

Instructor: Anastasia Kirages (she/her)
Email: afkirages@uh.edu
Office: FA 202B
Office Hours: By appointment

ART 3376
SPRING 2024
T/TH 8:30-11:30 AM
Classroom: FA 224

ART 3376 SYLLABUS – JUNIOR PHOTOGRAPHY / DIGITAL MEDIA MAJOR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In ART 3376, students will come together to reflect, make art, write, and learn about the history, culture, and practice of making zines. This class is also about experimentation with new techniques, both analog and digital. Students are encouraged to bring in any personal materials including but not limited to, fabric, photo imagery, drawings, paper, books, magazines, cardboard, scraps of wood, scraps of metal, etc. We will visit a couple of zine collections in Houston to study a wide range of zines and artists' books, and zine artists, scholars, and librarians will visit class to meet with us. By the end of the semester, students will create and publish a personal zine project that aligns with their other coursework in addition to other zine-related assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Learn how to present and discuss your work.
- Explore the visual, linguistic, and material aspects of zines through a variety of assignments.
- Participate in theoretical and aesthetic discussion as a means of developing critical thinking skills through written and verbal analysis of zines and other self-published works.
- Enhance analog and digital skills and gain the ability to imagine greater possibilities through mixing old and new technology and combining media.
- Obtain a well-rounded understanding of historical and contemporary zine-related issues through films, readings, discussion, and field trips to Special Collections.

PROGRAM & UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Be here. Attendance is very important for the successful learning and discussion in this class. You are responsible to get the information you missed if you're absent in a class. **You are allowed up to 3 unexcused absences.** Any additional unexcused absences will lower your final grade by 10% with each additional unexcused absence. Absences will be excused with a written doctor's note or prior approval.

If you miss one of the critiques even if your work was already critiqued, your assignment will not be graded unless with the excuse of a doctor's note or emergency. BE ON TIME FOR CRITIQUE DAYS. It's only fair for your classmates and their hard work.

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of

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Houston [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) and [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to [military service](#), [religious holy days](#), [pregnancy and related conditions](#), and [disability](#).

STUDENT CONDUCT

Be kind to each other. Participate in class discussions and critiques. Help each other as you will learn as much from each other as you will learn from your instructor. I will do my best to create a safe, fun environment where you feel excited to make work. Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Tardiness can be distracting, so please be on time. If you must arrive late, make as little noise as possible.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

The instructor and students in this course will adhere to the University's general Codes of Conduct defined in the *University of Houston's Student Handbook*. Specifically, the Code of Academic Conduct (Academic Honesty Policy) requires that students do not cheat, fabricate, plagiarize, or facilitate academic dishonesty. You will be producing both creative and academic materials for this course, and for both you will be expected to produce original work. This means all work must be new work made for the specific projects assigned in this class and that any material used from other sources must be cited and identified.

High ethical standards are critical to the integrity of any institution, and bear directly on the ultimate value of conferred degrees. All UH community members are expected to contribute to an atmosphere of the highest possible ethical standards. Maintaining such an atmosphere requires that any instances of academic dishonesty be recognized and addressed.

The [UH Academic Honesty Policy](#) is designed to handle those instances with fairness to all parties involved: the students, the instructors, and the University itself. All students and faculty of the University of Houston are responsible for being familiar with this policy.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS RESOURCES

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including [CoogsCARE](#) and the [UH Go App](#). UH [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For

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assistance visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a [Let's Talk](#) location in-person or virtually. [Let's Talk](#) are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

The [Student Health Center](#) offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The [A.D. Bruce Religion Center](#) offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

Need Support Now?

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text [988](https://988lifeline.org), or chat 988lifeline.org.

TITLE IX / SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms that are not clearly related to a pre-existing medical condition, do not come to class. Please see [Student Protocols](#) for what to do if you experience symptoms and [Potential Exposure to Coronavirus](#) for what to do if you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Consult the (select: [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) or [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#)) for information regarding excused absences due to medical reasons.

Students are encouraged to visit the University's [COVID-19](#) website for important information including diagnosis and symptom protocols, on-campus testing, and vaccine information. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates.

