Int./Adv. Glassworking Syllabus

Art 554 Lab-001
Spring 2014: Glass Lab
M/W 1:30pm-4:00pm
608.262.2963

Instructor
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Glass Lab P.A.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will steep students in a rigorous and demanding hot shop practice, with the ultimate intention of applying this experience to our studio practice. The conceptual umbrella we will be working with in the studio and the hotshop this semester is the idea of *"Glass as Information."* We will have two main projects for the course: *data-driven work* and *memory-based work*. In addition to these two main projects, we will be spending a considerable amount of time accomplishing the following goals: expanding our research repertoire for our own studio practices, experimenting/refining our artistic process, and engaging in a dialog with current issues in contemporary glass. It is expected that students take risks and find ways of applying these skills in a critical manner to his/her studio practice. Students should be pursuing inventive interpretations of glass that speak to a broader understanding of this material in contemporary practice. This goal will be supported by the following modalities of learning:

Demonstrations in the Glass Lab facilities will be the backbone of technical instruction in this course.

Lectures will introduce technical and historical topics, in addition to situating our pursuits in the context of contemporary art.

Readings will support our efforts with reference points in critical theory and contemporary culture.

Discussions will focus on drawing connections between these historical, technical, cultural, critical, and contemporary art references.

Research will drive students individual interests in their studio practices, raise students awareness of artists working with glass and/or contemporary interpretations of glass, and grapple with mapping out the landscape and history of what we are talking about when we refer to "glass art."

REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

Lab Fee

There is a lab fee of $300 for this course. Make your payments in the art office (6241 Humanities) prior to the last drop date. Checks made out to UW Madison Art Department or money order only, no cash can be accepted. Unpaid fees result in holds.

Please note, glass is inherently a very expensive trade. I recognize this lab fee is extremely high relative to other classes, but rest assured this is a tremendous bargain compared to the actual cost of materials for this course. Your lab fee covers the cost of the hot glass you use out of the furnace *only*. The basic minimum of all other consumable materials will be supplied, but we are largely relying on external fundraising (Mad Gaffers) to support additional supplies/material needs. To put this into perspective, $300 would buy you 6 hours of hotshop time at a public access studio. You will be receiving 6 hours of hotshop time *per week* this entire semester.

Attendance
This class has an extremely strict attendance policy. *On-time* attendance is **mandatory** for all classes *and* clean-up. The university slots this class from 1:20-3:50 p.m. I am citing the hours of this class as 1:30-4:00 p.m. Consider this difference your 10 minutes of grace. This is the limit of the instructor's leniency with respect to attendance. Any individual who is not present at 1:30 p.m. sharp will be marked late. Any individual leaving before classtime and/or clean-up time is over will also be marked "late," unless it is sanctioned by Helen or Kathleen. The consequences for lates and unexcused absences are as follows:

3 lates = 1 unexcused absence = student's grade drops by a half letter.
6 lates = 2 unexcused absences = student's grade drops by a full letter.
9 lates = 3 unexcused absences = student fails the class

Absences must be cleared by the instructor *beforehand* in order to be considered excusable. Excusable absences must be accompanied by a doctor's note if it is medical in nature. Excusable absences are typically reserved for situations of a truly grave nature with some exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Clean-up
There will be a **mandatory** weekly clean-up for all individuals enrolled in this class on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. This is a part of class time and responsibility. Clean-ups should take 15 minutes if everybody has been doing their job regularly. Kathleen Kennedy will be in charge of clean-up each week. All students must check with Kathleen before leaving clean-up. Students leaving prior to Kathleen's dismissal will be marked as a partial absence (equivalent to a late). Kathleen has the single most thank-less job in the Glass Lab. Please show her respect for the work she puts into maintaining this facility. You will be graded on your effort in clean-up as part of your participation grade.

There will be an all-out end-of-semester clean-up on the last day of class, May 7th, during class time. This is mandatory for the class and is not optional.

Sketchbook
Due to the highly technical, hands-on nature of this class, you are required to keep a *dedicated* sketchbook for this course. Bring this sketchbook to class with you at all times, as well as to your personal blow slots. Students are expected to take *detailed* notes of all demos and processes in the form of sketches and note-taking. This sketchbook will be collected at the end of the semester and *will be treated as a technical grade*. While not required, you may also want to have a dedicated folder or binder for handouts from this class. Students will be held responsible for the handouts they are given. Do not ask me for another copy.

Participation
In addition to attending class, you must be awake and fully participate. **Cell phone use of any kind (including texting) disrupts participation and is not acceptable during class.** It is expected that all students will complete all assignments, readings, and projects as part of their participation. Regarding late work: work turned in one week late will be docked one letter grade and will not be accepted after that. If you are absent for any reason, it is *your* responsibility to find the instructor and schedule time to have your work reviewed to receive a grade.

