

Building a Syllabus/Idit Barak

Curriculum summary

"I Hear Voices" - a year long cross departmental program for sophomore year students

Tools for Self Expression and Social Responsibility

This Sophomore year program will be the core of the years theoretical academic experience. We believe that as blooming artists it is essential that alongside continuing to perfect technical artistic abilities it is even more crucial that students take responsibility and develop an awareness of the artist's role on a micro level as well as in a grander macro one. What does it mean to produce critical work in today's social and political climate?

This year long program will be broken down into 6 sections of 6 weeks each. Each section will focus on a meta subject which will be examined in depth by 6 different professors, one per each week.

It is the professors prerogative to address this content in their way and this syllabus is a road map for topics and issues that were mapped out by the schools pedagogical board.

The syllabus for this program that meets twice a week refers to the first session of each week as the next session of the week is monitored by the professor but is designed and executed by the students.

Syllabus - section 1

Talking Care & Taking Care

Section Objective: This first section deals with the care in a wide and often abstract manner. Students will examine and unpack Questions putting themselves in the center of the discussion and working their way from individual to mutual, this in an attempt to build a community. One that is comfortable with vulnerability and dependance, one that is safe and nurturing and that can facilitate introspection and artistic as well as personal growth.

Classes

- Week 1 - Self care, Self & Selflessness
- Week 2 - Sharing is caring, The human condition
- Week 3 - Careless, Breaking Bread
- Week 4 - Handle with care, critical thinking and responsibility
- Week 5 - careful, Artists and Anguish
- Week 6 - Dare to Care, Who do you want to be when..

Reference readings and other materials:

- The Meditations - René Descartes/1641
- The Communist Manifesto - Karl Marx & Freidrich Engels/1848
- The Ego and the ID - Sigmund Freud/1923
- Exploring The Infinity - M.C. Escher/1986
- Delicatessen -Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro/1991
- Hanoch Levin - The Child Dreams/1991
- Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind -Yuval Noah Harari/2015
- The Artist is Present - Marina Abramović/2010
- BBC Magazine,Beyond 'he' and 'she':-Avinash Chak/2015
- NSK Collective - NSKSTATE.com
- Know Hope - thisislimbo.com

Week 1 - Self and Selflessness

- Ice breaker - Spin the bottle, speak a personal truth.
- Lecture 1 - Definition of self
- Discussion:
Who am I?
Nature vs. Nurture
Does objectivity exist?
altruism as self care
- Homework - create a presentation introducing us to your ego and your id. Free choice medium.

Week 2 - The Human Condition

- Lecture 2 - What makes us human
Civilizations and community
- Discussion:
René Descartes on thinking
The art of storytelling
It's a thin line between love and hate
Lust, Trust, Jealousy and Power - collective narratives
- In class activity: creating bucket lists
In pairs compile a bucket list of 10 places, activities
etc. Make sure that it works for both of you.
- Homework: Still in your pairs, "walk in each others shoes" be
prepared to present your partner views in class.

Week 3 - Breaking Bread

- In class activity: Log in detail what, where and with who did
you eat yesterday.
- Lecture 3 - Nurturing the growing body
The building blocks we are made of
- Discussion:
Eat or be eaten? - humans and the food chain
Eating as social ritual
The new Gods - when did we stop listening to our bodies
- Homework:
Plan a revised daily schedule revisiting the material covered
in
Class.
Cook something yourself to feed your friends, share your recipe

and write a short explanation on your choice of dish.

Week 4 - critical thinking and responsibility

- Lecture 4 - The artist as witness
- Discussion:
Why should Artists;
Care about - history as subjective documentation
Care about - appreciation and appropriation
Care about - Honing up to the past to move forward
- In class exercise: Real news and where to find it
- Homework: Chose a headline of a recent event, avoid the obvious choices. Research carefully through different narratives, resources and perspective. Contextualize in culture and history. make us care!

Week 5- Do creativity and Suffering go hand in hand

- Lecture 5 - Artists and Anguish
- Discussion:
Konstantin Stanislavski - The Method of Physical Action
Lee Strasberg - The Method
The myth of 27 club and one Van Gogh
- In class writing exercise: Dealing with subject matter as witness rather than participant.
- Homework: In groups of 4, chose one to share a personal event and develop 4 different representations to that event. These representations can be visual, Audio or other.

Week 6 - Who do you want to be tomorrow..

- In class exercise: morning yoga - opening the third eye
- Lecture 6 - Why are we scared of changing our minds
- Discussion:

Rethinking is Maturing
Maturing is Challenge
Challenge is Art is Care
Art is Care
Care is Relative

- Homework: Each student will create a reflection of our 6 week experience in your Artistic field of expertise.

