

# COLAB



concept context collaboration community

## Course Description

COLAB provides an integrated artmaking experience that that focuses on concept and idea building, the use of context as an artmaking material, the process of collaboration and the exploration of community both as site for our works as well as the audience.

## Value

**noun** - 1. An amount, as of goods, services, or money, considered to be a fair/suitable equivalent for something else; a fair price. 2. worth in usefulness/ importance to the possessor; utility or merit

**verb** - 1. To determine or estimate the worth of; appraise  
2. to regard highly; esteem

**adjective** - Relating to or consisting of principles or standards; a value system

## Semester Theme: Value

We will use the word value as a departure point for our class. Together we will explore two core questions about value over the course of six weeks:

How do we determine what we value?  
How do we share what we value with others?

Beginning from a place of individual and personal reflection we will move outwards to sharing these personal values in public contexts and then work through strategies and methods of collaboration in order to perpetuate the conversation about what we value. Our explorations and question posing will take the form of exchanges with various individuals, publics, and audiences, and be manifested in a number of materials driven projects.

## Materials

Remember you were asked to create a Material Archive last semester? You will find it helpful to have on hand for this course. You will need fabric, sewing materials, and your tools kits. At times you will be allowed to choose materials depending on your concepts so needed materials will vary. You will need to bring your toolbox to class most days.

## Blogs, Text and Discussions

You will be using your blog to document your projects for this class and may need to bring your laptop occasionally. We also have a class blog where we will post information and resources. There is no required text for this class, instead you may be assigned readings from different sources. Interesting conversations result from everyone coming to class prepared, reading critically, and openly joining the dialogue. An excellent discussion is one where the group questions their own assumptions and together works on developing a higher level of understanding of the material at hand.

## Evaluation & Grading

Evaluation is determined by the commitment to, quality, and completion of—your artistic work, fieldwork/research and class participation.

You will be expected to help foster the class community by taking an active role in the discussions, thoroughly reading all assigned materials, and energetically pursuing your own learning through the engagement with your own art practice.

## Attendance & In Class Participation

Attendance is not only mandatory but it is crucial to your success in this class. Weekly we will discuss readings, crit work, view slides and videos, and work on in-class exercises. These important activities cannot be repeated. If you are not in class please find out from your classmates what was covered and if work was assigned. This class will adhere to the Alfred Foundations Attendance Policy. See the Foundations blog (<http://alfredfoundations.com>).

## Crits

When working in your studio it is important to stop sometimes and see where you are and reevaluate where you are going. Certainly crits are one formalized way that we do this in art school. As a class we will have several types of crits this block. We will meet for whole class crits, individual in-progress crits with the professor, and in small group discussion.

Before you meet, prepare a list of what you'd like to accomplish during your crit. Don't be afraid to ask questions or for further clarification. It's helpful to document the suggestions in your journal for future reference.

## Field Trips & Outside Lectures

Depending on schedules and events we may arrange to meet in a place other than the classroom during the course. Dates will be discussed ahead of time and arranged according to personal schedules. As an extension of the class you will be asked to attend the Alfred School of Art + Design lectures. We will use these important presentations as points for discussion during class.

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COLAB

Cohen Studio Spring 2015 M + T, 8 am – 11 am  
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