



## “THE ART OF CROSSING THE STREET: CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY”

English 1005 Fall 2007  
112 S. Michigan Avenue, Room #570  
Thursdays, 9 am – 12 pm  
August 30 – December 13 [No class November 22]

### Instructors:

Lora Lode – 773-540-6066, [llode@saic.edu](mailto:llode@saic.edu)  
Tom Tresser – 312-804-3230, [tress@saic.edu](mailto:tress@saic.edu), [www.tresser.com](http://www.tresser.com)  
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### Teaching Assistant:

Marisa Plumb – 517-285-2469, [Marisa.plumb@gmail.com](mailto:Marisa.plumb@gmail.com)

Class blog: <http://crossingstreet.wordpress.com>

### **Course Description**

This course asks the question, "How can artists cross the street without leaving their art behind?" Team-taught by transdisciplinary faculty, this class raises issues of citizenship, creativity, collaboration, community, communication, environment, and the changing roles of artists in the twenty-first century.

Students study historical and contemporary examples of artists who have made alliances with other artists and communities to achieve personal, professional, cultural, and political goals, and how they have located space and resources to present their work. Writing assignments and class discussion will help each student clarify his/her aims concerning art and its social relevance. Students develop a critical awareness about socially relevant art making practices, and gain tools that enable them to become active citizens in a democratic society.

### **Requirements / expectations**

- Class begins at 9:00 am and ends at noon. **Late arrival to class past 9:15 am will count as one missed class.**
- **SAIC Attendance Policy requires students to attend all classes.** Students should miss class only for reasonable cause. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructors to receive instruction on how to make up the material covered during a missed class such as a missed fieldtrip or an in-class activity. Despite absences, students must meet the original deadlines for homework assignments. When possible you should notify instructors in advance of an absence, particularly when you miss a day of a field trip so that the entire class does not wait needlessly for you.
- **Students expecting to pass this course must perform to the level of a C grade or better and have a maximum of two absences** (policy for all SAIC writing courses). **Students missing 3 or more classes will result in a grade of NCR.**
- **This class will have five projects and one final team project. In order to complete this class successfully you will have to participate fully in class and execute the class projects in a satisfactory manner. If you miss the final project you will fail the class.**
- Missing class for other than reasonable cause may jeopardize a student's academic standing in the class and possibly financial aid or scholarships.
- In the case of illness or hospitalization, you should contact Health Services and request that they relay information to all the faculty teaching your classes.
- Course Progress Reports will be sent to you and the Office of Student Affairs immediately following an absence to alert Academic Affairs that your progress in the course may be jeopardized.

- Students are expected to turn off personal cell phones during class.
- In accordance with **SAIC Policy, plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Students found to have plagiarized will jeopardize their academic standing in the class. This policy is spelled out at the end of this document.

### **Accommodations for Students with disabilities**

- Any student in need of academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability should contact SAIC's Disability and Learning Resource Center (DLRC), formerly Services for Students with Disabilities, immediately. The Disability and Learning Resource Center can be reached by phone at 312-499-4286 or by sending an email to Sara Baum at sbaum@saic.edu. DLRC will review the student's disability documentation and will work with the student to determine reasonable accommodations. DLRC will then provide the student with a letter outlining approved accommodations. This letter must be presented to the instructor before any accommodations will be implemented.
- Students are responsible for reading assignments listed on the course schedule and posted on the portal or handed out in class. You can download PDF documents and keep on your computer or print out your own paper copies. You can use your Articard to print at SAIC's labs.

### **X-ing requirements**

- This course is a community/group project in which individual efforts influence the quality of the whole. Each individual's participation matters to the culture of the class – please be especially considerate of your responsibility to each other.
- This class strives to create a safe and open learning environment. As a member, you are responsible for actively participating and maintaining a respectful attitude toward all persons. Please make an effort to understand another person's point of view, even if it's different from your own.
- You are required to complete projects employing images, language and presentations as listed on the course schedule. Refer to handouts and guidelines for detailed descriptions and due dates for specific assignments. (The image/language projects and **typed** response papers are due on dates listed in the expanded syllabus.)
- You are required to respond to the issues raised in this course through discussions, writings and presentations. We encourage you to relate the topics we study to your life experience and the on-going development of your art-making practice.
- Attendance at auxiliary visiting artist lectures and exhibitions is encouraged. Relevant events will augment the course schedule throughout the semester.

**Class documents will be posted on the class blog at <http://crossingstreet.wordpress.com>. Each student will be required to post one original reflection and one comment on another student's reflection each week on the class blog.**

### **Class Schedule**

#### **Class #1 – Aug 30**

**Due for this class:** Each student will post to the class blog. Your post should have two parts. Part 1 should answer the question "Why are you taking this class" and Part 2 should address the question "Should there be any rules on posting, and if so, what should they be?"