Vaccinations

Data suggests that vaccination remains the best intervention for reliable protection against COVID-19. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with pertinent [vaccine information](#) and

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to consult with their health care provider. The University strongly encourages all students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated.

REASONABLE ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENTS / AUXILIARY AIDS

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/> calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

RECORDING OF CLASS

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

RESOURCES FOR ONLINE LEARNING

The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our [Power-On](#) website. Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including: obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, Blackboard, and Canvas; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact UHOnline@uh.edu.

UH EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Please check and use your CougarNet email for communications related to this course. Faculty use the CougarNet email to respond to course-related inquiries such as grade queries or progress reports for reasons of FERPA. To access your CougarNet email, [login](#) to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials. Visit [University Information Technology \(UIT\)](#) for instructions on how to connect your CougarNet e-mail on a mobile device.

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WEBCAMS

Access to a webcam is required for students participating remotely in this course. Webcams must be turned on (*state when webcams are required to be on and the academic basis for requiring them to be on*). (Example: Webcams must be turned on during exams to ensure the academic integrity of exam administration.)

SECURITY ESCORTS & COUGAR RIDE

UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. The security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety, please call [713-743-3333](tel:713-743-3333). Arrangements may be made for special needs.

Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called "Cougar Ride" that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library, Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at <https://uh.edu/af-university-services/parking/cougar-ride/>.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Each student must be prepared for class, having completed all reading assignments, and arriving with any required materials. In-class performance, work, and participation will be graded. All students will be expected to contribute to critiques of the assignments and final projects, offering constructive criticism to their peers, and providing useful commentary about the work under discussion. At the end of class, please clean your work area.

Please only use cell phones for emergencies and if you need to take a call, you may go outside the classroom to do so.

READING DISCUSSION RULES

1. Respect others' rights to hold opinions and beliefs that differ from your own. When you disagree, challenge, or criticize the idea, not the person.
2. Listen actively and attentively. Ask for clarification if you are confused. Don't interrupt or engage in private conversations while others are speaking.
3. Build on one another's comments; work toward shared understanding.
4. Brings questions to the class.
5. Recognize that we are all still learning.

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Overall, please be prepared for discussion by coming up with and writing down three questions, two comments, and at least one connection from the readings to talk about. These may be collected periodically, so do make sure you are prepared for class.

GRADING POLICY

Grading Criteria as per University Protocols

Grading is based on the effort, quality, presentation, and preparedness of the work you produce. In addition to studio production, students are required to fulfill writing and reading assignments, prepare and deliver presentations on the subject of their creative research, attend & participate fully in group critiques, and attend visiting artist presentations.

GENERAL GRADING RUBRIC

A (90-100) Outstanding work that is technically, conceptually, and contextually successful, while presenting something new and/or complex in an interesting way.

B (80 - 89) Above average work that is technically, conceptually, and contextually successful, yet perhaps lacks a cohesive unity between these elements.

C (70 - 79) Average work that is either technically, conceptually, or contextually passable but lacks development in these areas.

D (60 - 69) Below average work that is technically, conceptually, or contextually unsuccessful and/or incomplete.

F (<59) Work that demonstrates the absence of effort, shows no progress after feedback/ workshopping, and/or is lacking in a major aspect of its execution.

ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW & GRADE BREAKDOWN

Attendance/Participation	10%
Manifesto Blueprint Mini Zine	15%
Zine Review Log	15%
Rough Draft of Zine Project	15%
Zinester Interview & Reflection	20%
Final Personal Zine Project	25%
TOTAL:	100%

DISCUSSION / PARTICIPATION / PRESENTATIONS

Participation in class discussion, critique, presentations, and discussions is crucial to the success of the class. This includes, but is not limited to: providing considered, insightful, and critical

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feedback regarding the work of your peers, effective and diligent participation in all assignments, and engaging in discussion in response to assigned articles, films, and presentations.

