SPRING 2009 SYLLABUS
Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts
Collaboration Among the Arts
Large Group: Fine Arts 106, Small Groups: TBD
T/TH – 10:00-11:30am

Nick Flynn  Creative Writing  RGC-233A  nflynn@uh.edu  (713) 743-2956
J. Hill  Sculpture  TBD  jhill78899@aol.com  (713) 225-1416
Kevin Rigdon  Theatre  WT-133D  krigdon@uh.edu  (713) 743-2816
Rob Smith  Music  MSM-327  robsmith@uh.edu  (713) 743-3163
Nancy Zastudil  Mitchell Center  CWM-209  nlzastudil@uh.edu  (713) 743-5749

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Collaboration Among the Arts focuses on the process of creating art collaboratively, by challenging and exploring disciplinary boundaries. The course brings together students and faculty from the visual, performing, and literary arts for creative experimentation and project development. This team-taught class is led by four faculty members from Art, Creative Writing, Music, and Theatre.

Participating students are divided into small groups to create projects over the course of the semester. Project development will include an in-depth exploration of the range of disciplines practiced by visual artists, performers, and writers, followed by an exchange of artistic tools, skills, techniques, and languages. Students are expected to individually contribute to their group project by working within their disciplinary strengths towards the creation of a truly unified project. The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts provides funding for each group’s project, along with other resources such as rehearsal space, promotional support, and budgeting assistance. Please do not purchase anything until your budget has been approved, or you will not be reimbursed for these expenses.

Collaboration Among the Arts will meet both as a whole and in its smaller groups. Whole class meetings will provide an orientation for the collaborative process, will serve as a forum to discuss the progress of the group projects, and may include visits by Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center artists-in-residence. Small group meetings will be dedicated towards the development of the final project. The course culminates in final public presentations of group projects at the Lawndale Art Center: www.lawndaleartcenter.org

Success in this course can be summed up in four key items:

• Attend class regularly
• Actively participate
• Take risks
• Respect deadlines

GRADING

Weekly Log/Assignments – 30%
Students are required to complete, within 24 hours of the end of each class session, an on-line log that lists:
• Group mission statement, describing your personal role (maximum 100 words). This may be omitted if the mission statement remains the same, but any changes should be noted.
• Personal assignment (homework) for each small group meeting
• Assessment of previous assignment (Was the assignment completed? Was it successful? What was learned? Etc…)

Class Participation – 30%
Students are required to attend:
• All large and small class meetings
• All final group presentations
• Final critique session (final exam)

Attendance for large group meetings, final presentations and the final critique session will be taken by a sign-in sheet – it is your responsibility to sign-in so your attendance will be recorded. Attendance for small group meetings will be determined by the completion of your blog entry.
Active participation by all members of the class is absolutely essential due to the nature of the subject matter of this class. Therefore, you may only miss a maximum of two of the required meetings/events listed above. Each additional absence will result in the final grade being lowered by 1/3 – for example, if a student misses a third class a grade of an “A” would be lowered to “A-“, a fourth missed class would be a “B+”, etc… Tardiness is frowned upon – excessive tardiness will also result in a lowered final grade.

**Final Performance – 40%**
In determining the final grade for the performance, the teachers will consider the following factors:
- 10% – Project Originality
- 10% – Project Execution
- 10% – Contributions as a group member
- 10% – Group citizenship (how well a student interacts with others in the group)

Failure to attend the final performance will result in a failing grade for the course.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will:
- gain a broader knowledge of other art disciplines through the creation of a project with other students.
- learn techniques of collaboration through the creation of an original project.
- develop skills in communication and critique through large and small class meetings.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

**WEEK 1**
1/20  Class Overview/Description, Short Exercises, & Questionnaire  
1/22  Student Presentations (5 min. maximum)  

**WEEK 2**
1/27  Project groups assigned; Budget, work and presentation space introduction  
1/29  Small groups: Project Development  

**WEEK 3**
2/3   Small groups: Project Development  
2/5   Small groups: Project Development  

**WEEK 4**
2/10  Small groups: Project Development  
2/12  Small groups: Project Development  

**WEEK 5**
2/17  **Large group: Projects Presented** (Each group: 10 min. presentations, 10 min. comments)  
2/19  Small groups: Project Development  
    - 10:00am, Group A Budget Meeting, CWM-209  
    - 10:45am, Group B Budget Meeting, CWM-209  

**WEEK 6**
2/24  Small groups: Project Development  
    - 10:00am, Group C Budget Meeting, CWM-209  
    - 10:45am, Group D Budget Meeting, CWM-209  
2/26  Small groups: Project Development  

**WEEK 7**
3/3   Small groups: Project Development  
3/5   Small groups: Project Development
WEEK 8

3/10  Large group: Projects Presented – performance based projects should perform some of their project; exhibit based projects should display some of their project
  ▪ 10:00am, Group A
  ▪ 10:45am, Group B

3/12  Large group: Projects Presented – performance based projects should perform some of their project; exhibit based projects should display some of their project
  ▪ 10:00am, Group C
  ▪ 10:45am, Group D

*** SPRING BREAK ***

WEEK 9

3/24  Small groups: Project Development
3/26  Small groups: Project Development

WEEK 10

3/31  Small groups: Project Development
4/2   Small groups: Project Development

WEEK 11

4/7   Project Development
4/9   Project Development

WEEK 12

4/14  Project Development
4/16  Project Development

WEEK 13

4/21  Project Development
4/23  Project Development

WEEK 14

4/28  Project Development
4/30  Project Development

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS
TBD     Group A & B
TBD     Group C & D

TUESDAY MAY 12, 11am-2pm: FINAL EXAM (discussion/critique session)
SPRING 2009 QUESTIONNAIRE
Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts
Collaboration Among the Arts

Name:__________________________________________

E-mail:________________________________________

Phone (best):__________________________________

Level (Circle One): Undergraduate  Graduate

Major/Discipline:_______________________________

Describe your major work:

Describe any interests you may have in regard to creating a project for this course: