ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST CHICAGO PROGRAM
Arts Seminar
Fall 2015

Orientation: September 3, 2015 9am
Instructor: Susannah Papish
Contact Information: susannahpapish@gmail.com
  office hours by appointment, please allow 24 hours for a returned
  message (voicemail, email, text)

Arts Seminar Fall 2015 term: September 8-December 3, 2015
Tuesday 2-4p and Thursday 10-12p.
  ● Please block out these days for Seminar/ISP and check the google calendar
    for updates.
  ● We will OFTEN meet outside of our “normal” class meeting times on these
    days.

Any changes or exceptions to this syllabus are at the discretion of the instructor.

Seminar Description
The focus of the Arts Seminar is to provide direct experiences for students within Chicago's arts
spaces (on and off the beaten path) including, but not limited to, performances, studio visits,
readings, artworks and lectures. Students will investigate how the history, architecture, art, and
sensory impressions of Chicago structure and inform their experience of the city. We will explore
the visual arts, dance, music, literature and theater as singular disciplines that are interconnected.

Seminar Goals
One of the main goals of this course is to introduce students to art and culture in Chicago through
direct experiences. We will learn how the arts and cultural landscape began in Chicago and has
been transformed many times over, bringing us up to the contemporary cultural climate in the city.
We will read relevant historical articles and excerpts as well as current readings that have
informed recent debates on the nature of contemporary art practices. As students build their own
unique perspective regarding life in Chicago, each will have the opportunity to document, analyze,
filter and use their particular associations to inform each project thereby creating a bond with the
city both as observer and practitioner in Chicago's arts community. Students who successfully
complete this course will be able to contextualize their individual experience in Chicago and bring
this experience back to their home campus for further development. The goal of each student
should be to grow as a critical thinker, to express oneself effectively through individual projects
and communicate with others constructively, and to engage the class with generosity and rigor

Seminar Requirements
This seminar is based on direct experience & how you, as artists, “cultural workers or producers” respond, filter & create while immersed in that experience. We will be attending lectures, presentations with guest artists, workshops, performances, openings & a myriad of other events.

- Regular attendance is mandatory. Please be aware that while Tuesdays and Thursdays will be our “default” meeting times, the schedule of our meetings and field visits will vary. It is important that you check the Google site calendar for meeting locations, times, events.

- Please note that projects may be modified to suit a specific set of interests or fields of inquiry.
- Please approach me with any questions or for more information.
- Late assignments will be accepted up to 2 weeks after the due date, however, 1 point will be deducted per day late.
- After 2 weeks, the final assignment grade will be 0.
- If the assignment is not digital (email-able, scannable, drop-box etc.) you can bring it to class for review and keep the original.
- Completion of all assignments and readings is required.
- Attendance is not credited, but missing an event will result in a deduction of 10 points per event missed from your final grade.
- Attendance will be noted at the beginning of each meeting. If you arrive late to class, it is your responsibility to check in with me.
- Two or more absences will put you in danger of failing the course.
- Disruptive behavior may lead to dismissal from the class.
- All cell phones must be turned to silent during class. No calls or texting during class.

Seminar Communication

- The ACM Google site is our resource for course related information. Assigned readings, assignments, calendar, grades, contact and etc.. All changes in location, time, class cancellation, will be communicated through the Google site. It is imperative that you check the site regularly for updates.
- All assignments & due dates will be listed on the Google calendar.
- All site visits & pertinent information will be listed on the Google calendar.
- Email: Please email me with any questions/concerns/issues but also note that I am available & prefer in-person conversations. Please allow 24 hours for me to respond to your emails.
- Text: I am available via text if you are late, or for a quick exchange about directions, address of an event and such. I will not text details about an assignment, your grade, attendance. Please plan to schedule an in-person conversation or email me!
- Check our Friday memo for ideas and information about related cultural programming and
fun events in the city!

**Grading Scale**

100% - 94% = A, 93% - 90% = A-
89% - 87% = B+, 86% - 84% = B, 83% - 80% = B-
79% - 77% = C+, 76% - 74% = C, 73% - 70% = C-
69% - 67% = D+, 66% - 64% = D, 63% - 60% = D-
59% - 0% = F

A: The work is outstanding and exceeds the stated criteria in each assessment area. The information can be easily interpreted and is well organized. Credit for superior work that shows a fine degree of individual insight, application, and originality beyond mere absorption of assigned work.

