

Proseminar (CREA-111)

T/TR 3:15-5:20 PM FOY Hall 102

Professor Lindsay Foster

Office Hours T/TR 9-10am, 12:20-12:50pm, 5:30-6:30pm or by appointment

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lfoster@siena.edu *I check my email frequently, even on weekends, but am not in my office every day to check my phone messages. Please email any time with questions or concerns.

Course Description from catalog:

This course will introduce students to the creative arts as a whole through the interaction between experiments in creative action and critical analysis. Fundamental questions will be posed about the nature of art and creativity, the art worlds and ethical dimensions, the relation between the arts and society will be initiated. For each theoretical component of the course, there is a complementary creative exercise.

Please refer to course website <http://sienaproseminar.weebly.com> for details pertaining to our course schedule, readings, deadlines and insights.

Departmental Goals: The goal of the Creative Arts Department is to engage students with works of the creative imagination.

- Students will develop an aesthetic appreciation of the arts of the world in which they live
- Students will be able to understand the arts as they reflect the cultural spirit of various epochs in human experience.
- Students will be encouraged to unlock and develop their creative potential and skill.

Course Goal: To engage with various works of the creative imagination and develop confidence in one's working process and critical thinking.

Required Materials:

- Journal
- I suggest that you reserve \$25.00 for supplies for projects that you will not be able to anticipate yet depending on the projects you choose to create later in the course. You may or may not need this.
- I will provide reading material and art supplies for specific assignments and discussions.
- Field Trip funds - \$15.00

Methods of Work and study:

The work and study methods are comprised of a variety of elements, projects, excursions and discussions.

- The class is progressive and for the most part project-based. Problem solving based on analysis of disparate situations, makes up the cornerstone of the study. Project-oriented study methods in which problem identification, analysis, conceptual development, and communication strategies are emphasized. (The Creative Arts Department is an interdisciplinary program that encompasses Theatre, Music and the Visual Arts therefore a number of related disciplines are integrated into the projects.)

- The projects culminate in critiques, in which students present their own work and receive academic and peer feedback and guidance.
- Over time possibilities arise for specialization and individual choice. Individual counseling is a vital aspect of the class.
- Skill in writing and presentation will also be developed. These skills will contribute to the student's ability to formulate project descriptions, etc. Both written and oral presentations are emphasised in this class.

Assignments: Assignments are due when instructed. For every day the assignment is late you will lose 5% from that assignment grade.

- **Journal** – You will keep a journal. I will review the journal with you during 2 class sessions over the semester. I will collect them for the final evaluation at the end of the semester. [15%]
 - each week you will make an entry incorporating a visual and textual element (write, draw, paint, collage, etc) The journal is a place to explore and respond to what you experience on a day-to-day basis. (15+ entries)
 - in-class freewrites
 - reflections on reading (in journal or Google Drive)
- **Daily Shorts** - Nearly every class we will engage in a small creative experiment. You will pick a theme for the semester and explore this same theme with each experiment. I will provide the materials/form/guidlines for each experiment. We will reserve 15-60min in class. You will document your daily shorts and compile a collection by the end of the semester. [9%]
- **4-5 projects** – I will assign 3 projects for which you will be finding solutions. The projects will require planning (digital work, sketching, painting, modeling, etc.), research, writing and a final solution for presentation. Each project will require verbal and written presentation for critique. There will be time in class to work on the projects, but it is expected that much of the work will be outside of class as well. [40%]
- **Group project** – As a lesson in creative collaboration, the entire class or small group will plan and execute a project. [7%]
- **Cultural events attendance** – You will be required to engage in at least 4 cultural events in and around Siena College and the Albany area.

The 4 events will include:

 - March 12-14 & 19-21: Siena College's production of *Measure for Measure*
 - Feb. 10 - April 4: SUNY Albany Gallery *The Ties that Bind Artists & Archives*
 - TBA: an artist's talk and opening at the Yates Gallery in the library
 - Your choice – discuss with professor

A one to two page response is required. [12% – 3% each]
- **Final** – The final is the last day of class. It is a portfolio display (physical and online). At that time you will design and present a portfolio of your work done in the course of the class, as well as work from other courses. A portfolio is required for a Creative Arts major and will become of major importance to your success in the field of creative arts. [7%]

- **Class Participation** – Prepared for in-class studio work; Critique and participation in discussions of work; General engagement: mentally present and alert. [10%]

Evaluation:

You are responsible for your own learning and academic progression.

