

.....

Instructor

Gary Meacher

Chair, Art Department
Assistant Professor of Art & Design
gmeacher@culver.edu
573.288.6367 (x6367 on campus)

Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9:00-10:00 and 3:00-4:00 on campus; as needed during travel
Please Note: Office hours are generally held in Professor Meacher's office—but may occasionally be located in the lab room 206 instead. Students are responsible for scheduling an appointment to ensure location and adequate time for consultation.

Course Description

EXP 301: Problem-Based Learning is a teamwork-oriented, experiential learning course designed to encourage students to research and confront real-world challenges posed in the respective disciplines by using their academic coursework to design solutions to benefit both themselves and the world around them.

This section of EXP301 is a Fine Arts-focused travel course to Italy, Switzerland and France, where students will be exposed to a wide range of historical, artistic, literary, musical, and performance-based experiences, including historic sites, museums, ballet, and opera.

In completing this course, students will:

- Draw critical connections between in-class learning from the 12-week session and experiential learning during the travel course, applying foundational perspectives of history, art, literature, music, and other performance
 - Construct and articulate a considered and critical response to their own experiences while traveling and upon return, through class discussions and activities, the travel journal, art-based, assignments, and final project
-

General Education Objects and Assessment Information

Critical thinking:

- Select and use appropriate information and examine a point of view or conclusion (R2)
- Account for the complexities of an issue and acknowledge others' points of view within their positions (R4)
- Make logical conclusions that reveal informed evaluation and ability to reflect upon their experiences (R5)

Creative thinking:

- Create materials/ideas/solutions appropriate to the field of study and evaluate their process and product using appropriate disciplinary criteria (CR1)
- Actively seek and follow through on new/risky directions and approaches to a final creative product (CR2)
- Develop a logical, consistent plan to solve a problem and articulate reasoning in choosing said solution (CR3)
- Create a unique idea, question, or product which potentially crosses knowledge boundaries and/or creates new knowledge (CR5)
- Transform ideas/products into new forms by making connections and synthesizing information given (CR6)

Integrative Learning:

- Articulate the connection between academic experiences and relevant experiences outside of the formal classroom (IL2)
- Meaningfully connect academic experiences across disciplines by combining examples and theories from more than one field of study (IL3)
- Adapt and apply abilities or methodologies gained in one situation to new situations and new problems (IL3)

Teamwork:

- Contribute to team meetings by articulating the merits of different ideas and proposals (T1)
- Contribute outside of team meetings by thoroughly completing all assigned tasks by deadlines (T3)
- Foster supportive team climate through maintaining respectful and polite communication and attitude (T4)

Ethical Reasoning:

- Define and identify the origins of key ethical perspectives and concepts (ER2)
- Apply ethical perspectives and concepts to contemporary ethical questions (ER4)

Class Materials

A variety of readings and materials will be posted online, including critical readings, poetry, and fiction. Students will also need a journal and water color set (provided) to keep a travel journal and complete art-based assignments (i.e. sketches, watercolors). Students should also bring an additional notebook for notes, observations, and quizzes.

Grading

Based on a variety of criteria including: effort, completion of assignments, quality of research, visual and technical exploration, exercise and project successes, presentation quality, and class participation.

A	—	90 - 100%
B	—	80 - 89%
C	—	70 - 79%
D	—	60 - 69%
F	—	00 - 59%

Course Outline and Assignments

Participation (30%)

You are expected to be engaged, courteous, polite, and professional in your interactions with course faculty, your fellow students, and anyone you interact with as we travel. This includes being on time when we meet to go somewhere as a class, being prepared with any readings or assignments, participating in scheduled activities, and being on time and attentive in all de-briefing sessions and course discussions. Failing to meet any of these expectations will have a negative effect on your participation grade for the course. You will have free time to explore and enjoy the various cities we will be visiting and with this freedom, you are expected to conduct yourself responsibly. Wherever you go, you need to go in pairs or small groups—under no circumstances should you go out on your own. Any instance of drunkenness or other incapacitation will result in you having a hard curfew and restricted privileges for the remainder of the trip. In extreme cases, the student may be sent home early from the trip (at student's expense).