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

MANIFESTO BLUEPRINT MINI ZINE

You will be making your first zine as a kind of personal guide or framework of ideals, beliefs, wishes, aspirations or philosophies. Consider chronicling or listing these in an artistic, non-conventional way. Be creative! Be poetic! You may use image and/or text in whatever form you like. Think about cropping images, panning-in close up, zooming out, showing different details as you flip through the pages. Do images span across an entire spread? Bleed to the edges? These may be xeroxed copies of collages, drawings, paintings, or type-written, digitally created or hand-printed if you have the resources and know-how.

ZINE REVIEW LOG

For this assignment, you will choose 8-10 zines to read during the semester and keep a log of them. Please include the following information in the log, if applicable: title, author, themes, comments on design, any other thoughts you have while reading it. You can find zines either through friends, libraries, UH Special Collections, the Hirsch Library etc. If you have issues finding zines, let me know and I can help you, or lend you some through my zine collection.

ZINESTER INTERVIEW & REFLECTION

Did you know there is a huge zine community right here in Houston?! For this assignment, you will have the opportunity to interview a local zinester of your choosing. You can interview them over the phone, email, or in person. After the interview, you will then write a short reflection (at least 500 words) about the zinester you interviewed and your experience.

PERSONAL ZINE PROJECT

In this class you will work on a personal zine project. You will submit a project proposal at the beginning of the semester. The work must show a well-thought-out concept, research, investigation, and experimentation. You will be graded in your aesthetics, presentation, and completion of work on time. Please choose an idea that excites you and deeply interests you. You will be graded on your final presentation.

CRITIQUES

Your attendance and participation are mandatory during critiques. Even if you have not completed the assignment, being present and supporting your classmates by actively contributing to discussions is essential for your success in this class.

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Each student will have:

3 individual meetings with me
1 mid-term review
1 final review (each ranging from 20-30 minutes)

Incompletes will only be given in cases of verified illnesses and family emergencies.

Late assignments will have points deducted (5% off) for every class period after the due date. For assignments that have been turned in too late to receive points, a grade will not be awarded, but will be taken into consideration when tallying final grades.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE*

* Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through Microsoft Teams chat.

WEEK 1

~~January 16~~ **CLASS CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER**

January 18

Syllabus & class introductions

Go over Pecha Kucha Artist Talk & Manifesto Blueprint Mini Zine assignment

Lecture: History of zines with zinester Patrick Brooks

HW: Read Value and Validity of Art Zines as an Art Form by Susan E. Thomas, look through Student Zine Guide PDF, Optional reading: Why Publish? compiled by Mike Gunderloy, Pecha Kucha Artist Talk PowerPoint & start Manifesto Blueprint Mini Zine assignment

WEEK 2

January 23

Pecha Kucha Artist Talks

HW: Watch The Punk Singer (2013): <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2fouhm> or free through Kanopy, continue to work on Manifesto Blueprint Mini Zine

January 25

Finish Pecha Kucha Artist Talks

Discuss: Value and Validity of Art Zines as an Art Form by Susan E. Thomas and The Punk Singer

Go over personal zine project

Lecture: Overview of design & curation of zines

- Brief fundamentals on page layout, cover design, and simple binding techniques

Creative challenge using one source

- **Activity: Learn how to make a one-page zine**

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HW: Write out personal goals and ideas for zine project to be discussed in individual meetings on February 1st, look through The Graphic Design Techniques and Cultural History of Radical Publications by Jess Meoni

WEEK 3

January 30

9-11 AM: Tour of Clampitt Paper (4707 Blalock, Houston, TX 77041)

HW: Watch Self-Publishers of the World Take Over:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Qfev2293lc>, *But I Love The Zine:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMOGGY4tqXE>, *Zines: The Power of DIY Print:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiqQrVrW9XY>

February 1

Individual Meeting 1 to discuss class goals and personal zine project Group A

HW: Start research for your personal zine project, continue to work on Manifesto Blueprint Mini Zine

WEEK 4

February 6

Individual Meeting 1 to discuss class goals and personal zine project Group B

HW: Continue research for personal zine project, start zine review log, watch The Republic of SHKID (1966): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8i0Mc5abxc> (turn on Subtitles/CC, then click gear icon for Settings > Subtitles/CC > Auto-translate > English or whichever language you prefer)

