

Georgetown University  
Art of the Book –ARTS 170-10      Syllabus  
Studio 12:30pm – 3:00pm      Walsh 294  
Summer 2018

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This class is an introduction for art and non-art majors to the Art of the (unique hand made) Book. It is designed to give students a deeper appreciation of the history and craftsmanship of books.

Students will create unique books utilizing fine arts papers, handmade paper and found objects. Students will/may visit museums, public galleries, libraries and private collections to observe various types of content and artistic expression by book artisans. Students will/may research and ID historical dates, persons and projects observed in these visits and also those discussed specifically in class lectures.

CRAFTSMANSHIP, CREATIVITY, PATIENCE, NEATNESS and RETENTION OF BOOK VOCABULARY will be Essential to a successful completion (grade) of this course. The first assignment(s) are important for learning basic measuring, cutting, folding and glue-ing methods and techniques. Students may redo one or more of the beginning assignments to be sure they are competent with the basics before moving on to the more complicated assignments. This also may improve the grade.

Students will be required to complete a minimum of 12 projects. Doing the minimum does NOT necessarily mean an A grade, but more than likely a passing grade.

Students must confer with instructor before starting each new project and submit a mock up for approval. This is very important in order to reduce the waste of materials.

## REQUIRED PROJECTS

-Small accordion, Georgetown University related with image of student, classmates, family or friends.

\*(TBA class project involving handmade paper and lino cut and letterpress TBA) This assignment changes from semester to semester but if it is assigned it must be completed as a required project.

-Altered Book- Students will research and propose a design that is creative, topical and purposeful. Alteration of book **MUST** be creative and not just hallowing out of found book and glue-ing of pages. Research is the key word here. The altered book is the second most difficult of the assigned projects and requires some thought and resolve in order to be a success.

-Coptic stitch - a book binding method developed in the Middle East that dates from the 2nd century. Coptic stitch is the most difficult

technique but an excellent choice for personal journals or storybooks. 'Following directions' is essential with this technique. Students may have to attempt more than once to achieve a satisfactory result.

- note – there more than one Coptic stitch technique this class uses the single needle technique and Utube tutorials. Among other possibilities is the double needle method which is more difficult but can give more satisfying results.

-Japanese Stab Binding – a traditional Asian method also known as side stitch. This is an easy (or complicated) attractive binding for any use. May be repeated with different content or purpose.

-Large or multiple accordion, simple method depending on materials, for landscape or photo projects. Research will yield more complicated designs, which help grade but only if well done.

-Single, double, multi section pamphlets these are the simplest and most used stitching methods.

Any of these required bindings may be repeated

with additional student projects.

## TBA HANDMADE PAPER AND CONTENT

Depending on time and class make up, students will be introduced to the art of hand made paper. This is a relatively new medium to the Georgetown print shop so much patience will be required.

Students will tear and prepare paper to be beaten into pulp in the Hollander Beater. The “Beater” is a wonderful machine but **MUST** be used with great care.

When pulp is “beaten” to satisfaction, students will be shown proper way to use “mold and “deckle” to dip, drain and cooch their individual sheets of paper. If time permits, watermarks may be introduced here.

When the paper dries it will be ready for linocut image or poem or “broadside” printed with hand set type, to be bound into a book. Hand set type or “letterpress” is also a new method for art of the book. These two new techniques for the studio and again will require patience and practice, a lot of

practice.

-All other projects will be students choice selected from possibilities presented in presentations, web illustrations or from demos found in books or examples seen in galleries and museums.

- As previously stated, mock-ups are required for all projects and students are encouraged to illustrate how to solve problems relating to folding or gluing.

This is important to keep from unnecessary waste of good paper and materials, which could affect grade.

## GRADING FACTORS

### =ATTENDANCE

BE ON TIME. Lectures are usually given at the beginning of each class and are very difficult to repeat.

Students who are 15 minutes late, are absent.

Students who leave class before 2:45, are absent.

Georgetown's Department of Art Program has an attendance policy, which is as follows; after two unexcused absences, the instructor may lower a student's class grade for each additional time he or she is absent.

This means, if you miss this class more than twice, ( with out a medical excuse, stress from exams or family emergency excuse ) you cannot get an "A" grade.

A student who has 7 class absences (excused or unexcused) will have missed a quarter of the class meetings and should consider withdrawing from the course or risk a failing grade.

Students can make up projects missed in class by attending Open Studio. Times for open studio will be announced in class or as available by email. The instructor is usually available Fridays and/or weekends. Attending open studios does not make up for being absent.

=Students must work well with others. This course requires that you spread out, use an entire desk, maybe the floor around you. Therefore students

must be mindful of neighbors. Follow correct procedures as demonstrated, and watch where and how you use the glue and other materials which can ruin projects.

\*The ability to precisely follow directions from instructor's presentations, internet video tutorials, in class demonstrations, or diagrams from a textbook, is "absolutely required" to assure a successful project and grade.

Craftsmanship. A large part of your grade will be how "innovative" your design is plus the "care" you take to make your project the best you can. (...'as best you can' does not necessarily mean an A grade ) Improve your craftsmanship by paying close attention to directions and demos. Be as meticulous as you can with each aspect of your projects. Craftsmanship, how well it's made, will count. Projects which aren't successful, may be repeated, but materials should not be abused and wasted, again this is bad for your grade.

CONTENT –Students we will make a conscious effort to make books with CONTENT. This means



stories, poems, photos, stamps and found objects. Empty books are not grade friendly unless expressly made as journals or note books.

## USING PAPERS, GLUES AND TOOLS PROPERLY

The papers provided are expensive but free. If you do not respect that privilege it will be reflected in your grade. PLEASE keep the paper neat and in order.

This policy also applies to the use of the tools and various supplies provided for your use.

Please follow directions and replace tools to their proper places, handle carefully especially the awls and needles.

DO NOT PUT TOOLS OR HORDE PAPER(UNLESS IT'S YOUR OWN) IN YOUR DRAWER.

PROPER CLEAN UP - It is very important that students follow proper clean up directions.

Empty water from glue cans, jars and  
CLEAN brushes properly. VERY IMPORTANT

PLEASE PUT NEEDLES BACK where they  
belong, same with CLEAN bone folders and  
brushes.

IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHERE THINGS  
GO, PLEASE ASK.

No cell phones or other electronic devices may be  
used in class EXCEPT for learning purposes. Any  
other use of these devices in class will be  
considered rude and disrespectful and will have an  
adverse affect on your grade. If you need to use  
your phone, go out in the hall, please. Pandora is  
usually on during class but students may listen to  
their own music. Absolutel no streaming of  
unrelated videos ao other programs on PC's.

You may eat or drink in the classroom but not near  
clean up sink. Throw away trash when finished.  
Please do not come at 12:30 with your lunch and  
spent 20 minutes of class time eating before  
getting started.

\*\*\*10 museum or gallery critiques are required. Students will visit local galleries, museums or theatrical performances and write short critical reviews about what art they saw and what they felt about it. SELFIES of visits or events are required.

“Crits” can be one sentence, one paragraph, one page, short stories or Haiku. Hand written, typed hard copies or emails. They are due last day of class or finals. Crits may be written and placed in drawer or emailed to instructor at any time. No crits equals no grade.

## SUPPLIES

2 - Rolls of Bounty

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The instructor will try to provide all other materials for the class, however this may not be possible and students may wish to use their own supplies especially paper.

Here is a list of art supply places closest to the university.

Plaza Art Store

1990 K Street NW, Washington DC

Paper Source

3019 M Street NW, Washington DC