Discussions and critiques: Students are expected to actively contribute to *every* discussion and critique. You will be receiving a discussion grade that reflects your ability to vocalize your thoughts and opinions.

Documentation
All projects must be properly documented and submitted to the instructor no later than one week after each project review. Guidelines and deadlines for documentation will be outlined in a separate handout.

Blow Slots

Each student will be assigned two 3-hour blow slots to practice their skills. Students are expected to show up for their slots. If a student cannot make their slot, it is their responsibility to communicate this to the glass classes in advance and to ensure the equipment is managed properly in their absence. Students should use the email glasslab@lists.wisc.edu to communicate to the entire Glass Lab, or use the contact lists and blow slot schedule to communicate to the slots before and after their scheduled slot. If the person scheduled after you does not show up for their slot, it is your responsibility to shut down the equiment, even if they fail to communicate with you.

Glassblowing will be taught here as a team effort. As such, it is expected you will work with a blow partner. This means each student will have a 6-hour commitment outside of classtime for your own blowslot and a 6-hour commitment outside of classtime for your partner's blowslot for *a total of 12 hours outside of classtime*. It is expected you will treat your assistant with respect and consideration while you are gaffing and that you will assist your partner with your full attention. It is expected you will prioritize your partners blowslots over your own if you are in a situation where you have to miss a slot on a given week. Texting your friends while your partner is working on a piece is *absolutely unacceptable* and inconsiderate, not to mention dangerous to yourself and others. Cell phone use is not permitted on the hot shop floor, whether you are gaffing or assisting.

It is expected that all individuals in the Glass Lab maintain a positive attitude while working. Learning to work with this material should first and foremost be totally amazing and tremendously fun. However, glassblowing can also be a frustrating learning experience. Students are expected to be self-aware if they need to take a breather and clear their head. Expressing frustration via throwing tools, having an outburst, or taking it out on one's blow partner is completely unacceptable.

Safety

Glasses: Safety glasses are required on the hot shop floor and on the cold shop floor, period. No glasses = no working. If you have prescription glasses, this is sufficient. If you prefer to wear sunglasses on the hot shop floor, that is permitted as well. Be advised polarized lenses are prohibitive for seeing crucial reflections while working in hot glass. A separate handout on eye wear safety will be given out for your information on long-term exposure to UV and IR rays.

Shoes: Closed toed shoes are required in the Glass Lab. If you foresee this being problematic for you, consider storing a pair of old sneakers in your locker here.

Clothing: Cotton and natural fibers only. No synthetic fabrics. (If your clothing catches flame, you want it to burn, not melt on you.) Layered clothing is suggested for beginner students. A common misconception is, "It's hot; I'll wear a tanktop." A more accurate depiction is, "It is so hot, I need a long-sleeve tshirt to protect my skin from the heat!" Bare thighs and short shorts are *not allowed* in the hotshop. If you foresee this being problematic for you, consider storing a pair of long-shorts in your locker here. Shorts need to hit your knee.

Hair: If it's long, tie it back. You don't want it catching fire or having it pull you into spinning machinery. Store hair ties in your locker if necessary.

Burn care: If you get burned in the Glass Lab, no matter how small the burn, you must STOP what you are working on and run the burn under cold, running water until the burning completely stops. This can often take at least 20 minutes if not longer. If you run your burn under cold water and return to working and it starts to feel burning hot again, this means you are not done caring for your burn. Return to the sink and continue to run your burn under cold water. Caring for burns *immediately* in this manner will greatly reduce the amount of healing required. No work is more important than caring for your body.

Hydration: Store a water bottle at the Glass Lab in your locker. Kidney stones are no fun.

Respirator: All int./adv. students should have an adequate respirator sweeping and for plaster/silica use.

Appropriate Use of the Facilities

Only students currently enrolled in a glass class are permitted to use the Glass Lab. The Neon Lab will be up and running this semester, however both the Neon Lab is off-limits to anyone not enrolled in that class and the hotshop is off-limits to anyone not enrolled in the beginner or int./adv. glass classes. Nobody should be working in the Glass Lab after midnight, and nobody should be working in the Glass Lab alone, *ever*. Each room has an intended purpose. If you are unclear about where to do a certain process, ask. No student should work with any equipment they have not been properly trained on. If you are uncertain if you know how to use a piece of equipment, that means you are not trained. Ask for help and schedule your time so you are not asking for help at the very last minute. Storage for student work and materials is limited to the work storage room **only**. Your work should not be anywhere else in the Glass Lab unless you are actively working on it. Do not use the Glass Lab as a dumping ground to store inactive projects or materials. The table in the coldshop should be cleared at the end of every class and chairs in the hotshop should be put away at the end of every class.

