The University of Wyoming  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
ART 2000: Portfolio Review  
Fall 2015

Meeting Times: TBA / See schedule  
Faculty: Shelby Shadwell sshadwel@uwyo.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course is to ensure that students have a clear understanding of the skills and course content learned in the UW Department of Art Foundation Core courses. Without a mastery of these skills, students will find overwhelming challenges in upper level coursework in the visual arts. The review is also an opportunity for students to engage in serious self-assessment by reflecting on their own progress at internalizing this content.

Students are required to create a new body of work based on the skills and concepts presented within the Foundation Core. The class culminates in an anonymous mid-semester review of work by the Department of Art faculty. Students will receive the results of the evaluation before advising week for the subsequent semester. The submitted portfolios are evaluated as Strong, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory based on the set of established standards reflected in the Foundation Core Curriculum of the Department of Art. An Unsatisfactory portfolio will not pass the review.

As of the Spring 2010 semester, all incoming students must pass the Portfolio Review to be eligible to enroll in any upper division (3000 or 4000 level) studio courses beyond the required Studio Core. Students who do not pass ART 2000: Portfolio Review will only be allowed one additional attempt to pass. A student who does not pass on their first attempt may decide to re-take a particular Foundations course based on faculty feedback. Failure to pass the Portfolio Review will render the student ineligible to progress in the Department of Art.

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of the Foundation Core courses: ART 1005 Drawing I, ART 1110 Foundation 2D, ART 1120 Foundation 3D and ART 1130 Foundation Color.
- All courses in the Foundation Core must have been passed with a letter grade of C or better.
- An overall University of Wyoming GPA of 2.5 or better (Not applicable for incoming transfer students who do not yet have a UW GPA).
- Permission of the Faculty for sections taught through the Outreach School.

Evaluative Criteria

Evaluation of your portfolio work will be based on the following criteria:

- **Observation**: To demonstrate the ability to observe and record accurate and proportional representations of real space and objects.
- **Application of Foundation Principles**: To demonstrate the ability to employ art and design elements and compositional principles in 2-D and 3-D work.
- **Craftsmanship**: To demonstrate a professional and serious level of craftsmanship and technical ability in working with a range of 2D and 3D materials.
- **Conceptual Application**: To demonstrate the ability to use foundation principles to support a concept or idea.

- **Written Articulation**: To demonstrate in writing the ability to use art and design related vocabulary that is both relevant and appropriate in discussing visual artwork.

### Portfolio Entry Requirements

Students’ portfolios will consist of the following items:

- **Cover sheets**: Consists of a two page form to be filled out by the student. Extra copies of this form are available via email correspondence with the faculty member coordinating the review. Not providing clear and accurate information on the forms may disqualify the portfolio. *You must keep each cover sheet on a separate page (no double sided printing).*

- **Four examples of work**: Students must utilize at least three different media based on student choice.

1. **One Observational Drawing from Life**: Common choices to draw from life include still life, portrait, interior space or landscape. Common drawing materials include but are not entirely limited to charcoal, graphite, pen and ink, pastels, conte crayons or various pencils. Faculty may automatically disqualify a portfolio with a drawing copied from 2-D sources (ie: from a photograph or image from a magazine). The minimum size for the drawing is 18” x 24”. The drawing must be achromatic (no color). The drawing should demonstrate a full range of value, clearly represent the illusion of volumetric forms, and show depth in space with a noticeable concern for composition.

2. **One 2-D or 3-D Conceptual Piece**: This entry should specifically be about a concept or idea that the faculty chooses for the semester to communicate through their work. The elements and principles of design should be used to support the concept or idea, and the student will discuss this interaction in the written statement. The concept for this semester is: **CONSUMPTION**. Explore what the concept of **CONSUMPTION** means to you in this piece personally or in society and culture at large. You are encouraged to be creative in your interpretation and execution of this piece. This theme is discussed by several artists in Season 1, Episode 4 (2001) of the PBS television series, Art:21, available from the campus library.

3. **One 2-D or 3-D Color Piece**: Students will create a piece that explores what one can formally and conceptually accomplish through the dynamic use of color. Common uses of color include pushing and pulling space, symbolizing ideas, creating atmosphere, mood or emotion, exploring formal color relationships (triad, analogous, etc.) or as a formal element (creating balance, emphasis, direction, space, etc.). Color relationships and interaction should be the primary investigation in the piece rather than as a decorative element.

4. **One 3-D Piece**: Students will construct a piece that engages the elements and principles of design in three-dimensional space. Students should not merely decorate an already existing 3D object or format such as a cd cover / book cover or something similar. Rather, the primary investigation should be a unique exploration of spatial concerns in a single object or through the interaction of multiple installed components. The piece should be formulated such that one can walk around it and view it from multiple perspectives. Successful pieces should demonstrate refined craftsmanship, structural integrity, thoughtful presentation and appropriate choices of 3D materials that support a clear concept and aesthetic.
One hard copy of a written statement about the Conceptual Piece: Organize your paper into the following format:

1st Paragraph: Describe what you made and how you made it in terms of the processes, techniques, and materials used.

2nd Paragraph: Analyze how the piece works in terms of the elements and principles of design. Use appropriate vocabulary and terminology familiar from Foundations Core class experiences.

3rd Paragraph: Discuss your intention. Why do you think the piece successfully communicates the concept or idea chosen by the faculty for the semester?

The writing should not be a general artistic or personal statement. Having few, if any, spelling and grammatical errors is necessary for a passing score on the written portion of the portfolio. Font size and spacing are up to the student, but statements should be on only one page and identified at the top by the number assigned to the student’s portfolio.

