

CA 891: Professional Practices Seminar II

Instructor: Dr. Peter Dickinson (peter_dickinson@sfu.ca)

Meeting Time: Mondays, 12:30-2:20 pm, GCA 4390

Office Hours: By appointment, GCA 3855

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 and staff; 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.

Weekly Syllabus:

Jan 9	Now What? Some provocations for the second semester of your Contemporary Arts graduate degree*
	<u>Readings:</u> Groys; Langlois
	* At 2 pm, Prof. Sabine Bitter will visit our class to discuss the SCA's 2023 Berlin Field School
Jan 16	PhD Colloquium 1*
	* Only PhD students are required to attend this session
Jan 23	Art at the End of the World x 100
	<u>Readings:</u> Loveless; Berlant and Stewart; Koestenbaum
Jan 30	Workshop: DIY Website Design with Deanna Peters
Feb 6	Workshop TBD
Feb 13	PhD Colloquium 2*
	* Only PhD students are required to attend this session

Feb 20 **READING BREAK**Feb 27 **CLASS CANCELLED**

Mar 6	Workshop TBD
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Mar 13 PhD Colloquium 3*

*** Only PhD students are required to attend this session**

Mar 20 MFA Discussion: Spring Show, Second Year of Program, and Presentation of Precedent Analyses/Artist Statements*

*** Only MFA students are required to attend this session**

Mar 27	MA Discussion: Extended Essay, Completion of Program Requirements, and Presentation of Precedent Analyses/Critical-Curatorial Statements*
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*** Only MA students are required to attend this session**

Apr 3 PhD Colloquium 4 and Presentation of Precedent Analyses/Artist-Curatorial Statements*

*** Only PhD students are required to attend this session**