



Freshman Foundation Syllabus

Fall 2015

Mission

The mission of the Foundation Program is to educate first year art students in a manner that will allow them to move with increased confidence into the upper levels of the BFA Program. Our mission is to develop students who are tolerant of differing opinions and are willing and able to discuss those differences. Our mission is to open students to the concept of "citizenship" as it pertains to the community of the studio and the outside world. Our mission is to prepare students to make informed, intelligent decisions as they begin planning their future.

A foundation has a broad and solid base. As such, students are given a set of experiences that challenge and develop basic hand skills related to making things as well as building confidence to problem solve, do research and question their thought processes and ideas. Field trips, guest lecturers, videos, and group projects introduce students to the rich and varied ways that artists act and create in the world.

Description

The Foundation program consists of two 15-week semesters. Classes meet every morning of the week from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 am, except on Wednesdays when the lecture starts at 9:00am.

Fall Semester

In the Fall semester, students study and interact in two large groups. Both groups will rotate into 4 different 6-week studio classes over the course of the semester. Those classes, taught by teams of two to three faculty members are: studio:MAKE, studio:RESEARCH, drawingX (explore) and drawingO (observe). At the end of the semester students will meet individually with a faculty team for a review of their work. This important meeting will help to encourage and direct students as they enter their second semester.

Spring Semester

In the Spring semester, students participate in a series of four, 6-week Labs. The sessions are topic oriented and build upon experiences from the first semester. They are: SEElab, MAKElab, FUSElab, and COlab. Students work in smaller groups and are taught by one or two faculty members. Students must successfully complete course work for all 4 of the workshops to pass the spring semester.

Wednesdays

Wednesday morning is a time when the entire class comes together for communal activities and is organized by the three Core Foundation faculty. These activities are offered both Fall and Spring semesters.

Course Content

The Foundation program is intended to challenge student's preconceptions about art and the creative process, to broaden rather than focus their visions. Students are encouraged to discover the linkages between the various projects, assignments or activities they encounter rather than view each as isolated or unrelated. The program takes advantage of the expertise of our faculty and encourages the teaching teams to design courses that draw on their knowledge and interests. Faculty will provide a course specific course syllabus including description to students at the beginning of the semester.

Success

Each student is encouraged to participate, be active and to be engaged in their own learning. If there is anything that would help you to achieve success, please do not hesitate to contact your faculty.

Attendance

All Foundation courses are governed by the Foundations Attendance Policy. The policy is as follows:

Attendance is not only mandatory but it is crucial to your success in Foundations. Roll is taken daily in all workshops as well as for the Wednesday meeting. There are no 'excused' absences, you are either in class or absent. We understand that you may get sick or experience other difficult situations over the course of a semester, therefore we allow up to three absences without reducing your grade. Keep in mind that this is three absences for the entire semester across all workshops and including the Wednesday meeting. On the fourth absence, your grade will be lowered by a half grade. (Ex. B to B-) Please be on time, as three tardies are the equivalent of one absence. Ten or more absences will result in automatic failure of Foundations.

While we do not require a note from a doctor or any other documentation relating to your absence, we encourage you to talk to your faculty if you have an emergency that causes you to miss class. Please also share the information with either Profs. Ted Morgan, Michelle Illuminato or Angie To.

Grades

- A= Truly outstanding, extraordinary, challenges him/herself to take risks
- B= Very good, engaged and eager, does extra or reworks assignments
- C= Good to average, does work on time, no chronic attendance problems
- D= Underachieving, late assignments, attendance problems
- F= Missing or incomplete class work, attendance problems, unengaged

Final grades reflect more than the quality of course work. Class participation during critiques and discussions, attendance, studio citizenship, and a willingness to grow and challenge oneself may also influence the evaluation.

Studios

The Foundations Program uses the Foundation Studios in Harder Hall and the Cohen Building as well as Nevins Theater for Wednesday meetings. Students are encouraged to work in the studios after class time. The hours for the buildings are:

Harder Hall: 7am –2 pm (students may stay inside building until 2am)

Cohen: 7am – 10 pm (These hours are subject to change)

Key Cards

Foundations students will be provided with a keycard for access to the Cohen Studio. Students will be required to pay a ten dollar deposit. This will be credited to your account when the card is returned at the end of the year.

Materials

Students received a list for the Required Materials and Toolbox and had the option to purchase these items individually or as a kit from the Alfred Bookstore. They have also been asked to collect a Material + Image Archive. To learn about either, see the AF blog.

Lab Fee

The Foundation lab fee for 8 credits is \$135 dollars per semester. This fee is used to purchase materials and supplies that are unusual or not convenient for students to provide on their own. The fee also helps defray costs for field trips, visiting artists and other special events.

Lockers

Lockers for Foundation students are located in the Binns hallway near Harder Studio. To claim a locker, bring a lock, write name, semester and year on a piece of tape and attach to any available locker.

Blog + Email = Communication

The Alfred Foundations blog is located at <http://alfredfoundations.com>. There you can find information on registration, materials, technology and even links to the Alfred Foundations Flickr site, with the images from past projects and events. The blog and email are the main modes of communication within Foundations. Please check both daily.

Safety and Studio Citizenship

As students are introduced to new materials and tools in the classroom they will be given clear and detailed instructions for their safe usage. Materials that require safe disposal procedures will be discussed. Recycling of common materials such as glass, plastic and paper are stressed. Students are encouraged to develop responsible work habits in the studio to ensure a clean and safe working environment.

Please remember to be aware of all safety issues when using any new materials, equipment, or techniques. The following are to be followed as well as any other that faculty deem appropriate.

- No spray-paint inside EVER. No spraying outside near intake valves. Do not leave marks on cement or other permanent structures or furniture. Please use a surface protector.
- No hanging of any artwork from ceiling in Cohen. In Harder, you must have permission of faculty to hang anything from ceiling. Please be aware of the sprinkler system.
- Extension cords must be taped down.
- All glue guns, lights, and other equipment must be turned off or unplugged before leaving studio.
- First Aid kits are located above the sinks.
- Keep fire lanes, hallways, and stairways clear. No obstructions, paper, or flammables.

Greenishness and Sustainability

With such a large group of students using a ton of materials, the Foundations program strongly encourages all faculty and students to look for ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle. We encourage you to become a part of this process and to take responsibility for the impact of your work on the environment. REPO Depot has been a wonderful way to get involved in these issues. They provide free recycled materials for students use. They also take donations. Please be aware that they will only accept 'raw' materials, so you will need to disassemble all works before donating them to REPO. Please do not 'drop and run'.

Printing at Alfred

Office Services, located in Greene Hall on the first floor, has a color photocopier for campus copying. Cost: \$.60 letter, \$.80 legal, 1.10 ledger. Discounts available for large orders. Their phone number is x2698.

Information Technology Services

We encourage you to use Information Technology Services. In addition to a host of support services—they also lend out digital projectors, laptops, and video cameras to both faculty and students. The ITS Student Equipment Lending Program is located in Perlman Hall, 3rd Floor, and can be contacted at x3009. It's free.

Please Note: This is an overarching syllabus for the entire Foundation Program course work. Individual faculty members may also provide additional syllabi to communicate specifics about their particular course.