

FALL 2013

ALS 151: THE STUDIO — CRITICAL EXPLORATIONS IN ARTS & LETTERS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor 1. Dean Ed Inch, College of Arts and Letters
Instructor 2. Professor Christina Bellon, Philosophy
Office: Mendocino Hall 3000
Office Hours: MW 11:00- 12:00, and by appointment.

Lead Instructional Student Assistant: Nicolas Fletcher

Contact: The Instructors and ISAs can be contacted via **Messaging** in Blackboard. Please keep all course-related communications within Blackboard **Messaging** as the principal means of communication outside of class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Studio: Critical Explorations in Arts and Letters provides students with an opportunity to become informed and engaged participants in the cultural, artistic and literary dimensions of their communities. Students will explore the ways our experience of and appreciation for cultural products is informed by exposure to theory and practice in each of the Arts and Letters disciplines.

NOTE: This course requires attendance at various off-campus events, as well as events on-campus. Students must ensure that they are able to attend events at various venues in the Sacramento region.

GENERAL EDUCATION

This course satisfies Upper Division GE and GE Area C2: Introduction to the Arts.

As an introduction to the various Arts and Letters disciplines, students will be exposed to the variety of disciplinary methods and theoretical perspectives of the Arts and Letters. Each week students will engage in an examination of the methodologies and theories of each discipline: Art, Communications, Design, English, History, Humanities and Religious Studies, Foreign Languages, Music, Philosophy, Theater and Dance.

Students will also be required to attend a variety of events (performances, galleries, etc) on offer in the region. These will vary from theatrical and dance performances, musical performances, to art displays, and lectures by authors, etc. The breadth of exposure to arts and letters, upon which students will have opportunity to reflect critically, is unmet in any other course in GE Area C2.

The course is explicitly designed to expose students to the breadth of the heritage of arts and letters and is intended to focus students' attention not merely on ONE arts form or ONE artistic heritage, but on the breadth of those available in the College of Arts and Letters and which are demonstrated regularly in the performing arts community. In this course, students will develop their understanding and appreciation for the variety of arts and letters and their value in community.

Through the selection of the weekly assigned readings and the selection of required events, students will be exposed to and have opportunity to examine critically the variety of dimensions that comprise the human condition. The selection of required events is such as to ensure that students are exposed cultural and artistic products which represent and explore issues of diversity or are themselves the direct contribution of peoples from diverse backgrounds.

COURSE MATERIAL

REQUIRED TEXTS & OTHER READINGS

No Required Textbook, however there are multiple required readings which will be made available in the Blackboard. See Weekly Schedule for required readings.

MEMBERSHIPS

Because the nature of the course is to facilitate student engagement in arts and literary works in the community, students are required to engage in cultural and creative events on campus and in the region. Every student will become a member of a cultural or creative/performative organization and participate in one or more of their scheduled events. Completion of Essay #1 will require a membership.

ONLINE REQUIREMENTS

Please note, this course includes a significant Blackboard component. All required course work will be completed online via Blackboard. Essay assignments, journal areas, discussion boards are in Blackboard, as well as general calendar and class notification options. You will need a SacLink account to participate in this component of the course. Technical problems must be addressed to the ITC Help Line @ 278-7337.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is designed to provide a hybrid learning experience, which includes both in-class (50%) and online (50%) components.

- **Online sessions** will be a blend of individual and group activities via Blackboard. Activities will consist of discussion forums, journaling, and blogging.
- **In-class sessions** will be held on the Sacramento State campus in the Capistrano Music Recital Hall, CPS 142A.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about regional creative and cultural venues by attending several different venues for performing/gallery/studio arts.

- Students will develop an understanding of BEING an audience member as a means of engaging in creative and cultural activities.
- Students will be able to critique, discuss, and express opinions about creative and cultural events by applying the theories and methods from lecture to the events they attend.

The objectives listed above will be met through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Attend at least FIVE events from the “Required Events” list.
- Submit one Event Analysis for each of the FIVE required event attended that will provide critical analysis of the event attended. While FIVE analyses must be submitted, the lowest score will be dropped from your total final grade. If you submit more than five, your four best scores will be used to calculate final grades.
- Participate in and contribution to Discussion Boards, an online series of moderated discussions; at least TEN substantive responses to prompts and TEN responses to peer postings (at least one posting and responses must be provided for each of the ten board topics).
- Completion of THREE online quizzes based on lecture content and reading assignments.
- Completion of TWO substantive argumentative essays.

