

Summer 2021 — ART 280a3

Book Arts: History, Meaning, and Form

M T W R 1-3.30, June 14th — July 8th

Instructors: Johnny Plastini and Anna Bernhard

Contact: Johnny.Plastini@Colostate.Edu Anna.Bernhard@Colostate.Edu

Office Hours: Johnny (Visual Arts, D101E) and Anna (Visual Arts, F111) are encouraged and by appointment

Location: Wold Resource Center, Visual Arts, F109 CABIN [Center for Artist Books and Inclusive Narratives], Chemistry Building, B316 (see course calendar for details)

Course Description: Focuses on book arts and their histories from a diverse perspective. Explores and applies conceptual, theoretical, and historical frameworks of the book as an expressive art form. There are six required assignments: Four tangible art projects: paper/ink making, eastern and western binding samples, relief printing, and contemporary book arts making. Historical and theoretically relevant topics will be reinforced through reading, writing, and discussion modules and two written responses (at least one page each) will be expected. Instructional conversation that is collaborative, inclusive, and supportive, will create a sense of community in a class that may already have familiarity with the book as a form but will now explore their sense of the book as a concept and a vital creative opportunity for artistic expression.

Course Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion, students will be able to:

- 1) Interpret various book arts processes to produce tangible art.
- 2) Explore historical frameworks and techniques related to book arts from a diverse and inclusive research model.
- 3) Identify and describe aesthetic and conceptual concerns related to book arts, their histories, and contemporary book-making practices.
- 4) Apply critical assessment of book art works through participation in interactive discussions of class projects and assignments.
- 5) Explain culturally relevant approaches to artistic books as visual communication tools and as mechanisms to express personal narratives.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of every class session. As we are working through two millennium of paper and book history and learning new artistic mediums in four weeks, attendance is paramount. Students are expected to attend every class and unless an absence has been approved and documented through email, then it will negatively affect the final grade for this course. If you miss three classes unexcused it will be impossible to achieve a grade higher than a 'C'.

Grading:

Attendance, participation, and graded components will constitute the final grade.

Course Grading Policy

This course will use the Colorado State University standard grading system.

Letter Descriptor GPA Percentage

A Excellent 4.0 96-100

A - Very Good 3.6 90-95

B + 3.3 87-89

B Good 3.0 83-86

B - 2.6 80-82

C + 2.3 77-79

C Satisfactory 2.0 70-76

D 1.0 60-69

F Failure 0.0 <59

Creative Tangible Projects (40%) Four creative projects [10% each] will be assigned, one for each module. Each project will be critically assessed for aesthetic quality, historical connections, and technical execution.

Writing Projects (40%) Two written assignments [20% each] will be assigned. They will connect directly to historical and contemporary information presented during lectures to conceptually support tangible creative projects.

Digital Notebook (10%) A customized journal of diverse digital images will be curated throughout the semester that serves as a repository for exploration of aesthetic exercises and historical concerns. Each student must curate their images in consultation with their instructors.

Discussion Participation (10%) Group discussions will serve as a primary learning experience. Active participation in such will be an expectation for all students with an emphasis on inclusive and diverse dialog.

Studio Cleanliness, Safety & Shared Materials:

The printmaking and book arts labs can be very dangerous to an untrained artist. Serious injury can occur due to negligence. Although this is a very rare occurrence, stubbed toes and cut fingers on the other hand, happen very often. You MUST wear closed toed footwear at all times while working in the studio labs, preferably a boot or shoe with strong support. If you come to class in sandals or flip-flops, then you will be marked absent. An essential aspect of our curriculum is the community-minded atmosphere cultivated by the group of artists working together. You are responsible for cleaning up after yourself after every lab session, making sure that your work space is more immaculate than how you found it. Every student must 'check out' prior to leaving class and prove that their work station is clean or will be marked absent for the entire day.

