ARTT341 Elements of Printmaking: Woodcut and Relief
Spring 2009, Sec. 0101 Tu/Th 3-5:30pm  Room 1317

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to familiarize students with the basic principles and concepts of woodcut and relief printmaking processes. Students will be introduced to linoleum, wood and alternative substrates progressing to more advanced additive, reductive, multiple plate, and color methods of printing. Students will learn to edition prints as well as explore experimentation. Critical evaluation and aesthetic understanding of artwork produced will play as equally a role as printing ability.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
• To develop an awareness of and a sensitivity of relief printing techniques, concepts, critique, and consistent editioning
• Improve problem-solving capabilities and aesthetic awareness
• Provide the opportunity for experimentation with materials and equipment, as well as mixing media
• Understanding and verbalizing print technique and aesthetic.
• Exposed to the work of other artists through lectures and trips to exhibitions and/or print portfolios

REQUIREMENTS
• Quality of projects and craftsmanship is crucial
• Come to class prepared, bring all materials to class that are needed
• Spend six or more hours outside of class a week on projects as needed
• Actively participate in class critique and discussion
• Complete projects on time and have them ready to display at critiques
• The student will keep a notebook/sketchbook. This will include all information on lecture/demonstration notes, research, and ideas for projects

PARTICIPATION
This is a lab course that is dependent on active student involvement. To be involved you must be present for demonstrations, critiques, visiting artists, and daily class work. It will be the responsibility of the student to obtain class assignments if absent. If a student is sick or cannot make it to class due to religious holiday or inclement weather, he or she is expected to notify instructor in advance by note, or email. Please schedule your semester accordingly. Critiques and demos will begin promptly at the beginning of class. Students are expected to remain for the entire class period.

Students must come to class prepared. If a student needs to leave class to get materials it will count as a late arrival. Failure to return in a timely fashion will effect your participation evaluation.
ASSIGNMENTS

During the semester you will be given projects that stress certain aspects of screen printing. A written description of the project will be provided with format, suggested media and due date given. Make sure you understand the nature of the project before you begin. Make sure you know the due date. Failure to hand a project in on the due date will lower your grade one letter grade on that project for each class period late. I will not accept projects more than one week late. All projects will be executed during class over the assigned period. If you feel you need more time, work outside of class. If you have any questions about the project, ask your instructor. Craftsmanship will be a major consideration for each project. Participation in critiques is mandatory.

Note: assignments and due dates are subject to change

GRADE EVALUATION

Grade will be determined on the evaluation of in class and out of class assignments based on the following criteria:

- Quality of work, academic skill
- Concept, creativity, composition and craftsmanship of work
- Effort and improvement
- Management of class time
- Attendance of class
- Participation

4 major assignments (25 points each)  100 points
Effort and improvement  20 points
Participation, preparation, productivity  30 points

Total points possible  150 points

Please observe the Universities rules of academic integrity and Honor Pledge. Students are encouraged to collaborate and help one another. This does not include completing others work for them, or blatant use of appropriated imagery or text.

GRADE SCALE

- A: "excellence". For extraordinary performance in all areas of the course, in-class exercises and assignments. Grade A denotes special initiative, independence, participation, competence and a high regard for craftsmanship. "A" students have a minimal amount or no absences and have presented assigned work as scheduled.
- B: "above average", better than normal folio/performance and better than normal mastery of course curriculum. B work shows strong growth, but is objectively less than exceptional
- C: "adequate" and "normal" growth and performance, adequate mastery of course curriculum
- D: marginal," below average" folio/performance, marginal mastery of course curriculum
- F: "inadequate" folio/performance, little or no mastery of course curriculum

NOTE:
All grade disputes or discussions must be done in person.
I will not accept or read any emails regarding your grade.

CRITIQUES

Each scheduled critique serves as a deadline for the finished project, unless otherwise specified. You will be required to fully participate in dialogue during critiques. Attendance to critiques is mandatory. Critiques cannot be made up, except in the case of an excused absence, your grade will be affected accordingly.

SKETCHBOOK

You are required to purchase a sketchbook to take notes on project procedures, demonstrations, and visual/written ideas for projects.
SHOP BEHAVIOR

Respect others and their belongings. If it does not belong to you, ask before using. Your personal supplies are very important. You cannot participate in class without the required materials. Clean up after yourself. The shop will be clean and organized at the beginning and end of each class. This working space and will not function without shop organization and respect.

SPECIAL NEEDS STATEMENT

In order to include everyone in the joys of creating prints, please inform me of any accommodations in instruction, assignments, physical disabilities or other limitations. I will maintain the confidentiality of this information.

END OF SEMESTER CLEAN UP

At the end of the semester everyone will participate in a mandatory general shop cleaning. All artwork and personal items must be removed at this time unless otherwise arranged with the instructor or it will be discarded/recycled.

IMPORTANT

The shop space, equipment, and supplies are to be used for this class and its assignments only. THERE IS TO BE NO OUTSIDE PRODUCTION PRINTING. THIS MEANS NO OUTSIDE POSTER PRINTING. This is not a production space for advertisement or private profit. If you wish to create ARTWORK outside of the assignments, I must approve it. This will require all of your own supplies. Any questions, ask me. You must wear closed-toe shoes in the print shop.
NO cell phones, texting, instant messaging, or unauthorized computer usage during class. Turn them off before you enter the classroom.

UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.shc.umd.edu.

UNIVERSITY COURSE EVALUATIONS

As a member of our academic community, you as a student have a number of important responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is to submit your course evaluations each term though CourseEvalUM in order to help faculty and administrators improve teaching and learning at Maryland. Please make a note now of the dates for Spring 2009 (Tuesday, April 28 through Wednesday, May 13)* and the link at which you can access the submission system (www.courseevalum.umd.edu). If you submitted all of your evaluations in the fall or are a new student, you can also access all posted results from Fall 2007 forward via Testudo under CourseEvalUM Reporting. To retain this access, you must submit all of your evaluations each semester. If you do not have access right now, you can gain it by submitting all of your Spring 2009 evaluations. More information is at: https://www.irpa.umd.edu/Assessment/CourseEval/stdt_faq.shtml.
SUPPLY LIST

- Sketchbook or notebook
- Lock for locker
- A portfolio for print storage
- Folder for keeping handouts
- Apron
- Chemical resistant gloves reusable gloves for solvents
- Printing papers (will be discussed in class)
- Wood carving tool leather honing block and compound
- Wood (will be discussed in class)
- Ruler
- X-acto or utility knife and single edge razor blades
- Drawing Pencil set
- Eraser
- Black Sharpie marker (thick and thin)
- Scissors
- Aluminum foil
- A small toolbox to hold all of this stuff in

*** More supplies will be needed later in the semester***

- Power Grip-purchased from the department $37.00

- Slipstrop sharpening block purchase from the department $14.00

- Speedball lino block 9x12 (2)
Wood Selection for the Relief Printmaking:

There are a variety of types of wood which can be used for relief printing; each with its own unique character, texture and printing qualities. Generally the harder the wood is the greater detail the relief block will retain and hold up to excessive printing; the negative side to this is that the harder the wood the harder it is to cut. The softer the wood is the less detail the relief block will retain and is more likely to break down quicker with excessive printing. The positive attribute to this is that the softer the wood is the easier it is to cut. With its nature being that it splinters easily, edges tend to round off and print softer it is ideal for more aggressive and expressive mark making.

Fruit Woods

**Cherry** - A hard wood with an even grain, ideal for fine detail. A negative aspect is that it is very expensive and hard to find.

**Pear** - A hard wood with an even grain, ideal for fine detail. A negative aspect is that it is very expensive and hard to find.

**Apple** - A hard wood with an even grain, ideal for fine detail. A negative aspect is that it is very expensive and hard to find.

Hard Woods

**Maple** - A hard wood with an even grain. It is difficult to cut and will require keeping your carving tool sharp during cutting.

**Birch** - A hard wood with an even grain. It is difficult to cut and will require keeping your carving tool sharp during cutting.

**Beech** - A hard wood with an even grain.

**Walnut** - A hard and dense wood with an even grain. It is difficult to cut and will require keeping your carving tool sharp during cutting. A negative aspect is that it is very expensive.

**Mahogany** - An expensive hard wood with a porous grain texture; it is brittle and splinters easily during cutting.

Soft Woods

**Pine** - A soft wood with a definite grain, it is brittle, easily dented, splinters, has knots, and varies greatly in quality. It is easy to cut, but require very sharp tools to cut cross grain.

**Poplar** - A soft wood with smooth grain, cut easily and retains delicate detail better than pine.

**Basswood** - A soft wood with smooth grain, cut easily and retains delicate detail better than pine.

**Cedar** - A soft / brittle wood with a definite grain. It is easy to cut, but require very sharp tools.

**Spruce** - A soft wood with a definite grain, it is brittle, has knots, tends to retain poor detail. It is easy to cut, but require very sharp tools.

**Hemlock** - A soft wood with a definite grain, it is brittle, has knots, tends to retain poor detail. It is easy to cut, but require very sharp tools.

**Redwood** - A soft wood with a definite grain. It is easy to cut, but require very sharp tools.

Plywood

Plywood is ideal for large relief prints. It is good for large solid or textured areas, it has an irregular grain pattern and retains poor detail. Some plywood are laminated with either basswood or birch which have a smooth grain, cut easily and retains delicate detail. Others are laminated with fir which has a definite grain pattern and splinters easily and retains poor details.

**MDF (medium density fiberboard)**

Medium density fiberboard, or MDF, is a composite wood product similar to particleboard. It's made out of wood waste fibers glued together with resin, heat, and pressure. MDF is appropriate for many applications, from cabinetry to moulding, because it is smooth, uniform, and won't warp.

MDF has many advantages over plank wood, particleboard, or high density fiberboard. It's very smooth because the wood fibers used in its manufacture are uniform and fine. This makes it have low "tear out," which means that when sawed, the end has a smooth cut instead of a jagged edge. This also means that a coat of primer and a couple of coats of paint take well, leaving an attractive, finished surface unlike other composite wood products. MDF also has a mild reaction to moisture, meaning it won't warp or swell in high-humidity applications like a bathroom cabinet.