

Raritan Valley Community College Course Outline

Art of the Book

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: **ARTS- 254, Art of the Book**
- B. Date of Proposal: March 2007
- C. Sponsoring Department: Visual & Performing Arts
- D. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- E. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 2
 Laboratory: 2
- F. Prerequisites: ARTS-105, 2-Dimensional Design or ARTS-110, Basic Drawing I or permission of the instructor
- G. Laboratory Fees: Yes

II. Catalog Description

(Prerequisite/s:ARTS-105, 2-Dimensional Design or ARTS-110, Basic Drawing I or permission of the instructor)

This course will introduce students to the design and construction of traditional and non-traditional paper based book formats. Conceptual thought will be applied to the book form by studying the narrative, alternative and sculptural quality of the book as a universal medium for the visual artist. Alternative media will be encouraged. Students will be required to purchase some art materials.

III. Statement of Course Need

Art of the Book is a vital and evolving art form that all artists can utilize when working with any chosen medium, be it digital, tactile or sculptural. It has evolved along with printmaking into a full fledged art form along with painting, ceramics, sculpture and photography. Art of the Book is a place to find common ground between art and non-art majors in the graphic arts as well as the fine arts and will be of interest to students in the AFA Visual Arts, AFA Graphic Design programs and life-long learners.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A.

- Free elective
 - Advanced Studio Arts Elective in the AFA Visual Arts degree option and a Graphic Design Elective in the AFA Graphic Design degree option.
- B. This course has not yet been evaluated by the njtransfer.org website but our other printmaking courses will transfer to most four year institutions as a visual or fine arts elective or as a free elective. We expect this course to transfer in a similar manner. This course is similar in breadth and concept as book art courses offered by College of New Jersey, Montclair State University and University of the Arts.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Book Structure

1. Folding techniques: one-page folded paper books
2. Non-adhesive & adhesive structures
3. Concertina & Western Codex Bindings.
4. Japanese Bindings
5. Hand sewn bindings.
6. The Book as a Physical Object, i.e. wearable books
7. Book Boxes and portfolios.

B. Printmaking

1. Linocuts (multi-color reductive process)
2. Screenprinting (one-page folded paper books)
3. Direct Object printing.
4. Woodtype and/or rubber stamps

C. Digital Process

1. Page layout
2. Generating output to different media
3. Working with digital type

D. History of Book Arts

1. The history of the book and its connection to printmaking.
2. Transformations of traditional books into a vital art form.
3. Exploration of Typography.
4. Contemporary trends in book arts.
5. Field trips to places such as The Center for Arts in NYC to view collection.

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

General Education Goals:

After completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Produce a series of art books that reflect creative thought. (G.E. 1)
- Apply traditional and digital technologies to a variety of material in book media. (G.E. 3)

Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to:

- Build a variety of traditional and non-traditional book forms.
- Interpret book forms expressively.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history of the Art of the Book and how it is used across different mediums.
- Apply their preferred medium to the book form.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of narrative art.

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- lecture/discussion
- small-group work
- computer-assisted instruction
- laboratory
- instructor demonstrations

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

- art work
- research papers
- portfolios
- critiques

IX. Grade Determinants

- art work
- portfolios
- critiques
- papers

X. Texts and Materials

No suggested text book

Students must purchase their own:

- Basics bookbinding tools
- Basics bookbinding raw materials
- Linoleum
- 1 small stretched silkscreen

The College supplies some printmaking materials such as squeegees, linocut tools and some inks.

XI. Resources

- Printmaking Studio with screenprinting hardware & relief tools.
- Arts Graphics lab for digital image development and printouts for book structures.
- Photo copy machine