**Department of Art and Art History - Colorado State University
Universal Syllabus Page – Summer 2021**

Important information for students on COVID-19:

All students are required to follow public health guidelines in any university space, and are encouraged to continue these practices when off-campus(es). Students also are required to report any COVID-19 symptoms to the university immediately, as well as if they have potentially been exposed or have tested positive at a non-CSU testing location. If you suspect you have symptoms, please fill out the COVID Reporter (<https://covid.colostate.edu/reporter/>). If you have COVID symptoms or know or believe you have been exposed, it is important for the health of yourself and others that you complete the online COVID Reporter. Do not ask your instructor to report for you; if you report to your instructor that you will not attend class due to symptoms or a potential exposure, you are required to also submit those concerns through the COVID Reporter. If you do not have access to the internet to fill out the online COVID-19 Reporter, please call (970)491-4600.

If you report symptoms or a positive test, your report is submitted to CSU's Public Health Office. You will receive immediate, initial instructions on what to do and then you will also be contacted by phone by a public health official. Based on your specific circumstances, the public health official may:

- choose to recommend that you be tested and help arrange for a test
- conduct contact tracing
- initiate any necessary public health requirements or recommendations and notify you if you need to take any steps

If you report a potential exposure, the public health official will help you determine if you are at risk of contracting COVID.

COVID 19:

For the latest information about the University's response, please visit the CSU COVID-19 site: <https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/>

“Netiquette”

The Department expects that all members of the community – including students – communicate in a professional manner, whether through email, Canvas discussions, in-person exchanges, or other interactions. Please read and abide by the [Core Rules of Netiquette](https://coursedesign.colostate.edu/obj/corerulesnet.html) (<https://coursedesign.colostate.edu/obj/corerulesnet.html>). A helpful resource for writing professional emails can be found [here](https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-write-a-professional-email) (<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-write-a-professional-email>).

Art & Art History Main Office

Hours: Monday & Tuesday: 10am – 1pm
Wednesday & Thursday: 12pm – 3pm
Friday: CLOSED
Phone: 970-491-6774

Academic Success Coordinators:

Rosanna Bateman - Rosanna.Bateman@colostate.edu
Belle Pilar Fleming – BP.Fleming@colostate.edu

Director of the Woodshop and Digital Fabrication Lab

Scott Kreider - ScottA.Kreider@colostate.edu

Director of the Stanley Wold Resource Center

Anna Bernhard - Anna.Bernhard@colostate.edu

Important Phone Numbers:

Safe Walk: 970-491-1155
RamRide: 970-491-3333 (currently suspended due to COVID19)
Tell Someone: 970-491-1350, www.tellsomeone.colostate.edu

Important Date

Repeat/Delete Deadline 7/26/21

Art Librarian at Morgan Library

Rob Sica – rob.sica@colostate.edu

AAH resource page: <https://libguides.colostate.edu>

In-class/ Out-of-class work expectation

The typical expectation for a college course at CSU is that students will work at least 2-3 hours outside of class per class credit hour. A 3-credit class may require you to work 6 or more hours per week out-of-class in addition to your in-class activities. A 4-credit class may require 8 or more hours per week out-of-class in addition to your in-class activities.

Resources for disabled students

In cooperation with CSU Student Disability Center (SDC), reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with a documented permanent or temporary disability. See the SDC website, <https://disabilitycenter.colostate.edu/>, for information about documentation, accommodations, and the required timeline. Students with disabilities requiring reasonable additional accommodations must allow adequate notice for arrangements to be made. Please contact your professor as soon as possible to provide appropriate documentation from the Student Disability Center. Professors will make arrangements for reasonable accommodations **provided the situation is handled through official channels and appropriate documentation is provided in a timely manner.** The burden rests with the student to contact the Student Disability Center for recognition and verification of any disability requiring accommodations. The student must provide the professor with the appropriate official SDC documentation. The student will then work with the professor to determine what the nature of those accommodations shall be based on the unique curricular and technical requirements of the class and the needs of the student. Per the guidelines of the CSU Student Disability Center: instructors are not required to make accommodations after the fact. That is, a student is not entitled to retroactive accommodation or adjustment.

Counseling Center

The CSU Health Network offers individual and group counseling. The Counseling Center's website is: <https://health.colostate.edu/about-counseling-services/>. Students can make an appointment by calling 491-6053 or visiting the Counseling Center at 151 West Lake Street. Please note that you may have already paid for some of these services with your student fees.

