

Sr Thesis and Seminar I & II

A 6 CREDIT COURSE OF INDEPENDENT WORK + PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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THESIS PROPOSAL Proposals need to describe the semester's goals and provide a schedule of how this will be accomplished. A minimum of one page, typed plus weekly schedule is required. Students can reassess their proposal at mid-term with the advisement of their Thesis faculty.

SUMMER REQUIREMENTS - THESIS PRESENTATION This summer read *Portraits: Talking with Artists at the Met, the Modern, the Louvre, and Elsewhere* by Michael Kimmelman. If you can't find a used copy online, you can read the book online at <http://blackboard.mica.edu>. Log in and go to SENIOR THESIS AND SEMINAR (2009_SPRING_IL_400). Then click on COURSE. Use one of the essays from the book to underscore your perspectives in your proposal. Quote specific lines to make your point. Also research other texts on the area of your thesis and cite them. Your work should be advanced and in depth.

FALL TERM – DAY ONE Proposals are orally presented to your Thesis faculty and section on Day One, and run 10 minutes. Please practice making the presentation. Visuals are required. You may use books or prep your presentation into a Keynote, Powerpoint or Preview app.

CRITS Critiques are through individual meetings, mid-term group critiques and final critiques with your Thesis faculty, fellow students, Seminar faculty and visiting critics. Emphasis is placed on independent work, research on markets in conjunction with the Seminar portion of the course and networking with professionals to begin establishing their careers as illustrators.

SPRING SEMESTER Sr Thesis II is a continuation of Sr Thesis I. You will make a new presentation if you change your Thesis direction. You will make an update presentation if you continue your Thesis I project.

SEMINAR Senior Seminar prepares the student to enter the professional workforce equipped with the basic tools and knowledge necessary to compete regardless of the specific area or discipline chosen. The fall semester focuses on studio practice, client relations, and acting professionally along with information on contemporary illustration practice and aspects of copyright and intellectual property issues. The spring semester focuses on preparing a hardcopy and online portfolio, marketing materials [postcards, letterhead, card, etc] markets, a CD of high and low resolution image files for email promotions and more.

GOALS OF SEMINAR The objective of Senior Seminar is to prepare the student to enter the professional workforce equipped with the basic tools and knowledge necessary to compete. Topics may include a writing component; understanding of business forms and contracts; marketing and promotion options; professional issues of copyright law, usage, stock art, and current intellectual property legislation; pricing, contract writing and ethics, working with art directors, designers; being an entrepreneur; and networking.

REQUIRED TEXTS *Graphic Artists Guild Handbook: Pricing and Ethical Guidelines, 12th Edition*, published by the Graphic Artists Guild, 2007.

Inside The Business of Illustration, Steven Heller, Marshall Arisman, New York: Allworth Press, 2004

REQUIRED TEXTS *Communication Arts*, Coyne & Blanchard, Inc., Menlo Park, CA.

GRADES You are graded on their quality of work, adherence to goals and schedules, participation in group critiques and exhibitions, imagination, professional attitude, motivation and demonstration of artistic and personal growth throughout the semesters.

ATTENDANCE Attendance and regular participation is essential to your success in this class. All work produced in this class are expected to be of professional quality.

PROPOSAL TIPS To start writing your proposal:

- Assess your work and determine your professional direction in illustration.
- Develop your proposal with specific objectives and goals in mind.
- Think about how you'll manage your time.
- Contact your Thesis faculty if you have questions.
- Don't wait til the last minute to prepare...it will show!