- Completion of the compulsory components of the curriculum.
 - quality, creative risk-taking, engagement, effort, conceptual drive
- Receptivity, curiosity, exploration, attentiveness, connection seeking, conviction and complexity are qualities that are valued in your approach to work in this class.
- The quality/content of your verbal and written discourse.
- The quality of your participation, focus, and discussion during class (crit, lab, group project).
- Your general attitude in undertaking projects and critiques with instructor and fellow peers.
- Assessment of your overall achievement and progress.

Assessment:

Grades for projects will be calculated on the conventional percentage scale

- A (90%-100%) - Outstanding/excellence in analysis/presentation, superior understanding
- B (80%-89%) – Very good work, demonstrating solid understanding
- C (70%-79%) – Average; Satisfactory work needing major refinement
- D (60%-69%) – Poor; Borderline work exhibiting serious deficiencies
- F (0- 59%) – Failure; Unsatisfactory work o

Attendance/class participation: This is a studio class and attendance is mandatory. You are allowed **2** absences before your grade is affected. If something of a serious nature is occurring in your life that prevents you from attending class you should consider withdrawing or taking an incomplete and repeating the class at another time. Lateness will not be tolerated. Leaving early or coming in late will result in an absence.

- Absent for **three** class periods = final grade in course is lowered ½ grade. (A to A-, A- to B+)
- Absent for **four** class periods = final grade in course is lowered one full grade (A to B, B to C)
- Absent for **five** class periods = student should withdraw from course (A to C, B to D)

If you must be absent from class for a legitimate reason, discuss it with me as soon as you are aware of the conflict. I will do my best to let you know what the class plans are, but ultimately, it is up to you to get notes and assignments from one of your classmates and to turn in any assignments on the due dates.

Please refer to course website <http://sienaproseminar.weebly.com> for details pertaining to our course schedule, readings, deadlines and insights.

Questions & Appointments: Please feel free at any time during the semester to communicate with me about your work, any concerns or questions you might have about the course, and your grade.

Learning Edges

We will be viewing a lot of work by various artists. Please remain open to receiving and analyzing these visual and cultural messages. Some artist's work includes portrayals of domestic violence, questions of gender identity, sexuality in its many expressions, racism, and other complex, nuanced subjects. The topics and resultant works created by artists may make you feel uncomfortable at times, but this is an opportunity for you to assess why the work makes you feel this way. Some work may cause you to question certain ideas and social mores. Keep the idea of *learning edges* in mind as you

view and process each work: “We call the edge of our comfort zone the learning edge. When we are on the learning edge, we are most open to expanding our knowledge and understanding- as well as expanding our comfort zone itself. Being on this edge means that we may feel annoyed, angry, surprised, confused, defensive, or in some other way uncomfortable. These reactions are a natural part of the process of expanding our comfort zones, and when we recognize them as such, we can use them as part of the learning process -- signaling to us that we are at the learning edge, ready to expand our knowledge and understanding. The challenge is to recognize when we are on a learning edge and then to stay there with the discomfort we are experiencing to see what we can learn.” - The Program on Intergroup Relations, University of Michigan, 2008.

Pandemic / Emergency Preparedness: You are instructed to bring all texts and a copy of the syllabus/course schedule home with you in the event of a College Closure. The Academic Calendar will be adjusted upon Reopening; so be prepared for the possibility of a short mini-semester; rescheduled class / exam period; and /or rescheduling of the semester, depending on the length of the Closure. Stay connected with information regarding the status of the college and reopening schedule by monitoring the Siena website, www.siena.edu. Contact your instructor if you have any questions.

Academic Integrity: Siena students are expected to maintain academic integrity in all matters. This means that each student will make an honest effort to fulfill the course obligations and will present for evaluation only work that the student has done herself/himself or in proper collaboration in the case of group projects. Please see the *Siena College Catalog* on academic integrity at www.siena.edu/sienalife/academic_integrity.htm.

Harassment: Siena is committed to maintaining a community environment that fosters respect for the dignity and worth of each individual. It is critical that respect encompasses diversity and differences of opinion. Any form of discrimination or harassment (verbal, physical, sexual, etc) has no place in this classroom.

Other Policies:

Accommodation Policy: <http://www.siena.edu/pages/2759.asp>

Cell Phone Use: **(Cell Phone Policy)**