February 8

9 AM: Lecture: Art & Play

9:30-11 AM: Risograph workshop with Stephanie Cuyubamba Kong at the UH ATC

3 PM: Class field trip to CAMH

WEEK 5

February 13

Research & looking at zines in class

Go over zinester interview assignment & interviewing techniques

Analog image-making

- **Activity: Exploration #47**

HW: Select a local zinester to interview and contact them to set up interview

February 15

In-class zinester visit with Ruslan Kalitin

Talk about Manifesto Blueprint Mini Zine assignment

HW: Look through Hybrid Publishing Toolkit

Due: Manifesto Blueprint Mini Zine

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Artist talk: Paul McNeil (Graphic Design), 6:30-8:30 PM

WEEK 6

February 20

9-9:15 AM arrival time at MFAH: Visit to zine collection at Hirsch Library

HW: Read *The Zine Anthology as Archive: Archival Genres and Practices* by Jessie Lymn & *Zines in Libraries* zine

February 22

Discuss: *The Republic of SHKID* & European Journal of Contemporary Education article

Lecture: Zines & activism

Analog image-making

- **Activity:** [Wheatpasting](#)

HW: Read *Bros Fall Back* & *Chinese Protest Recipes*

***EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENT:** Design a poster for wheatpasting and submit your design to Just Seeds: <https://justseeds.org/graphics/>. Email a screenshot of your submission for credit. Can be turned in during finals week.*

WEEK 7

February 27

9-10:30 AM: Visit to UH Special Collections Zine Fest Houston Archive at MD Anderson Library with Julie Grob, Coordinator for Instruction – Special Collections

Discuss: *Bros Fall Back* & *Chinese Protest Recipes*

HW: Work on rough draft of personal zine project

February 29

STUDIO DAY IN MORNING (OPTIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS)

HW: Work on rough draft of personal zine project

WEEK 8

March 5

MIDTERM CRITIQUE

March 7

MIDTERM CRITIQUE

Due: Rough draft of personal zine project. Turn in a PDF of the zine spreads through Teams.

WEEK 9

SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)

HW: Read "Missing Films and Videotaping Syndicates: Sandi Tan Discusses 'Shirkers'":

<https://mubi.com/en/notebook/posts/missing-films-and-videotaping-syndicates-sandi-tan-discusses-shirkers> and watch *Shirkers* (streaming on Netflix)

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WEEK 10

March 19

Individual Meeting 2 (Group A)

March 21

Individual Meeting 2 (Group B)

WEEK 11

March 26

Finish individual meetings

Zine Review Log work in class and/or STUDIO DAY

HW: Readings about Brion Gysin by William Burroughs (<https://www.briongysin.com/cut-ups/>)

March 28

Discuss: Sandi Tan's *Shirkers* film & article

Lecture: Collaboration in Art

- **Activity:** Collaborative collage

HW: Watch *The Cut Ups* (1966): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uq_hztHJCM4, continue to work on zine review log, zinester interview & reflection, and personal zine project

WEEK 12

April 2

Discuss: *The Cut Ups* and other readings on Brion Gysin

Lecture: Cut-Up Method of Brion Gysin

- **Activity:** Cut-ups

Short zine reflection in-class assignment

April 4

STUDIO DAY

HW: Continue to work on zine review log, zinester interview & reflection, and personal zine project

WEEK 13

April 9

In-class visit with DUAL

April 11

Analog image-making

- **Activity:** Tape transfers

WEEK 14

April 16

STUDIO DAY

April 18

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STUDIO DAY

WEEK 15

April 23

Individual Meeting 3 (Group B)

Bring in most recent mock-up of zine

April 25

Individual Meeting 3 (Group A)

Bring in most recent mock-up of zine

WEEK 16

April 30

STUDIO DAY

May 2

9 AM – 3 PM: FINAL PRESENTATION / CRITIQUE

Final version of zine project & other assignments due