

## CA 891: Professional Practices Seminar II

Instructor: Dr. Peter Dickinson ([peter\\_dickinson@sfu.ca](mailto:peter_dickinson@sfu.ca))

Meeting Time: Fridays, 2:30-4:30 pm, GCA 4390\*

Course Description: This required non-credit course continues the work of CA 890, providing graduate students (MA, MFA, and PhD) working in contemporary arts with further insight into professional aspects of the discipline. Weekly meetings will be organized around discussions of issues pertinent to our field (e.g., sustainability in the arts); specific professional development and skills-based sessions (e.g., applying for artist residencies or academic fellowships); and the workshopping of material related to course and program requirements within the respective graduate cohorts. As with CA 890, panels and invited presentations by SCA faculty, staff, and community experts will be a key feature of this course.

### Learning Outcomes:

Consistent with SCA's program-level Educational Goals, adopted in the fall of 2018, at the end of this course students will have developed:

- A better understanding of the place of art in the world, and in their own scholarly and creative practices: through the discussion of seminar readings, an engagement with field experts, and oral and written presentations on their work;
- The skills to work at an advanced level within their chosen area of study, and to communicate their ideas in a variety of forms: through in-class and take-home research and writing exercises;
- The ability to collaborate and communicate across disciplines with their peers: through regular critique and feedback sessions on presented work;
- A receptiveness to new knowledge paradigms and opportunities: through guest panel presentations and other community-engaged learning opportunities;
- Professional independence: through the development and contextualization of artistic and critical position statements, and the planning, management, and execution of related projects.

### Course Requirements:

1. Regular attendance and active participation

2. Research presentation to School

- All incoming MA, MFA and PhD students who did not do so as part of CA 890, will be required to make a short presentation on their research to faculty, staff, and fellow students.
- As in CA 890, these will take place monthly, at the start of regular School meetings.

3. End-of-semester precedent analysis and artist/critical position statement

- A precedent analysis is frequently used in architecture, design, and law as a means to take stock of past practices that inform, influence or provide context for current practice.
- For artists in the fine and performing arts, precedent analysis is a way of making

otherwise implicit choices explicit through analysis in terms of concept, technique, process, etc.

- For scholars working in visual, performance, cinema and comparative media studies, a precedent analysis is equally useful in taking stock of the aesthetic and other theories (e.g. phenomenology or feminism) that have helped give shape to your own critical perspective.
- This assignment asks you to initiate the process of looking at and taking account of the work of others (broadly defined) who have informed or might help enlarge your own creative or scholarly research. This might be at the level of technique and medium, at the level of concept or project or theoretical approach, or it might be at the level of a school, style or period.
- The outcome of this exercise will then form the basis for you to go on to situate your own work in your artist/critical position statement.
- Ideally, the precedent analysis should include: i) an effort to locate your touchstone artists, movements, theories historically, culturally, etc.; ii) an effort to consider the core concepts (technical, material, theoretical) underpinning the work that has influenced you—and that you find useful in interpreting this work.

\*Health and Safety: As the Omicron variant of COVID-19 continues to spread around the world, SFU has mandated that all lecture and seminar courses move on-line through January 24. Our January 28 class was already scheduled to occur via Zoom; we will additionally move our January 21 class (for PhD students only) to Zoom. Links for these classes can be accessed through the course Canvas site. Students scheduled to present on their research to the School on January 17 can expect to hear from me about further instructions for meeting access. We will determine the nature of future course delivery pending further instructions from SFU's senior administration.

Assuming we do eventually return to in-person instruction, please continue to practice self-care and care for others in all activities related to this course, including our weekly meetings. If you are feeling ill or experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19, please stay home and contact me regarding ways in which you can make up missed material.

Unless you have an approved exemption, you are required to wear a mask in all indoor common and learning spaces at SFU, including classrooms. Please come to campus prepared with a non-medical mask. If you forget your mask, I will have disposable masks available for you. If you require a mask exemption in the classroom for medical reasons, please contact the Centre for Accessible Learning at [cal\\_admin@sfu.ca](mailto:cal_admin@sfu.ca) for assistance. If you are requesting mask exemptions on other protected grounds, such as religion, you can contact the Office of Student Support, Rights and Responsibilities at [student\\_support@sfu.ca](mailto:student_support@sfu.ca).

### Weekly Syllabus:

Jan 14                      Research Presentation Panel 5

- Jan 21 PhD Colloquium 1\*
- \* Only PhD students are required to attend this session via the following Zoom link: <https://sfu.zoom.us/j/6766974534>**
- Jan 28 Access and Disability Justice and/in the Arts\*
- Guest Presenter: Mia Susan Amir, Creative Director and Facilitator, The Story We Be
- Readings: TBD
- \* This class will take place on Zoom; please use the following link: <https://sfu.zoom.us/j/6766974534>**
- Feb 4 What is Practice-Based Research?\*
- Guest Speaker: Lynette Hunter, Professor, U of California, Davis
- Readings: TBD
- \* This class will take place in the Cinema and will be open to all SCA graduate students**
- Feb 11 Research Presentation Panel 6
- Feb 18 MA Practicums/Internships and MFA Field Placements\*
- Guest Presenter: Barbara Adler, SCA Profession Development Coordinator
- \* Only MA and MFA students are required to attend this session**
- Feb 25 **READING BREAK**
- Mar 4 Sustainability in the Arts\*
- Guest Speakers: Kyla Gardiner, SCA Faculty; Kendra Falconi, Artistic Director, The Only Animal
- Readings: TBD
- \* This class will take place in the Cinema.**
- Mar 11 Research Presentation Panel 7

- Mar 18      PhD Colloquium 2\*
- \* Only PhD students are required to attend this session**
- Mar 25      MFA Discussion: Spring Show, Second Year of Program, and Presentation of  
Precedent Analyses/Artist Statements\*
- \* Only MFA students are required to attend this session**
- Apr 1      MA Discussion: Extended Essay, Completion of Program Requirements, and  
Presentation of Precedent Analyses/Critical-Curatorial Statements\*
- \* Only MA students are required to attend this session**
- Apr 8      PhD Colloquium 3 and Presentation of Precedent Analyses/Artist-Curatorial  
Statements\*
- \* Only PhD students are required to attend this session, which will start at  
12:30 pm**
- Research Presentation Panel 8