#### **Content - *The Art of Self***

- Welcome to Chicago and the SAIC – distribute "Welcome Kit"
- Introductions from instructors
  - Background on this class
  - Class norms/attendance, timeliness, due dates, etc.

- Look at WordPress platform
- Introductions (1 minute)
- Get sign up sheet/phone #s, emails
- Pass out Class #2 autobiography assignment
- Introduce guest speaker, Vincent Michael
- Talk on Chicago as a creative place and the Art Institute
- Go on Brown Line, do one tour of the Loop – hear about the built environment– read from “No More Giants” by Nelson Algren

### **Homework for Class #2**

- Blog comment
- **Project 1** - Autobiography assignment (see instruction sheet)
- Read piece by Rilke on class blog and comment following the posted instructions
- Read - “The Function of Artists in Society” and “The Art of Crossing the Street”

### **Class #2 – Sept 6**

#### **Content - *The Art of Self***

- Hand in autobiography assignment
- Do self-assessment worksheet and histogram
- Create larger work from the individual worksheets
- Discuss readings
- Go over future assignments, explain the final project, “The Instant Exhibition”
- Status of the artists in this room
- Status of the arts and artists in America
- Who is creative, who gets to be an artist?
- Class #3 assignment – 2 page response essay

### **Homework for Class #3**

- Blog comment
- **Project 2** - Response essay (see instruction sheet)
- A disk with a MP3 music file of a song that makes you feel great
- Read “Artists in Times of War”

### **Class #3 – Sept 13**

#### **Content - *The Art of Self***

- Distribute compilation publication of autobiographic material
- Each student plays their song and tells why they picked it
- Discuss common themes
- Watch video “Bringing the War Home”/visit “Eyes Wide Open” web site
- Discuss reading and video
- Project 3 instructions distributed and discussed.

### **Homework for Class #4**

- Blog comment
- Read the PDF containing “Edens Lost & Found” article on Lilly Yeh and “Beginners Guide to Community-Based Arts” selection on the Village of Arts & Humanities
- **Project 3** - Team visits of Art Institute spaces (Rymer Gallery, SUGS, and one main hall at the Art Institute on Michigan Avenue and make assessments according to checklist.

### **Class #4 – Sept 20**

#### **Content – *The Art of Community***

- Watch the “Edens Lost & Found” video
- Presentation on art and community development
- Watch the clip on “The Miracle of Mata Ortiz”
- Students report on Art Institute spaces
- Watch preview of video, “The Fat of The Land”
- **Project 4** instructions distributed and discussed – Investigation of alternative exhibit spaces
- End class at 11:30, teams can start space investigations

### **Homework for Class #5**

- Blog comment
- Read “Whose Monument Where?”, “Two Women on the Street,” “The Mural Movement”
- **Project 4** – Look at alternative spaces on school property and make assessments according to checklist.

### **Class #5 – Sept 27**

#### **Content – *The Art of Community***

- We will be doing a tour to Chicago community murals for this class. Meet at loading dock. **We will depart promptly at 9:15am.**
- The tour guide will be Kiela Smith, see <http://www.songhaystudios.com/home>
- Discuss reading on bus.
- Students will be given an observation worksheet to complete during the tour

### **Homework for Class #6**

- Blog comment
- Review Chicago Resource Center web site at <http://www.resourcecenterchicago.org> and prepare two questions to ask
- Read “Trash Action,” “The Green Campus”

### **Class #6 – Oct 4**

#### **Content – *The Art of Community***

- We will be visiting the Chicago Resource Center’s Community Garden on Clybourn Avenue in Old Town. Meet in school lobby and proceed via Red Line to Clark and Division and walk west to Clybourn. Students will be released from class at the end of the visit to the garden. Our host will be Kenn Dunn, see <http://www.resourcecenterchicago.org/dirmsg.html>.

### **Homework for Class #7**

- Blog comment
- Read curatorial statements of exhibits – from a range of spaces and media. Start thinking about a theme for the Instant Exhibition.

### **Class #7 – Oct 11**

#### **Content – *The Art of Community***

- Discuss results of space surveys, mid-term conversation on content to date.
- Discuss and analyze curatorial statements
- Connect interaction between space and content of exhibition
- Raise issue of theme for Instant Exhibit, to be produced on December 5 (Class #13)
- Form teams: Marketing, Space Prep+Exhibit Prep, FAQ+Catalogers, Public Engagement, Documentation
- Each team will work with one instructor as an advisor
- Distribute and discuss instructions for **Project #5**

### **Homework for Class #8**

- Blog comment
- **Project #5** – Proposal for Instant Exhibit theme. Each student will prepare a written proposal for theme of the Instant Exhibit.