B: The work meets all standards and exceeds them in a few areas. Credit for very good work done with intelligence, understanding, thoroughness, and industry.

C: The work meets all standards and the stated criteria. There are no areas of weakness and there are no outstanding elements. The work may be of average or irregular quality.

D: The work is significantly deficient in some way. Work of barely passing quality.

F: The work does not meet the assignment requirements in any way. Failure to produce work of passing quality.

**Conflict**

Should students have a conflict with the grading of an assignment, course content, pedagogical approach, etc. they are expect to discuss the issue with the faculty member directly. If the conflict is unresolved students should are encouraged to speak with any member of the faculty for advice.

**Final grade disputes**

Students have the right to appeal final grades for courses. They must do so in writing within 30 days of receiving the grade and provide rationale for the basis of the dispute.

**Academic Honesty**

Please familiarize yourself with the ACM Chicago Programs policy on academic honesty as stated in the Student Handbook. When in doubt find a way to give credit to an idea's originator, even if that person's work is in the public domain. This may require some creative citations in non-written projects. Remember that it is also considered academically dishonest to recycle work you have completed for another class, past or present, here or there, without permission of the
instructor.

Texts & Supplies

- Readings as assigned; I will distribute copies &/or make all readings available on the google site. **Please bring copies of readings to class either hard copy or on a device other than your phone.**
- Notebook or sketchbook for every class meeting, pencils & pens.
- Camera (please try to bring to each meeting, even if simply on your phone)
- any essential materials for your projects as we progress through the term

Blick: 42 South State Street

Materials may be provided dependent on the project. You may need to use technology such as Photoshop, InDesign, Final Cut Pro which is also dependent on individual responses to assignments. We will discuss available resources.

Assignments & Grade Distribution
Grades are determined based on a 1000 point scale, points are distributed as follows:

**Creative Work:**
- Creative biography: 75 points
- 5 Manual of Recorded Information exercises: 125 points total (25 points each)
- Artist Statement: 100 points
- Creative writing workshop: 150 points

**Research & Documentation:**
- *Gem of the Ocean* and *1984* assignments: 100 points total (50 points each)
- Public Art; Paper & Site Visit: 150 points
- Artist Presentation & Paper: 150 points
- 6 Journal entries: 150 points total (25 points per entry)

**Assignment/Project Descriptions: all due dates are posted on Google Calendar**

- **Creative biography (75 points)**
  Students will write a short history of their individual creativity. When did you begin to feel creative or like doing creative work? What did you do? Was this encouraged in your support system? How did your creativity develop over the years?

- **5 Manual of Recorded Information exercises (125 points)**
  Manual of Recorded Information: Students will choose 8 MRI exercises to complete over the course of the term. I will distribute the MRI from which you can select 8 guided exercises or activities to help spark your investigations. Please check google calendar for exact dates.

- **Creative non-fiction writing workshop (150 points)**
  Three classes will be based on creative writing workshops and students will be required to review and critique each other’s work in a respectable and scholarly manner. A complete assignment will be on google site.

- **Artist Statement (100 points)**
  An artist statement (1 page) that reflects your individual creative process, influences and references. More information and examples will be on google site.
Research & Documentation

- **Gem of the Ocean and 1984 Assignments (50 points each, 100 total)**
  Each of these written assignments will be based on research and responses to each play. We will see these plays as a group and will reflect upon them together as well. Written work and participation will be essential components for these assignments. *More detailed assignments will be available on google site.*

- **Public Art Project: Paper + Site Visit (150 points)**
  Students will research 1 piece of Public Art located in various neighborhoods. I will assign each student an area of the city per the Public Art Guide. Each student will visit their site and present their findings to the group. *A document containing pertinent links, dates and locations will be made available on the google site.*

- **Artist Presentation + Paper (150 points)**
  We will meet artists & see lots of different work this semester. Choose 1 local artist to research and present to the class. The person may be living or dead. You will write about their work, the significance of the work, context and relationship to Chicago. 3-5 pages and a visual presentation of 15 images (minimum), videos or any other archival findings.

- **Journal (150 points, 6 entries, 25 points each)**
  Entries are due dependent on events, lectures and other engagements. Check google calendar for due dates. I will provide a question or statement or ask you to reflect and summarize the weeks’ activities on the journal section of the google site.