Portfolio Submission Guidelines:

- **Work previously created and graded in Foundation Core classes will not be considered by the faculty.** Students that submit work from those classes will automatically fail the review. Likewise, pieces that are deemed by the faculty as being too similar in design and concept to works already submitted for critique in previous classes will be disqualified. Students should budget an appropriate amount of time and effort outside of class to create pieces that demonstrate the skills and concepts that fulfill the evaluation criteria.

- **Students should submit work in a manner that is considerate of a high level of professional presentation and craftsmanship.** Although actual portfolios or boxes for carrying the pieces are optional, all work should be submitted in appropriate fashion to allow for safe transportation of pieces so that they do not break or fall apart. 2-D work should not be framed or matted for submission to the portfolio review and any frames or mats should be removed from artwork before entry.

- **Students will be responsible for hanging / installing and removing their own work.** The faculty and post back students will designate space in the hallways of the Visual Arts building for each student’s portfolio. Only the most basic of hanging materials will be available (tacks and pedestals), so students must bring everything they need for any special installation needs.

- **Students may use the Foundations rooms, including the Drawing studios, to make work, but should be considerate of space, material usage and other students enrolled in concurrent courses.** There may be a shelf designated specifically for portfolio review students in the Foundations rooms, and one should not store projects or materials anywhere else in those rooms. Students must clean up all messes immediately over the course of making work. Students must get permission from Diana Baumbach, dbaumbac@uwyo.edu, to use any communal materials located in Foundations. Students that wish to use other facilities (ie. Woodshop, ceramics, etc.) must get permission from that area’s head faculty member.

- **Students should not sign names on the front or back of the work or put names on the written statement.** By the time a student sets up the portfolio for evaluation, he or she will be assigned a number to attach to each piece so the process will remain anonymous. If names are present, students must cover them with tape or erase them for the review.
Students should clearly indicate which piece fulfills entry requirements in the designated fields on the cover sheet, and students are responsible for any special presentation requirements necessary for installation of their own work.

- **Students must submit actual work, not reproductions.** Exception to this rule concerns submitted works that are ephemeral or time-based media (submitted on both Mac and PC compatible format on CD) or very large scale sculpture, in which case students may submit an image of that piece with a brief written explanation describing the submission. If students choose to submit a time-based piece or a reproduction (photograph / jpeg) of a large or cumbersome sculptural piece, he or she must still submit a smaller 3-D piece as part of the review.

- **Failure to follow instructions in any one area, including a poor written statement, inaccurate information on the cover sheets, and poor craft condition of any piece, may disqualify a student's portfolio from the review.** Students should ask specific questions if in doubt on any portion of the requirements.

**Disability Statement**

If you have a physical, learning, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. You must register with, and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Support Services in SEO, Room 330, Knight Hall: 766 – 6189, TTY: 766 - 3073

**Academic Honesty:**

The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated. Teachers and students should report suspected violations of standards of academic honesty to the instructor, department head, or dean.

**Students and Teachers Working Together:**

http://uwadminuwyo.edu/a&s/Current/students_teachers_work.htm

**Course Schedule**

**March/April, 2015:** Advising Week

- Students should meet with faculty advisors to discuss enrolling in ART 2000: Portfolio Review keeping in mind prerequisites for the course.

**Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 7:00 pm, VA 111:** Informational Meeting

- Registered students will be emailed about an informational meeting that will be held by a faculty member to introduce the course, provide the syllabus and answer any student questions. This meeting is after students have registered for the course but before the semester in order to better prepare students for the format of the Portfolio Review. **The meeting is NOT mandatory but highly encouraged,** especially for students who would like to work on the Portfolio during the break.

**Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 2:00 pm, VA 111:** Informational Meeting
• This meeting will be held to introduce the course, provide the syllabus and answer any questions students may have. If students attended the previous informational meeting, they do not need to attend this one – otherwise, it should be considered mandatory.

**Tuesday, September 1, 2015, 7:00 pm, VA 111:** Informational Meeting

• This meeting will be held to introduce the course, provide the syllabus and answer any questions students may have. If students attended the previous informational meeting, they do not need to attend this one – otherwise, it should be considered mandatory.

**Sunday, October 18, 2015, 2:00 pm:**
PORTFOLIO AND WRITTEN STATEMENT DUE TO FOUNDATION ROOMS, VA 246, 248

• Students will submit their completed work as a group at 2:00 pm including the cover sheets, written statement and four pieces to the Foundations Rooms in the Visual Arts building. Students will be responsible for setting up their portfolios for viewing for the week in the designated areas in the building. Post Baccalaureate students will be present to provide a minimal level of assistance. If students cannot make this time, they must contact Shelby Shadwell to make arrangements prior to the date.

**Friday, October 23, 2015, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm:** Portfolios Returned

• Students must de-install and pick up their portfolios. Students are responsible for using provided paint, sand paper and spackle to repair any damages on the walls. If a student fails to make alternative arrangements due to scheduling conflicts, their portfolios and any work will be discarded.

**Monday, October 26, 2015:** Notification Week

• Students and their advisors will be notified of the results of the review. Students can pick up their notification letters from the VA Main Office. Students may approach their faculty advisors to answer any questions they may have, NOT the faculty member conducting the review (Professor Shadwell).

**NEW / IMPORTANT:** Moving forward, the faculty will select the strongest pieces from all of the portfolios in the review for public display in the Visual Arts Building crediting the students who made the work. Students will be notified when they pick up their portfolios and may either accept or decline the honor at that time.

The Syllabus and Course Schedule are subject to change at the faculty's discretion. If necessary, these changes will be announced in class and/or via email.