### **Class # 8 – Oct 18**

#### **Content – *The Art of The Marketplace***

- Students present their proposals for exhibit theme
- Students discuss proposals and vote
- All teams meet
- Teams report and share requests for assistance

### **Homework for Class #9**

- Blog comment

- Read posted history of the Art Institute, prepare two questions for the curator we will be meeting
- Read "French Tycoon Heads Art Power List"

#### **Class # 9 – Oct 25**

##### **Content – The Art of The Marketplace**

- Visit the Art Institute, meet with co-curator of the Modern Wing
- Teams report on progress, problems

##### **Homework for Class #10**

- Blog comment
- Read "Making Art in Groups", "What is Mess Hall" at [www.messhall.org](http://www.messhall.org)
- Review web sites: <http://www.publiccollectors.org> (Marc Fuscher), <http://www.temporarieservices.org>.

#### **Class # 10 – Nov 1**

##### **Content – The Art of The Marketplace**

- Visit Mess Hall – meet on Morse Avenue Red Line El Station, 9:30am. Students will be released from class at the conclusion of the visit. Our host will be Marc Fischer.
- Teams report on progress, problems

##### **Homework for Class #11**

- Blog comment
- Reading from "What we want is free: generosity and exchange in recent art", ed. By Ted Purves.

#### **Class # 11 – Nov 8**

##### **Content – The Art of The Society**

- Review Generosity Project, Free For All, and work of the San Francisco Diggers
- Exhibit teams meet, plan and share updates requests for assistance

##### **Homework for Class #12**

- Blog comment
- Read material on The Interventionists, Beuys documenta project

#### **Class # 12 – Nov 15**

##### **Content – The Art of The Society**

- Watch "Yes Men" video
- Discuss work of Interventionists, review related web sites
- Discuss logistics of Instant Exhibit as we are not meeting again as a class until day of exhibit

##### **Homework for Class #13**

- Blog comment
- Work on team assignments for Instant Exhibit

#### **NO CLASS NOV 22 – THANKSGIVING**

- Over the holidays each team coordinator must check in with their faculty advisor

#### **Class # 13 – Dec 5**

##### **Content – The Art of The Society**

##### **CLASS PRODUCES, STAFFS AND DOCUMENTS ITS "INSTANT EXHIBIT"**

- Doors open at 9am, close at 12pm
- Be prepared to stay later this day as the room must be restored and remaining art removed

##### **Homework for Class #14**

- Blog comment
- Each team prepares an oral summary of its work and a Powerpoint presentation for the last class

#### **Class # 14 – Dec 12**

- Each team gives a summary presentation of its work with PowerPoint visuals
- Debrief of the Instant Exhibit, discuss lessons learned
- Wrap up presentations by instructors

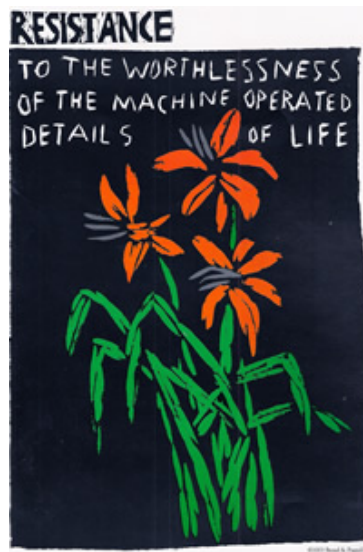
### **Originality and Integrity**

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago prohibits academic dishonesty, which includes “both plagiarism and cheating, and may consist of: the submission of the work of another as one’s own; unauthorized assistance on a test or assignment; submission of the same work for more than one class without the knowledge and consent of all instructors; or the failure to properly cite texts or ideas from other sources” (Students’ Rights and Responsibilities, **Student Handbook**, <http://www.saic.edu/saic/life/studenthandbook/rights.pdf>).

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. One can plagiarize even if one does not intend to. The penalty for plagiarizing may range from failure on the specific plagiarized assignment to failure in the class. Repeat offenses can lead to disciplinary action, which could include suspension or expulsion from the School. The Faculty Senate Student Life Subcommittee has prepared a 28-page handbook entitled **Plagiarism: How to Recognize It and Avoid It**. The document is available online on at [http://www.saic.edu/webspaces/portal/library/plagiarism\\_packet.pdf](http://www.saic.edu/webspaces/portal/library/plagiarism_packet.pdf).

The final page of the handbook has been designed as a one-page handout, **When to Give Credit**. It is available online in PDF format at [http://www.saic.edu/webspaces/portal/library/plagiarism\\_credit.pdf](http://www.saic.edu/webspaces/portal/library/plagiarism_credit.pdf).

Library staff has also prepared a two-page synopsis of the committee’s handbook, designed as a handout for students. **Avoid Plagiarism: Quick Guide**, is available at <http://www.saic.edu/webspaces/portal/library/plagiarism.pdf>.



Illustrations from Bread and Puppet Theater web site, <http://www.breadandpuppet.org>.