

West Virginia Wesleyan College // School of Fine Arts & Humanities
Department of Art
Spring Term 2014 // Intermedia Topics I & II: Food & Art // ART255 & 355
Classroom: McCuskey Room 112
Mon/Wed 3-5:30pm
Professor: Ellen Mueller // Office: McCuskey Room 105
Office Hours: Tues & Thur, 2:30-5:00pm & by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

BRIEFLY: " ...food as subject, symbol and metaphor has been ubiquitous in visual communication since the beginning of time.... In short, attitudes toward food are inextricable from religion, morality, esthetics and much else." –Roberta Smith, NYTimes, September 16, 1994.

This course is designed as a survey of some of the origins, influences, theories, processes, and manifestations of art connected with food, either conceptually or materialistically. Topics of investigation will include taste and connoisseurship, visual presentation of food, the social functions and rituals associated with food, growth and decay, moderation and/or gluttony, the process of consuming and digesting food, erotic connotations, economic value, and the packaging and design of food, graphics, and advertising. We will read about, listen to, watch, and discuss perspectives on this art form written/created by artists, curators, art historians, and critics. Using this information as a springboard, we will create our own art works.

The class is not media-specific; you will work with materials appropriate to your projects. While experimentation is always a virtue to have as an artist, I recommend you use discretion and experiment appropriately to still craft successful projects; keep deadlines in mind, and don't get in over your head...but be ambitious.

EXPANDED: Students will gain basic knowledge and understanding of food art materials and processes. They will also gain exposure to a variety of applications of materials including object construction, video & audio editing, and installation approaches.

Through reading and discussion assignments, students will think about/discuss/experience influences & precursors to these art forms and processes.

Via the development of discussion questions and the participation in group discussion, students will study the relationship between food, art, popular culture, and other art forms.

Students will develop a cursory understanding of their own sources and influences by brainstorming, researching and presenting their findings on the subject.

Students will practice identifying and utilizing the elements and principles of design in a 4-dimensional environment by creating and critiquing art works.

Students will gain enhanced fluency in artistic language and the ability to use that language, both written and oral, in their personal intermedia practice and public critique.

Students will strengthen their ability to form creative ideas through conceptual assignments.

Students will strengthen awareness of the historical context of intermedia by looking at both historical and contemporary artists as frames of reference for their practice.

Students will begin to learn the professional practices of an artist in terms of documenting their work and

self-discipline to complete all work in a timely fashion. Students will practice taking documenting their work, turning in a disk or jump drive of all their work at the end of the semester.

NOTES ON PERSEVERANCE:

We will encounter frustrations as we deal with unexpected road-blocks, and create workarounds that fit within our timeline. These are important skills to practice, as you will do the same when you leave school and enter the world of professional artistic practice. Our weekly discipline will include a variety of activities which may include, but are not limited to, discussion, active installation creation/viewing, sketchbook entries, and scheduled readings/writings. It is important to know you do not have to be a trained sound artist to participate in this course. However you must be willing to explore how this medium allows you to develop and refine your artistic practice, regardless of your preferred artistic medium. Please note that an instructor cannot force the effort required to practice art. It must come from a desire and aptitude for struggle. Dedication and willingness to create will ensure your success in this class.

NOTES ON COURSE CONTENT:

We're about to experience some content that can be, and has in the past been, considered provocative. People in this course have been offended by what we're about to see, so even if you think this is harmless or funny, keep in mind that this can also offend. Have respect for how other people in the room feel. That said: provocative art might not be directly offensive, but can remind you of difficult experiences, and it can work on you emotionally before your thinking mind has a chance to catch up. This means it can surprise you, and that's ok, and this room is a safe place to talk about offendedness and problematic art, and you can also communicate with me via email or office visit. I'll also try to put this art in its historical moment where it will hopefully make better sense.

NOTES ON RESPECT:

The work created in the course may be of a personal and/or controversial nature. Please respect your colleagues and give their work your best attention. If you disagree with a work or its content, remember that when engaging with others' work you must be a responsible and professional critic, and as such must work to make your criticism constructive and descriptive.

BLACKBOARD

You must check your WVWC e-mail and Blackboard to take this course. **Assignments will be dispersed via email/Blackboard.**

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Visit [this link](#) for guidelines on email correspondence.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Visit [this link](#) for complete attendance policy.

LATE WORK POLICY

I do not accept late work. See [this link](#) for complete details.

REQUIRED TEXTS

None - all required readings will be posted online.

TYPICAL CLASS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Take attendance promptly at the start of class
- Check assignments that are due
- Demo
- We do in-class drawing exercises

SPECIAL POLICIES

Read the special policies at [this link](#).

ACCOMMODATIONS

Read accommodations statement at [this link](#)

GRADING POLICY

Visit [this link](#) for complete grading policy.

CLASS SCHEDULE - [Available online](#)

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Read statement at [this link](#)