

Bridget Elmer
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Media Workshop: Book Structures
ART 4923C 03 08810
TR 3:35-6:05pm
Spring 2010

OBJECTIVES

In this course you will be introduced to a fundamental set of materials, processes and concepts involved in making books by hand. Through the course of the semester, we will simultaneously strengthen both our craft and our concept, as we learn new structures and contemplate their potential applications.

METHODOLOGY

Via in-class demonstrations and slide presentations, we will familiarize ourselves with the history and processes behind a variety of book structures, considering their rich past and contemporary relevance. As we begin to make books, we will become self-publishers, craftspeople, conservators, and sculptors – all in pursuit of understanding the book's creative potential as both an information technology and an art form.

Students will be introduced to **seven different book structures** over the course of the semester, each of which will explore specified themes, materials and techniques:

One-Page Book	The Democratic Multiple
Pamphlet Stitch	Self-Publication
Link Stitch	Altered Books + Narrative
Ethiopian-Style Sewn Board Binding	Sketchbooks + Journals
Long Stitch	Conservation
Accordion + Concertina	Sculptural Books
Case Binding	The Codex As We Know It

In addition, each student will complete **two projects**, both of which we will develop over the course of the semester. The first will be due at mid-term, and the second will be due at the semester's end.

Mid-Term Project: One-Page Book Exchange, The Democratic Multiple

The mid-term project will be a book exchange and will consist of a one-page book, the theme for which we will collaboratively determine. Each student will make an edition of 14 copies of the book, which will then be exchanged amongst classmates. As we have a class of 12, the extra copies of each student's work will be submitted for grading and archived as a part of FSU's artist's book collection at the Strozier Special Collections Library.

Final Project: The Artist's Book, Reading as Generative Interaction

The final project will provide each student with the opportunity to choose a book structure and create an artist's book, integrating the skills acquired throughout the semester in support of a clear concept. Depending on each student's chosen structure and concept, we will individually determine an appropriate edition size. Much of the second half of the semester will be committed to developing this final project. Students should have ideas prepared to discuss for the final project by no later than mid-term.

EXPECTATIONS

In-class demonstrations and slide presentations will be followed by in-class work sessions. **Students should always be prepared to work during class.** In addition, students are

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expected to commit time outside of class in order to accomplish project goals. Students will be required to make more than one copy of each structure, as repetition is essential to the development of skill. Students should expect to spend **6 hours each week** working on projects outside of class.

Students are expected to treat the tools and facilities properly. Damaged, destroyed and/or unreturned university property will have to be replaced at the expense of the responsible student(s). **Students are expected to immediately alert the professor as to any problems with tools and/or facilities.**

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Always be prepared for each class session with your materials and attention. Your overall grade will **drop one letter** for every **3 classes** that you miss. If you are **more than 10 minutes late** to class, it will be counted as an **absence**.

Demonstrations will not be repeated and are essential to the success of your work and your safety. **Critiques are essential** to your development as an artist, similarly attendance at all critiques with finished projects is expected and required. A **missed critique or incomplete project** will result in a **zero** for the assignment. In addition, assignment grades drop one letter for each class day past the due date.

EVALUATION

Overall criteria for evaluation include: understanding and communication of concept, craftsmanship, effort and participation. Below is a general outline for grading.

- A** Exceptional understanding and communication of concept + superior craftsmanship + extraordinary effort and participation
- B** Good understanding and communication of concept + good craftsmanship + strong effort and participation
- C** Understanding and communication of concept lacking + average craftsmanship + minimum effort and participation
- D** Very undeveloped concept + unresolved issues of craftsmanship + lack of effort and participation
- F** Missing, incomplete or unrelated work + little or no effort + lack of participation

Your final grade for the course will be determined as follows.

Assignments + Homework	40%
Mid-Term Project	20%
Final Project	20%
Attendance + Participation	10%
Effort + Attitude	10%

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

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AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
- (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:
Student Disability Resource Center

874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

SUPPLIES

The following supplies should be purchased and available for use no later than Monday on the second week of classes. All listed items can be purchased locally, at either Utrecht or Michael's.

bone folder	glue brushes (non-synthetic bristles are best)
paper knife (clay fettling or dull table knife)	two small glue containers (must seal)
self-healing mat	white eraser
exacto or olfa knife & blades	bristol board
12" metal ruler (must measure to edge)	book cloth (opportunity for group order)
small steel triangle and l-square	book board (available for purchase)
scissors (must cut to tip)	paper (text weight, cover stock, decorated)
four tapestry needles (size 22 is best)	

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

Booklyn, Inc. <i>The Booklyn Education Manual</i> . (www.booklyn.org/education/000240.php)	Lark Books. <i>Penland Book of Handmade Books</i> .
Diehl, Edith. <i>Bookbinding</i> .	Smith, Keith. <i>Non-Adhesive Binding Volume I</i> .
Drucker, Johanna. <i>The Century of Artists' Books</i> .	Smith, Keith. <i>Structure of the Visual Book</i> . (www.keithsmithbooks.com)
Lark Books. <i>500 Handmade Books</i> .	Zeier, Franz. <i>Books, Boxes and Portfolios</i> .