EVALUATION AND REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

This course is valued on a 100 point (100%) scale. All required assignments will total 100 available points. Bonus opportunities will occasionally be offered, at a value of one point each. You may earn up to 5 bonus points for a total of 105/100 points.

Points	Description
40	Event Analyses: 4 best of 5 required @ 10 points each
20	Discussion Posts: Best 10 of total assigned @ 2 points each
15	Online Quizzes: 3 required @ 5 points each
20	Essay Assignments: 2 required @ 10 points each
5	On-Campus Event Blog: 2 required @ 2.5pts each
100	Total Points Possible

EVENT ANALYSES

Students must submit four event analyses based on the five required events attended throughout the semester. Students must take what they learn in lecture and apply it to critically analyze the performances/lectures/exhibits they attend. These have a required length of 500 words.

DISCUSSION POSTS

Contribution to the discussion boards is required. All students will be required to answer a question posted, as well as submit a comment to another member's post. Discussion opportunities will arise roughly weekly. There will be discussion Board topics 10 through the semester. Students must contribute to each by posting at least once and responding to a peer's posting at least once.

ONLINE QUIZZES

This course will offer 3 quizzes roughly every month of the semester, the best three scores will count for the final grade. These will be based upon the lectures and any other relevant material for the period.

ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS

During the semester, students will be required to write two essays in response to a specified prompt. These essays will range from 750-1000 words each and will require a combination of independent research and synthesis of course material.

ON-CAMPUS EVENT BLOG

During the semester, students will be expected to contribute to a course blog focused on discussing on-campus events. Faculty will identify on-campus events that would be ideal for students to attend. These will be listed in the "On-Campus Supplemental Events" list. Students should expect to attend at least two of these on-campus events, blog about them, and respond to the blog postings of others.

LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned, which are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	93-100%	Excellent Work
A-	90-93%	Nearly Excellent Work
B+	87-90%	Very Good Work
B	83-87%	Good Work
B-	80-83%	Mostly Good Work
C+	77-80%	Above Average Work
C	73-77%	Average Work
C-	70-73%	Mostly Average Work
D+	67-70%	Below Average Work
D	60-67%	Poor Work
F	0-60%	Failing Work

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend all face-to-face class sessions as listed on the course calendar. Attendance at face-to-face class meetings and participation in online activities is essential for the success of the hybrid experience. Information and content delivered during the class meetings will not be available elsewhere, so absences can have a dramatic deleterious effect on your ability to complete the event analyses, weekly discussions, and essay assignments.

BUILD RAPPORT

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

LATE POLICY

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Blackboard unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline. Extensions will not be given. ***Late or missing discussion assignments will result in a penalty of 10% per calendar day late.*** This can significantly, detrimentally affect your grade, so be sure not to miss deadlines.

UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU MAY DROP THIS COURSE

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider dropping from a course. Review the events schedule and assess whether you can meet the requirements of this course. If you are unable to commit to performance dates, you must address this problem before the drop deadline has passed. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration, dropping and withdrawing from courses.

INFORM YOUR INSTRUCTOR OF ANY ACCOMMODATIONS NEEDED

Every effort has been made to ensure this course is designed to maximize opportunities for student success across the diversity of the student body. However, it may be the case that some elements of the course will require modification to ensure equal opportunity for students with documented disabilities to succeed. Students who have a documented disability (visible or invisible) and require accommodation or assistance with assignments, tests, attendance, note taking, etc., must see the instructor by the ***end of the third week of semester*** to allow arrangements to be made. Failure to notify and consult with the instructor by this date might impede her ability to offer you the necessary accommodation and assistance in a timely fashion. Also be sure to consult with the Services for Students with Disabilities (Lassen Hall) to see what other campus services and accommodation options are available for you. All information shared with the instructor will remain confidential.

SSWD is located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at sswd@csus.edu.

COMMIT TO INTEGRITY

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

SAC STATE'S ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY & PROCEDURES

“The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. California State University, Sacramento expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades.” Read more about Sac State's [Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures](#)

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the office of student affairs. Assignments in which cheating or dishonesty has been found will be graded at 0 (zero) and, if determined to be egregious by the instructor, an F will be issued for the course.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The weekly schedule is available as a separate excel file. Please consult the schedule to track availability dates for required events as well as due dates for all assignments and speakers for in-class lectures.