Please note: The range of applications of glass is too far-reaching to even attempt to identify in full, however there are certain applications of glass that are not appropriate for a university setting. Bongs, water-filtration devices, pipes, crack pipes and paraphernelia of the like are not to be made in the UW Glass Lab. No student should be in the Glass Lab under the influence of any substance, including alcohol, per University policy. If you have a blowslot and you happened to have consumed alcohol or any prohibited subtance beforehand, you need to cancel your slot. No exceptions. The structure of students having two blowslots—6 hours of personal blow-time—every week so they can learn this skill is first and foremost, a privilege. Any violations of these rules will result in immediate suspension of this privilege. Furthermore, this structure of freedom allowing students to have personal blowslots will be reconsidered. Please note that this policy is not a judgement on what you do with your skills outside of the UW-Glass Lab. A truth about the glass world is that pipemakers are probably keeping most of the lampworking toolmakers in this country in business. This policy is a matter of respect and maturity as to what is acceptable and not acceptable in a public university setting.

GRADING

Your grade will be based on the finished pieces you produce, the effort and time you dedicate to your work, class and clean-up attendance, sketchbook use, participation in critiques and discussions, and studio responsibilities, (work habits, care of facility, and helping your classmates). Your overall grade will be weighted as such:

20% Technical: Technical Assignments Average, Notebook Grade, and Documentation, all averaged
20% Participation: Discussion Grade, Clean-up Grade, and General Effort grade, all averaged
20% Research: Grades on individual research for studio practice, as well as assignment-specific research
40% Projects: Average of project grades

In grading the items above, I will use the following grading system:

A	4	3.76-4	Superior. One who answers all of the course requirements and performs at a level so far above average as to be visibly outstanding. It is assumed that he or she does more than is required.
AB	3.5	3.26-3.75	
B	3	2.76-3.25	Above Average. One who answers all of the course requirements, and performs at a level measurably above average.
BC	2.5	2.26-2.75	
C	2	1.6-2.25	Average. One who answers all of the course requirements and performs adequately. This is the standard of competence. C is a worthy and not a disgraceful grade.
D	1	0.76-1.5	Below Average. One who answers all the course requirements but performs at a level measurably below the average. D is a passing grade not a failure.
F	0	0-0.75	Failure. One who either does not answer all of the course requirements, or performs inadequately, or both.

ACCOMMODATION

All students will be fully included in this course. Please let the instructor know within the first two weeks of class if you need any special accommodations in carrying out assignments, in participating in classroom instruction, or other aspects of the course. Please make an appointment to discuss these issues with the instructor as it is difficult to maintain confidentiality when talking before and after class. The McBurney Center guidelines note that accommodations should not significantly alter the nature of a course. Please note that due to the unique, participatory nature of a studio lab course, accommodation cannot include extensions of the stated attendance/absence policy. As the instructor, I will try to maintain confidentiality of the information you share with me.

If you have a conflict between an assignment requirement and a religious observance please notify the instructor of the specific dates within the first two weeks of the semester to make arrangements for an alternative way to meet the requirements.

OFFICE HOURS

I will hold office hours on Wednesdays, from 11:30 A.M. to 1:20 P.M. If you need to meet with me outside of class time, this is the appropriate time to do so. Please feel free to use office hours to address technical problems in the hot or cold shop as well. There will be a sign-up sheet outside my studio door if you wish to schedule a dedicated amount of time with me in advance. I will be unavailable for office hours on the following Wednesdays: February 19, March 26, April 2, April 16. On these weeks, please schedule time with me on Thursdays during my Independent Study slots (sign-up will also be outside my studio door).

Please note, the Glass Lab is in a state of transition with the recent hire of myself. As such, you may notice the Glass Lab does not have an actual office space, unlike probably every other studio in the Art Department. For the time being, I am using a portion of my studio space to function as office space. I believe most other faculty members have studios that are isolated for their studio practice only and are also far more out-of-reach. As such I would request the following etiquette out of respect for my ability to maintain my studio practice:

- If my door is completely closed, please do not knock or disturb.
- If my door is open or ajar, please knock first. Please do not just barge in. Please wait and see if I respond to you before proceeding and talking to me. I may be in the middle of a phone call. I may be meeting with someone. I may just be in the middle of a thought.
- Fridays are going to be my dedicated studio days. I love you all, but please do not talk to me on Fridays.
- If I am around the studio outside of classtime, office hours, or my off-limits-Fridays and I am wearing ear muffs, that is your cue that I am there in the capacity of my studio practice and I do not wish to be bothered. Please do not talk to me if I am wearing my ear muffs.
- If I am working on the hotshop floor, please respect my time in the studio and do not ask me questions related to class. My hotshop time often requires a degree of focus that does not accommodate chit-chat. This may come off as unfriendly, but is a necessity for myself. If I am on the hotshop floor working, I am focused on my work. Even if you are volunteering to assist me, I really require the focus of that time be on my work. If you are observing during my blowtime and have questions, I would request you ask first if I have the bandwidth to answer your questions. It may not be apparent to you when certain maneuvers and processes require all of my focus.