Title IX reporting and student resources

CSU's Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation policy designates faculty and employees of the University as "Responsible Employees." This designation is consistent with federal law and guidance, and requires faculty to report information regarding students who may have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation. This includes information shared with faculty in person, electronic communications or in class assignments. As "Responsible Employees," faculty may refer students to campus resources (see below), together with informing the Office of Support and Safety Assessment to help ensure student safety and welfare. Information regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking and retaliation is treated with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student and campus safety.

Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources:

Emergency Response 911

Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment (970) 491-1350

Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency) (970) 491-6425

Additionally, the Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential student resource that does not have a reporting requirement and can be of great help to students who have experienced sexual assault. The web address is

<https://wgac.colostate.edu/support/>

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*Rough Calendar ** We will do our best to maintain a consistent schedule but we also want to create flexibility in our studio work so some shifting might occur. All students will be kept aware of any changes that do happen and a revised calendar will be shared via email. Thank you for the understanding that this is an experimental course and we are learning alongside you.*

Week One Theme: Surface

Monday, June 14th: Course Outline and Direction -- What is a book? (Anna and Johnny)

Location: Wold VRC (F109, Visual Arts Building) for slides; Move to outside Braiden for written reflection and sharing; CABIN (Chemistry, B316) studio and equipment tour

Home 'reading' podcast: Library Café interview with Leah Price, Director Henry Rutgers Distinguished Professor of English, Rutgers University and Founding Director of Rutgers Initiative for the Book <https://library-cafe.blogspot.com/2019/10/leah-price.html> and detailed writing assignment shared via email.

Tuesday, June 15th: Surfaces: a short history of papermaking (lead: Anna)

Location: Wold for slides then move, as a class, to CABIN for hands-on handmade paper exercise

Wednesday, June 16th: Papermaking Lab (lead: Johnny)

Location: CABIN [Be sure to wear clothing that you don't mind getting dirty!]

Thursday, June 17th: Papermaking lab continued and basic ink-making (lead Johnny); Papermaking outcomes and critique (Anna and Johnny)

Location: CABIN

Due: Multiple sheets of handmade paper shared and critiqued in class

1 page written response to Price Interview due by midnight Sunday, June 19th submit via email to Anna.Bernhard@colostate.edu

Week Two Theme: Altering the page

Monday, June 21st: History of letterform, inks, and binding (led Anna)

Location: Wold for slides then move, as a class, to CABIN for hands-on ink demo

Tuesday, June 22nd: Basic monotyping and letterpress operations lab (lead: Johnny)

Location: CABIN [Be sure to wear clothing that you don't mind getting dirty!]

Wednesday, June 23rd: The book held and treasured: CSU Archives and Special Collection visit with Mark Shelstad, Coordinator for Digital and Archives Services at Colorado State University (led Anna)

Location: Wold; Morgan Archives and Special Collection

Thursday, June 24th: Lab, Book binding [stab and pamphlet stitch] (lead: Johnny)
Location: CABIN [Be sure to wear clothing that you don't mind getting dirty!]

Week Three Theme: Book as a democratic multiple?

Monday, June 28th: Making Multiples Lab: Relief carving and image prep (lead Johnny) [Be sure to wear clothing that you don't mind getting dirty!]

Tuesday, June 29th: Expanded readership: reading culture from the 19th century to today (lead Anna)

Wednesday, June 30th: Making Multiples Lab: Relief Printing (lead Johnny) [Be sure to wear clothing that you don't mind getting dirty!]

Thursday, July 1st: The Hidden Page: Marginalized Voice in Book Arts Tradition

Second writing assignment detailed

Week Four Theme: Small presses and Book Form futurisms oh my

Monday, July 5th: UNIVERSITY CLOSED

Tuesday, July 6th: The Case for Contemporary Book Arts and Digital Futurisms (lead Anna)
Second half of class with Ann Schwalm, to discuss the book as an information workhorse
Preservation Specialist Final Zine prompt given.

Location: Wold; Preservation Services Lab, Morgan Library

Wednesday, July 7th: What independent press means to me! A visit with recent graduates (Anna, Johnny, and guests)

Location: Wolverine Farm Letterpress & Publick House 316 Willow St, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Thursday, July 8th: Zine Critique and Exchange (Anna and Johnny)

Due: Zines/ contemporary books for exchange and 1 page written response to prompt