.....
Travel Journal (30%)

Your travel journals should be your constant companion and you should always have them with you for writing about your experience, pasting mementos, taking notes on lectures or other informational presentations, sketching images, etc. You will be expected to write about your experiences in your travel journals regularly, including nightly entries where you reflect on the day's events and adventures. In addition to being a priceless souvenir of your travels and experiences, your travel journals will be the foundation of your final project for the course when we return to campus, so be diligent, take your time, and include as much detail as possible.

Quizzes (20%)

As we travel, we will learn a lot about the different regions, cities, sites, and places we will visit. When course faculty or a tour guide are presenting this information, you should be paying close attention and taking notes in your travel journal. There will be several on-site quizzes to test your knowledge of the information provided about these places. On the road quizzes will be worth 10% of your final grade and a final quiz when we return to campus will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Final Project (20%)

When we return to campus, you will present a final project, developed from your travel journal, photos, sketches, and other artifacts of our trip. This final project may take a variety of different forms, such as a scrapbook, a photo essay, or a PowerPoint presentation, but regardless of format, this final project is your opportunity to reflect on your experiences, collect them, and present them in a cohesive way. As part of this final project, you will also write a 2-3 page reflection on your experiences, impressions, and your own self- reflection upon our return, considering questions like what you found to be the most significant or memorable experience as we traveled and things about the cultures and places we experienced that surprised and/or particularly resonated with you. Finally, as part of this final project, each student will give a brief (approximately 5 minute) presentation on what they found to be the most impactful and/or their favorite part of the trip.

Participation

A crucial quality for every designer is the ability to communicate—both visually and verbally. We will have frequent critiques and peer evaluations in class during which you will be required to actively participate (no, attendance is not enough). To insure your participation, 10% of your final grade will be based on your critique performance. Your participation will help others work out the kinks in their projects and vice versa, the more you talk the more you will learn. Becoming comfortable in a critique situation makes you better able to analyze and discuss your own work and the work of others, an essential skill in almost any job. In development, having an extra pair of eyes look over your work is crucial to working out bugs and learning from mistakes.

Academic Honesty

As a college, cheating and plagiarism are strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated. All faculty are required to notify the academic dean of all actions taken with respect to academic dishonesty even if you drop the class. The first and second offenses carry the sanctions imposed by the instructor on a case by case basis and a letter from the academic dean. The third offense carries with it the possible expulsion from the college. These offenses are cumulative.

.....

Attendance + Late Work

All students are required to attend class regularly and on time. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class meeting. Lectures, demos, etc. are given promptly at the beginning of class.

If an assignment is due and you arrive late, your work is also late and points will be deducted. A 10% reduction will be made for each day that an assignment is late (not class period—each day).

Leaving class early or missing class for practice, team meetings, rehearsal, or other non-essential extra curricular engagements will not be excused. Any road trips, away games, or travel performances that will effect your attendance must be communicated before time is missed to setup opportunities to make up missed work.

Missed assignments in conjunction with an excused absence will be due the following class or electronically on the original due date when applicable.

Please Note: If you have missed a class due to an unexcused absence it is your responsibility to obtain the information necessary to be up-to-date for the next class. Exchange contact information with a classmate just in case...

Grievance Process

If you have concerns with this course, my grading practices or any other issue, I encourage you to come and meet with me to resolve the issue. If you are uncomfortable meeting with me, please contact Dylan Marney, the current division chair, and he will work with you to resolve the issue or direct you to the appropriate person.

Students with Disabilities

If you have or think you may have a disability and would like to receive disability-related academic accommodations, please contact Jeanne Johnson, jjohnson@culver.edu in Johann Library as soon as possible. No services can be provided without first registering with Academic Support Services.

*This syllabus is not a binding contract and is subject to change.
Such changes will be announced in class.*