be out unless you are doing research directly related to a project. However, I expect you to get most of your research done by the time you get to class.

*Work time:* Students should be respectful of the needs of their peers. This is a shared learning environment. Loud music, rambunctious behavior, inappropriate comments, etc will not be tolerated.

IX. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ALL STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW**

**Students with Disabilities**
Accommodations are available for students with diagnosed physical, learning, psychiatric, or other disabilities upon request. Students seeking accommodations for a disability or disabling condition should contact the Director of Student Life as early as possible. Accommodations are determined and implemented on a case-by-case basis as is reasonable and appropriate and may include but are not limited to: extended time on tests and in-class assignments, note-taking assistance or access to class notes,
flexible course scheduling, and/or reduced course load. Accommodations cannot be requested retroactively and may not fundamentally alter the nature or academic standards of a course or program. Students with disabilities are encouraged to communicate with their faculty, but are not required to disclose specific diagnoses. To begin the request for accommodation process, or for more information, contact the Director of Student Life.

**Academic and Classroom Misconduct**

Academic misconduct, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious offence and will incur consequences including disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion. Plagiarism is defined as someone copying what someone else has written, reproducing and taking credit another’s visual work or taking someone else’s idea and trying to pass it off as original. For more specific information about academic and classroom misconduct, students should read the *Student Handbook.*

**Personal Counseling**

Students experiencing normal academic problems should meet with the instructor, their academic advisor, and/or the director of student life to work out solutions that will help them successfully complete their coursework. When a student feels or believes that a problem exists and wants the assistance of a professional counselor, she or he is encouraged to contact the Office of Student Life. Watkins has a partnership with the Association for Guidance, Aid, Placement and Empathy (AGAPE), for counseling services designed to help students identify problems and seek solutions. The program is a service to students at no cost. The program provides assistance with many personal problems such as drug or alcohol abuse, depression, anxiety, relationship conflict, problems caused by legal or financial worries, interpersonal abuse, and many others. To make an appointment, or for more information, contact the Office of Student Life. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance and privacy is absolutely respected.

**Copyright Policy**

Copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws of the United States to the authors or “original works of authorship,” including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and certain other intellectual works. This protection is available to both published and unpublished works. –U.S. Copyright Office

Watkins College of Art, Design & Film respects the intellectual property rights of others and expects its community of creators and educators—students, faculty and staff—to be aware of laws and policies concerning the proper use of copyrighted materials. The use of copyrighted materials must be compliant with U.S. Copyright Law [www.copyright.gov/circs/circ01.pdf](http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ01.pdf) and Watkins’ Copyright Policy located on the Watkins website. Students, Faculty and Staff will agree to follow Watkins’ policies and procedures with
regards to copyright, intellectual property, and technology resources when they enroll at Watkins, and while they are employed by the college. Watkins does not assume legal responsibility for violations of copyright law by Students, Faculty, and Staff. These policies are available on the Watkins website or by contacting your Department Chair.

*The above schedule and procedures are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.*