

ARTS 310: Under the Covers and Between the Sheets...

TR 10:50 to 12:10, ZH 226

Mark Sidelnic, sidelnic@unca.edu, ZH 117, <http://facstaff.unca.edu/sidelnic/>

Program Rationale:

Central to the ILS Program, and to the philosophy of liberal education, is an intellectual engagement with the arts. ILS Arts courses examine the significance of the arts in the human experience, the cultural context of creative composition and performance, the foundations of aesthetic values, and the communicative function of the arts.

Program Outcomes:

A student who completes 3.0 credits of ILSA will be able to do the following:

1. Articulate the value of the arts studied and their impact on the self and others.
2. Recognize cultural, historical, spiritual, and/or political aspects of the arts studied.
3. Define and articulate the concepts, methods, and organizing principles of the arts studied.

Course Description:

Students will explore books as sculptural art by using mixed-media to create personalized texts, alter existing books, and consider their own lives and experiences with the arts (visual art, architecture, music, dance, theater) as "content."

What constitutes a "book?" What constitutes "text?" How do we encounter, consider, engage with the arts? How are our lives affected, impacted, altered, enhanced by our engagement? How can we process, assimilate, transform this engagement into our own unique expression, construction, and creation or alteration of a personalized "book?"

We will seek to establish a community of learners, sharing in our explorations and discoveries. This requires a serious application of "self" to the course, independent thought and effort, and a shared responsibility for the welfare, experiences, and success of others. Students may share art, writings, song, film, etc. that moves or inspires them, as all legitimate engagement is potential "text" for our "book(s)."

This class will be taught through a constructivist approach, wherein students help determine the structure of the course, assignments, due dates, and assessment criteria. Students may/will participate in several field trips to local arts locations, on- and off-campus performances, and other events chosen by the student. Assignments may include several projects; essays / dialogue journals; and a final project for display informed by the cumulative work of the semester.

Materials:

Recommended materials list. Some of these will be available in class, but it is recommended that you maintain your own supplies for out-of-class work.

X-acto knife, blades

assorted pencils, pens, crayons, markers

Metal-edge ruler

assorted paper, cardboard

White glue

cutting board / surface

Assorted hardcover books

Scrap materials (cloth, wood, found objects, "junk")

White and black tempera paint, assorted colors

Black ink...

Assorted brushes

*Some specialty papers, binding materials may be appropriate (needles, thread, cover board).