Independent study

GDES 4900

k. bryant
office  221 Wallace Center
office hours  by appointment
office phone  844.3383
email  bryankv@auburn.edu
GDES 4900
Independent Study in Graphic Design / Bryant

Course Description:
The (2-3) IND. Pr. 3.0 minimum average in 3000-level GDES courses and departmental approval. Senior standing. Open to GDES students only, who have shown ability, initiative and industry on individual projects.

Due to the advanced nature of this course, a student may use it for personal study in any media or art field. The content of the individual course is to be decided in consultation between the student and their chosen supervising faculty (with the prior agreement of that faculty to do the independent study).

The student will develop their own assignment in that, he/she will develop an agreement with the instructor concerning the area he/she chooses to work. The student is then required to draw up a “contract” between themselves and the instructor which states their intent, and the projects which will be completed at the end of the semester which will fulfill this intent. The instructor will meet with each student at the minimum once a week to monitor the students progress and to keep the student on track. Copies of the contract are kept by the student and on file by the instructor. Research, self motivation, and the tailoring of the portfolio to the students career goals are the emphasis of this course.

Example of a letter of intent is attached.

Course Objectives:
Students will:

1. learn to develop original approaches in a selected field.
2. learn to manage their time while working on several projects at a time.
3. develop a body of work prepared for professional review.
4. be able to explore a selected area of study in depth.

Attendance:
As in any teaching environment, attendance is essential to derive the full benefit from faculty input, discussions and assistance. Students are expected to approach the class with a professional attitude and a willingness to work beyond just doing what is asked. Students are expected to commit themselves and to work hard, every day, not just for better grades but for the enjoyment that the work brings and the growth that comes with it. You are expected to meet with your instructor weekly and show significant improvement each session unless you notify your instructor. No more than one meeting may be missed in a row or this will affect your final grade.

Grading:
In the event of a student not being able to complete all the course work on time, it is their responsibility to initiate a meeting with the instructor to discuss possibility of the grade of Incomplete (IN) being issued for the course. It is also the students responsibility to seek out the instructor to know their progress throughout the semester. (See grading scale to the left.) However, a grade of incomplete will not be issued unless extreme circumstances arise. Otherwise, the student is expected to finish the course during the semester in which they signed up for it.

Criteria used will be the instructors evaluation of whether or not the projects submitted by the student fulfills the intent of the course. Also, the way the student presents his/her work and if it meets all the elements set forth in the agreed upon contract by the student and faculty. Self motivation, attitude, professionalism, craftsmanship, creativity, and presentation are all factors which will be considered. Most importantly, however, is whether the student completes the full body of work he/she outlined in their “contract” by the designated deadline at the end of the semester. If a student does not complete the course work on time then he/she will not pass the course and a grade of “F” will be issued. Plagiarism will constitute an automatic grade of “F” on that project and the professor will follow the policy outlined in the Tiger Cub.

Students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities must be formally registered with the disabilities program office at 1244 Haley Center. If this is the case for you, please make an appointment with me by the second class day.
Date: First day of class (ex. January 6, 2007)
To: Kelly Bryant
From: (your name)
Subject: GDES 4900 | Independent Study

As a student enrolled in At 3900 this semester, I have chosen to .......

[Give me a statement about the overall intent of your work and field of study. I want to know what you plan to do, how
you plan to execute it and in what manner you will be presenting it to me. I do expect a final critique with you at the end of the
semester, please refer to the outline attached, and that your work will be presented to me in a portfolio. I strongly encourage you
to think of a theme of exploration to keep you on a single path but isn’t too restricting. Some ideas may be themes of light, chairs,
shadow, pattern, etc. The basic elements learned in structure courses are a good place to start.]

I propose to execute the following pieces:

[Here I want a list of individual themes, individual projects, sizes and mediums you intend to explore throughout the
semester. If all your work is to be in the same medium, then incorporate that into your opening statement in this section. These can be
listed in numerical order with a subcategory if this helps, for example: 1.a. b. c., 2. a., b., etc. The amount of work you choose to
do must be enough for the amount of credit you are signed up for. In other words, for three hours of credit you need to do as much
work as you did in graphic design 1.]

The success of my work should be evaluated on........

[Finally, I want you to state here what it is that you want to learn and see yourself as being evaluated on. Other terms
of evaluation are listed on the syllabus and attendance policy. It is important that your work reflect personal growth in the area you
have chosen. How will I know you have done this....tell me here.]

Your contract is due one week to the day from the first day of the semester. You may submit as many rough
drafts as need be to me in order to get to the final letter before the deadline.