

EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC AND ARTS
MUS 6658 ART 5930 (Graduate)

Spring 2011

Wed 5:00-6:50 PM, Instrumental Hall WPAC 157

Faculty: Dr. Orlando Jacinto García, and Dr. Paula Matthusen, School of Music; Mr. Jacek Kolasinski Art and Art History

Overview

Interdisciplinary works of Art are becoming increasingly important as a means of expression as we enter the 21st century. This course will give students the advantage of exploring and creating a type of Art, which is in the forefront of contemporary work. In addition students from different disciplines in the Arts (Music, Dance, Architecture, Theatre, and Art and Art History) will have the chance to work together becoming aware of each others materials and craft while creating a large collaborative work. The faculty from Music and Art and Art History will also include additional guest lecture(s) scheduled by faculty from other areas.

Course Format

The course is divided into two parts. The first part will deal with the history of Interdisciplinary Art with a focus on the experimental works created in the 20th century. This will give students a point of reference from which to work and will constitute the first third of the semester.

The second part of the course will entail the students' creation of a large inter-disciplinary work, which will be presented at the end of the semester. This work will be done as a collaborative project by students from the different disciplines and will be completed with faculty input and assistance. It is expected that throughout the semester collaborating students will take turns meeting and working in each other's studios/work areas (e.g., dance students will take music and visual arts students to their dance studio to show them how they work, music students will take visual arts and dance students to the electronic music studio, visual arts students will take music and dance students to the computer animation studio/photography lab, etc). This interchange is prescribed with the intention of promoting the collaborative process, which is the basis for the final project required in the course.

Please note that all groups must be interdisciplinary. In addition, there must be 3 or more students in each group and each group must include students from at least two of the areas and preferably, all arts areas represented in the class. Once students are placed in a group a contract will be signed by all students indicating their commitment to collaborating with the other members of the group on the creation of a multidisciplinary project. This will take place after the groups are adjusted during the session being held on 2/9.

Required Text:

Rose Lee Goldberg, Performance Art From Futurism to the Present, Harry N. Abrams, NY (latest edition)

Grading/Presentations for Experimental Arts

Grading Part I

Overall grading will be based on the performance of students individually, and in their collaborations with others in their group situations. Students will be graded individually at the beginning of the semester at the 2/2 session, where each student is required to present a short 5 minute talk on ideas for a project(s). As part of this presentation students should make references to other works as cited in the textbook. In addition, a journal citing the student's reflections of the events related to the course (e.g. readings in the text, discussion with other students in the course, reflections on materials presented in the lectures, etc) must be turned in. The presentation/journal will constitute 15% of the student's final grade. Grading of the presentation/journal will be based upon the students creativity and demonstrated knowledge of the text. Attendance and participation is mandatory or 15% will be deducted from the grade for the course.

Grading Part II

How the student works in group situations will also be part of the grade. On 2/23 after collaborative groups have been organized an outline of the proposed work is required. This written outline should give a fixed concept for the work to be created and include additional information such as the possible duration of the work, media to be utilized, etc. Please note that while the additional items may be altered after the outline is turned in, the overall concept for the work should be fixed at this time. Outlines should be typed, legible, and clear. Although the outline will not be graded it must be turned in on time to avoid a penalty to the grade. Students should be prepared to briefly discuss their outlines at this class session.

Grading Part III

After the initial outline a presentation and critique will take place on 3/9 where students must stage a preliminary version of the work. This preliminary presentation will be graded based upon the development and execution of ideas presented in the 2/23 outline turned in by the group. The preliminary presentation is worth 15% of the final grade. Attendance and participation is mandatory or 15% will be deducted from the grade for the course.

Grading Part IV

Lastly, the final staging of the work at the end of the semester on 4/13 will count 50% of the final grade. The final presentation should be the complete interdisciplinary work resulting from the entire semester's work. Grading for the final work will be based upon the concept, form, creativity, and, cohesiveness of the work, the quality of execution, and the overall effectiveness of the collaboration. It is expected that all students will be present for this presentation. Failure to do so will impact the grade of those not present beyond the self critiques (see below).

Grading Part V

A 7 page research paper double spaced and typed following the graduate office studies guidelines for margins, bibliography, footnotes, etc., must be completed and turned in on or before 4/20. The topic for the paper must be selected in consultation with the faculty who must approve it by the 2/2 class session. The paper is worth 20% of the total grade for the course and grading for the paper will be based upon clarity of writing (grammar, etc) and thoroughness. Please note that plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course.

Grading Part VI

Self-critiques by the members of each group will be required on the last project day (4/13). Forms will handed out for the students to fill out and turn in. On the form the student will give a critique of their collaboration as well as that of the others in the group providing a letter grade for themselves and the others along with commentary as to why the grade was given. These critiques will be worth 10% of the final project grade and will be computed as follows: not doing the critique at the final project presentation will result in a loss of 10% of the final grade for the project for that student, otherwise the average grade for the student as assigned by the others in the group will be calculated and applied to 10% of the final grade for the project for that student.

All grading will be done by letter grade by the faculty. Due to the collaborative nature of this course a large consideration for the grade is the student's ability to work in collaboration with others. Therefore participation, attendance at lectures, and the ability to work in a collaborative manner will be strongly considered.

Grading Breakdown:

Outline	15%
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Paper	20%
Project	50%
Total	100%

Grade Scale:

A	90-100	C	70-75
A-	88-89	C-	68-69
B+	86-87	D+	66-67
B	80-85	D	60-65
B-	78-79	D-	58-59
C+	76-77	F	57 & below

Important:

Please be aware that given the large emphasis on in class participation and discussion, failure to attend lectures and be on time will result in a lowering of the final grade. Please feel free to contact any of the faculty with any questions, thoughts, etc. that you may have. Lastly, in consideration of the instructor and students in the class please make sure to turn your cell phones and beepers off or place on vibrate during the class period.

Faculty office hours and contact info:

García - email: garciao@fiu.edu tel 348-3357; WPAC 142; office hours by appt.

Matthusen - email: mathuse@fiu.edu tel 348-0109; WPAC 169; office hours by appt

Kolasinski - email: kolasins@fiu.edu tel 348- 3362; VH 216; office hours by appt.

CLASS SCHEDULE OUTLINE FOR EXPERIMENTAL ARTS

- 1/12 Introduction to the course (Torres, Kolasinski, Garcia, Matthusen)
- 1/19 Garcia Kolasinski Matthusen lectures
- 1/26 Garcia Kolasinski Matthusen lectures
- 1/28 Guest faculty lectures TBA
- 2/2 Presentations re: possible works and insights from reading the text; also accompanying journals due (15% of final grade) Formation of collaborative groups; Paper topics due;
- 2/9 Presentations re: possible projects; adjustment of groups; signing of contracts;
- 2/16 Work in groups
- 2/23 Written outlines due - in class presentation - (concepts fixed; presentation, duration, media, sound requirements, equipment, etc are flexible)
- 3/2 Work in groups
- 3/9 Presentation and Critique of works in progress - preliminary staging of works; (15% of final grade)
- 3/16 Spring Break
- 3/23 Review of final logistic requirements for each group- Dress Rehearsal schedule set
- 3/30 Work in groups
- 4/6 Work in groups
- 4/13 Final presentations due (50% of final grade) - Dress rehearsals throughout the day. Performances will take place during the class time.
- 4/20 Final Papers Due (Graduate Students only)