

Studio Course



Santa Reparata International School of Art
Course Syllabus

Semester Course

Course Title: Introduction to Book Arts

SRISA Course Number: SART 3304

Maryville Course Number: ART 455

Credits: 3, Contact Hours: 90

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an intensive hands-on course where students will be introduced to the traditions and methods of the handmade book, as well as the expressive possibilities available with bookworks. Students will learn to combine text, image and use diverse structural techniques in the creation of original bookworks. Exploration with materials is encouraged and students will be able to combine other media (photography, screenprinting, painting, etc.) they are familiar with in their class projects.

2. CONTENT INTRODUCTION

The course will begin with the construction of simple foundational structures such as pamphlet-stitched and accordion style books and progress through more complex historical structures such as books sewn on supports, longstitch and coptic bindings. Exploration with materials and diverse media will be emphasized and several simple text and image-making techniques will be introduced. To help acquaint students with the long and on-going tradition of book arts in Italy, time permitting, fieldtrips will be organized to visit contemporary artists and artisans in their studios as well as visits to museums and libraries. Lastly, through slide presentations, sample works and lectures, students will be given an overview of the history of the art of the book and its development in Western Art.

3. PREREQUISITES

No previous knowledge or experience in Book Arts is necessary for this course, though good manual skills and attention to detail and craftsmanship are desirable.

4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have acquired the basic skills and techniques to create a minimum of 8-10 different book structures, as well as, several different types of enclosures. Students will have experimented with the use of new image and text-making techniques, including letterpress printing and xerox transfers. Additionally, students will have acquired an understanding of the elements which make up the modern artist's book and a general grasp of the historical context from which book arts developed.

5. REQUIRED MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

The course fee will cover the cost of communal supplies (bookbinding tools, threads, adhesives, etc). Supplies not included in the Course Fee will be purchased by the student as needed.

These include, but may not be limited to:

- book papers
- decorative papers (optional)
- book cloth
- book board

You will be given a Resource list of places where you may purchase materials.

You can expect to spend a minimum (approximately) of Euro 80-100 for the class in

addition to the course fee.

6. GRADING POLICY AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:

- 20% Book structure models
- 35% Artist's book projects
- 20% Classroom participation and attendance.
- 25% Final project

Following grading system will be observed:

- A Excellent 4.0 (grade points awarded) 95% percentage of 100%
- A- 3.7, (90% to 94%)
- B+ 3.3 (87% to 89%)
- B Above Average 3.0 (83% to 86%)
- B- 2.7 (80% to 82%)
- C+ 2.3 (77% to 80%)
- C Average 2.0 (73% to 76%)
- C- 1.7 (70% to 72%)
- D Below Average 1.0 (60% to 69%)
- F Failure 0.0 (59% and below)
- W Withdrawal 0.0

7. PLAGIARISM AND COPYING

SRISA severally condemns ignorant plagiarism and copying during examinations. Any student that makes use of words or ideas taken from another person's work without properly citing credit for the specific purpose of deceiving their professor will receive an automatic "F" on that assignment or exam. Should the offense be repeated, the student will receive an automatic "F" in the class. Students utilizing the strategy of appropriation in a work of visual art for political, religious or social reasons may do so. It is fundamental that students pursuing strategies of appropriation understand that in the United States *fair use* allows them to copy copyrighted material for a limited and "transformative" purpose. Given the complicated nature of how artists utilize appropriation in the 21st century, SRISA students are required to discuss ideas regarding fair use and copied imagery with their professors before turning in their assignment.

8. CRITIQUES

Critiques are friendly group discussion of each student's course work. They allow you to see your own work through the eyes of your peers and instructor, and also encourage you to develop critical insights about your work and the work of others. All students are expected to actively participate and contribute to group critiques. Participation will be considered in your final grades.

9. ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR POLICY

Students should attend all classes if they are healthy and able to come to class. Students who miss more than 1 class will have their final grade lowered by one letter grade for each additional absence. For example, if you have an "A" in this class and you are absent 3 times you will receive a "D" in the course. If you are absent more than 3 times you will receive an "F" on your transcript.

Tardiness: After 20 minutes into class time, students are considered absent.

Students who leave 20 minutes before class time ends will be considered absent

Excused absences require a doctor's note or a written note from the Director.

Arriving in class unprepared to work is considered an unexcused absence.

The use of cellular phones is prohibited during class time.

Students are expected to participate in class, act responsibly, and behave properly while on the school premises. Classrooms are to be left in order and clean. Students must take care of equipment and materials and promptly report any damage and/or loss.

10. COURSE CALENDAR

- Week 1** Course introduction
Discussion of required materials and course expectations
Demo: Letterpress
Pamphlet stitch with variations
Assignment of Project #1
- Week 2** Accordion structures
Assignment of Project #2 - Group project
Complete accordion structures
Demo: Image transfer techniques
- Week 3** Carousel and Tunnel books
Assignment of Project #3
Project #1 due in class
Demo: Backing cloth
Open studio
- Week 4** Stab bindings
Project #2 due in class
Binding of Project #2
- Week 5** Stab bindings due
Enclosures for stab bindings
Fieldtrip (tentative)
- Week 6** Longstitch Binding
Project #3 due in class
Assignment of Final Project
MIDTERM REVIEW
- Week 7** **MIDTERM BREAK**
- Week 8** Exposed Supported Binding
Assignment of Project #4
Open studio
- Week 9** Buttonhole stitch
Final Project Proposals due
Open studio
- Week 10** Guest lecture (tentative)
Assignment of Project #5
Open studio
- Week 11** Copitc stitch binding
Open studio
- Week 12** **Project #4 due in class**
Caterpillar binding
- Week 13** Open studio
Project #5 due in class

Case binding

Week 14

Complete case binding
Open studio

Week 15 ***Final Project due in class***

Open studio
FINAL CRITIQUE
STUDENT SHOW

11. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

SRISA strives to foster an all-inclusive learning environment that best caters to its students' needs. While faculty frequently work one-on-one with students, there are some situations in which special accommodations are required. Should a student have any academic accommodations regarding test taking or otherwise, they must present an official letter from their home University to the SRISA Director within the first week of class stating the accommodations.

12. DISCLAIMER

This Syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of any changes.