

West Virginia Wesleyan College // School of Fine Arts & Humanities
Department of Art
Fall Term 2014 // Installation Art: Utopias // ART354

Classroom: McCuskey Room 112
Section 1: Tue/Thur Noon-2:30

Professor: Ellen Mueller // Office: McCuskey Room 105
Office Hours: Mon/Wed, 2:30-5:00pm & by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will examine occurrences at the intersection of installation art and utopias. We will examine definitions of utopias while experiencing a survey of some of the origins, influences, theories, processes, and manifestations of installation art. We will read, watch, and discuss perspectives on installation art and utopias written/created by artists, curators, art historians, and critics. We will view work by artists who consider themselves installation artists. Using this information as a springboard, we will create our own installations grappling with the idea of utopias.

The class is not media-specific; you will work with materials appropriate to your concepts/projects. Experimentation is always a virtue to have as an artist. Simultaneously keep deadlines, craft, and context in mind. Be ambitious.

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will practice utilizing a variety of materials including object construction, video & audio editing, and installation approaches.
- students will think about/discuss influences & precursors to installation art and processes through reading, discussion assignments, and short answer quizzes.
- By brainstorming, researching and presenting, students will identify their own artistic sources and influences.
- Students will practice identifying and utilizing the elements and principles of design in a four-dimensional environment by creating and critiquing art works. This process will also enhance written and oral fluency in artistic language.
- Students will practice brainstorming to strengthen their ability to form creative conceptual

ideas.

- Students will demonstrate the professional activities of an artist in terms of documenting their work and self-discipline to complete all work in a timely fashion. Students will practice 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 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 contextualize this art by putting it 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.

<p>BLACKBOARD You must check your WVWC e-mail and Blackboard to take this course. Assignments will be dispersed via email/Blackboard.</p> <p>EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE Visit this link for guidelines on email correspondence.</p> <p>ATTENDANCE POLICY Visit this link for complete attendance policy.</p> <p>LATE WORK POLICY I do not accept late work. See this link for complete details.</p> <p>GRADING POLICY Visit this link for complete grading policy.</p> <p>CLASS SCHEDULE - Available online</p>	<p>REQUIRED TEXTS “Utopias (Whitechapel: Documents of Contemporary Art)” by Richard Noble “Installation Art” by Claire Bishop</p> <p>CRITIQUE Read the critique policy at this link.</p>
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SPECIAL POLICIES

1. Cell phones must be turned off during class. Texting or answering a call in the classroom is disrespectful to your classmates and to the instructor. You will lose attendance points if your phone rings or if you are texting in class..
2. No open laptops. Again, you will lose attendance points.
3. No headphones or music players in class. Again, you will lose attendance points.
4. No food or drink in the painting studio - it is hazardous to your health.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

West Virginia Wesleyan College ensures that no qualified person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied access to, excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of any program or activity operated by the College or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities. The College shall make reasonable accommodations to the known limitations of an otherwise qualified student with a disability to enable the qualified student with the disability to have equal access to educational opportunities, programs and activities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 [29 U.S.C. 794(a)] and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) [42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.].

I concur with the College's commitment to social justice and expect to foster a nurturing learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and nondiscrimination. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements, according to our Student Handbook <http://www.wvwc.edu/Students/pdf/StudentHandbook.pdf> with the Director of the Learning Center (473-8499).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

"Academic Dishonesty" is defined as "any form of cheating which results in students giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise or receiving credit for work that is not their own."

Plagiarism is defined as "literary theft" and consists of the unattributed quotation of the exact words of a published text or the unattributed borrowing of original ideas by paraphrase from a published text. On written papers for which the student information gathered from books, articles, or oral sources, each direct quotation, as well as ideas and facts that are not generally known to the public-at-large, must be attributed to its author by means of the appropriate citation procedure. Citations may be made in footnotes or within the body of the text. Plagiarism also consists of passing off as one's own, segments or the total of another person's work.

Punishment for academic dishonesty will depend on the seriousness of the offense and may include a receipt of an "F" with a numerical value of zero on the item submitted, and the "F" shall be used to determine the final course grade. If the offense is repeated, the student will fail the course.

Detection of Plagiarism:

I use an automated plagiarism detection service to check student assignments for plagiarism.