Periodicals

<i>The Blue Notebook</i>	<i>Guild of Bookworkers Newsletter</i>
<i>The Bonefolder</i>	<i>JAB: Journal of Artists Books</i>

Websites

Artists' Books Online	www.artistsbooksonline.org
The Book_Arts Web	www.philobiblon.com
Booklyn, Inc.	www.booklyn.org
College Book Arts Association (CBBA)	www.collegebookart.org
Vamp & Tramp Booksellers	www.vampandtramp.com

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SCHEDULE

R	01/07	Discussion: Homework:	Introductions + Syllabus Book_Arts_L Definition of the Artist's Book (http://www.philobiblon.com/whatisabook.shtml)
T	01/12	Discussion: Demo: Homework:	Book_Arts_L + Mid-Term Project One-Page Book Read Johanna Drucker Chapter I + Conclusion
R	01/14	Discussion: Demo: Homework:	Johanna Drucker Chapter I + Conclusion Pamphlet Stitch Read Tasillo, "Context Is King"
T	01/19	DUE: Discussion: Demo: Homework:	2 One-Page Books Tasillo, "Context Is King" Double Pamphlet Stitch Choose 1 Book to Alter
R	01/21	Demo: Homework:	Book Break-Down + Link Stitch Read Betty Bright Introduction
T	01/26	Field Trip: Homework:	Strozier Library Special Collections Choose 2 books + write a paragraph for each book
R	01/28	DUE: Discussion: Demo: Homework:	Special Collections Write-Ups Betty Bright Introduction + Critiquing Artists' Books Letterpress Printing with Handset Type Mid-Term Project Ideas
T	02/02	DUE: DUE: Demo: Homework:	2 Single + 2 Double Pamphlets Mid-Term Project Ideas Ethiopian-Style (boards + punching) Prep Boards, Prep Sections
R	02/04	Demo:	Ethiopian-Style (covering)
T	02/09	DUE: Demo:	1 Blank + 1 Altered Link Stitch Ethiopian-Style (sewing)
R	02/11	Work Session:	Ethiopian-Style
T	02/16	Demo: Homework:	Long-Stitch Mid-Term Project
R	02/18	Discussion: Demo:	Mid-Term Project Progress Accordion #1 (adhesive + tipped)
T	02/23	DUE: Demo:	2 Ethiopian-Style Sewn Board Bindings Accordion #2 (non-adhesive + pairs)
R	02/25	Work Session:	Long Stitch + Accordion #1 + #2
T	03/02	DUE: Work Session:	2 Long Stitch Books Accordions #1 + #2 + Mid-Term Project
R	03/04	Critique: Demo:	Mid-Term Project DUE Edition of 15 One-Page Book Box Making

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T	03/09	NO CLASS: Spring Break
R	03/11	NO CLASS: Spring Break Homework: Read Shaw, "Blurring the Library"
T	03/16	DUE: 2 Accordions Discussion: Final Project + Shaw, "Blurring the Library" Demo: Case Binding (materials + section prep) Homework: Visit Artists' Books Online + Jaffe + Wisconsin + Otis
R	03/18	Discussion: Artists' Books Online vs. Jaffe vs. Wisconsin vs. Otis Demo: Case Binding (sew + consolidate) Homework: Looking Research + Final Project Ideas
T	03/23	DUE: Looking Research + Final Project Ideas Demo: Case Binding (lining + endbands)
R	03/26	Demo: Case Binding (flange + final lining + case prep)
T	03/30	Demo: Case Binding (covering case)
R	04/01	Demo: Case Binding (casing in)
T	04/06	Work Session: Case Binding + Final Project
R	04/08	Work Session: Case Binding + Final Project
T	04/13	Work Session: Case Binding + Final Project
R	04/15	DUE: I Case Binding
T	04/20	Critique: Final Project DUE Artist's Book
R	04/22	Clean Up: ATTENDANCE MANDATORY

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