

## **Independent Project—Beginning the Process**

### **Imaging the Body, Fall/Winter 05/06**

During winter quarter, you will be undertaking a significant independent project. This project will involve detailed research on a specific topic that has a direct connection to human anatomy or physiology—i.e. it must be firmly connected to the human body. The overall goals of the project are that you

- develop a significant knowledge base on a subject of your choosing through research, then
- articulate an informed point of view in (1) a formally written technical paper (ten pages/2500 words) and (2) a series of works of art.

You need to begin the process of selecting a topic soon. **We expect that you will bring a project proposal to the first day of class.** You will need to “hit the ground running” at the beginning of winter quarter. The contents of the proposal are detailed below.

### **Overview of the project timeline**

Week 1: Finalize topic and do literature search, order articles/books not available through inter-library loan.

Weeks 2-3: Read research, produce annotated bibliography, outline, and 4 art pieces.

Week 4: Submit a rough draft of paper, present art work to date in critique (6-8 pieces)

Weeks 5-7: Continue reading research, refine draft of paper, produce an additional 10-14 pieces

Week 8: Submit second draft, present art work to date in critique (16-22 pieces).

Week 9: Refine paper into final draft, complete art work (20 pieces for four credits, 30 for six credits)

Week 10: Present paper and artwork to class.

### **Selecting your topic**

You need to select a topic that:

- Examines or explores an aspect of human anatomy or physiology
- Is very interesting to you—if it isn't, you'll have a hard time doing research and making art.
- Has a “vein” of information that is “deep” enough to allow you to do significant research. This information must be found primarily in credible sources: peer-reviewed papers in journals or scholarly texts, not web sites.

Begin by brain-storming and listing potential topics. To determine if there is enough research on a topic, you will need to do a little research. While doing a Google search will give you a rough idea of how much information is out there, most of the web pages listed are of questionable value. There is a lot of good information on web sites, but unless you know something about the topic already, it can be difficult to ascertain how credible it is. We will cover how to do this at the beginning of next quarter. Google scholar ([www.scholar.google.com](http://www.scholar.google.com)) is a good site to find scholarly references. The various indexes available through the Evergreen library website (look under References & Journals in the Catalog page) are very good for this purpose.

It may take several attempts and modifications of your topic to end up with one that works. Some examples of possible topics (and comments) are:

- Breast cancer—a big topic, but could concentrate on a particular aspect or potential cause, or types of treatments
- The human hand—focus primarily on an detailed understanding of how the hand works, all the muscles, nerves, how it forms embryonically, might also need to look at some disfunctions.
- Almost any disease. You'll probably need to do some research that won't be part of your paper to gain an understanding of how the affected portion of the body functions normally.
- Human pheromones—what's known about them?
- Sickle-cell anemia
- Human breast: anatomy and physiology of milk production

## **Research & writing**

This is an opportunity for you to really dig into a topic that interests you. Your learning objectives are to:

- Collect sufficient research. You need to identify and use enough sources to be able to familiarize yourself with the most important aspects of your topic. The sources should be sophisticated enough to provide you with reliable information and comprehensive enough to cover the main questions you want to answer. Of course, there are time constraints, and we do not expect that your research will transform you into an “expert” on your chosen topic in the space of ten weeks.
- Develop a working understanding of particular aspects of anatomy and physiology. This paper gives you the opportunity to go beyond simply repeating a theory—you are called upon to put it into practice. To do this you need to understand it accurately and deeply.
- Summarize your research findings and organize them clearly.
- Write a clear, concise paper of approximately ten pages (2500 words) using standard scientific format for references with an Introduction, a series of logical headings within the paper, a Conclusion, and a Bibliography.

Additional details on various aspects of the paper will be provided next quarter.

## **Art work**

The learning objective for this part of the project is to develop as many ideas/revision as possible in about 8 weeks. **The goal is prolific idea generation.** This is not the time to learn a new medium and it is not the time to slow down your creative process and make a few masterpieces. Your work will be primarily assessed on the development and evolution of your images and ideas over the quarter, not on your ability to learn a new medium or demonstrate artistic facility.

Students are strongly encouraged to work in 2D media (charcoal drawing, water-based painting, India ink, technical pen drawing, pencil drawing, collage, digital imaging, woodcut or linoleum-cut printmaking), since the visual literacy lectures and drawing have been aimed at preparing you for 2D design in the winter quarter. Some workshops on collage, paper, and graphite rendering will be offered in during ITB class time.

You are also strongly encouraged to work in media that:

- You already know how to use well
- Will be portable (this means the medium dries fast and the scale of your work fits your mode of transportation to school)

For example, if you are planning to make large-scale (3 x 3 feet) canvas oil paintings (which dry slowly in the winter and are difficult to transport), you may consider working small (12 x 12 inches) and using a SAFE drying agent.

Students should not expect to gain proficiencies or access to: the woodshop, the ceramics studio, the fine or large metal studios, photography, printmaking, or neon unless you already know how to use these materials AND make arrangements with the technicians overseeing these areas WELL IN ADVANCE of the winter quarter.

### **Quantity of Work**

The quantity of work worthy of the credits you select will be determined in part on your speed, the speed of the medium, the scale of your work and the complexity of your process/style. Here is a general guide. Use these quantities to plan and pace your work accordingly:

20 works = 4 credits                      30 works = 6 credits

Should you feel compelled to make some larger or more complex works, consider making them along with numerous smaller-scale works to continue to generate ideas (i.e. 2 large scale drawings and 18 smaller scale, resolved drawings would accommodate your personal goals *and* the learning objectives).

You will also be required to write a succinct artist's statement. More details on this next quarter.

### **Writing a project proposal**

Your proposal needs to contain enough information to convince both you and us that you've chosen a suitable topic and have given some thought to the scope of your project. Think of the proposal as your personal syllabus.

In your proposal indicate the number of credits you choose to earn by making art within the context of the Independent Project (4 or 6). Also include the following information.

- the topic you will address
- a list of potential references that you've found (include author, title, year, and source at the minimum)
- possible images (how you will make them or appropriate them)
- the medium (choose one. If mixed media, stick with the same few media in all pieces)
- scale of work
- where you will make the work
- your prior education or experience that will prepare you for working in this medium
- how you will complete the work (to pace yourself, develop a plan to complete, say 3 pieces each week)

**This proposal should be brought to the first day of class.**