

ART 199: DESIGNING ART FOR PUBLIC PLACES

WINTER TERM 2013

CRN: 33681

Mon/Wed, 1-3:50PM, bldg. 30, rm. 114

THE GROUNDWORK: In the lecture portion of this class we will explore the interface of art and society and the storied history of that dynamic. We will be discussing the subjective nature of aesthetics and symbolism from both an individual and cultural perspective. We will discuss the difference between the artist's intent and the public's reception and interpretation and the rifts that can open between those two areas of content. We will discuss how content drives form and the psychology of how we perceive the world and interpret it.

THE PROJECT: We do have a client and a site that we will be working with this term. The design project is real and we will work in teams and as a class to try and solve the design problem. This particular class will be "design only" but you will have the opportunity to be a part of the execution phase.

THE CLIENT: The client is the Social Science Department and they will be primarily responsible for providing the content, though we will all be responsible to do our own research and bring ideas to the table. Ultimately, the client and the school as represented by the Art On Campus committee will make the final decision on which direction to go from design concepts put forth.

THE SITE: The site is the North end of the fourth floor of the Center building (Social Science department). We will tour the site on Wednesday, Jan. 9 with Social Science professor Micah Cordova, who will also be guest lecturing in this class and helping facilitate the class in general.

THE PROCESS: We will be meeting with representatives of the Social Science Department early in the term to hear their ideas and gather as much information as possible about what aspects of Social Science are important to them. This will establish hierarchy of design content. We will also inspect the site and take photographs and measurements. We will gauge flow and establish the primary viewing locations for design consideration. We will then break into groups to begin design discussions. Each group will present their ideas to the entire class on specified days and we will decide as a class which ideas will go forward (generally, one idea per team). Meetings with the Social Science Department will be scheduled and we will get feedback on concepts presented from them. The field of ideas will be narrowed through these meetings until a final idea is arrived at.

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS: Aside from group work on design, there will be one research paper required of students that will analyze a public art work from either a socio-political aspect or a process aspect. It is written into the curriculum that students will research legal aspects of public art (whether or not permits are required, approval processes and what the legal definitions of profanity are, etc.) but this may be handled in a group way and reported on in a way as yet undetermined.

ATTENDANCE: will be taken and three absences will result in the loss of one letter grade for the term. All absences after that will result in same. Remember, that this is a team driven class and your commitment to your team and handling responsibilities determined by the team will be paramount to your grade in this class.

OTHER: Should you have any other special needs or issues that will effect your attendance or any other aspect of the class, please let me know in advance. Many things can be worked out through good communication or awareness of school programs available to students.