

Project Rational

My teaching methodology is to explore and discuss the fundamental language of visual expression and push the boundaries between disciplines. Beyond conducting problem-solving assignments, I emphasize the interdependence of critical inquiry and technical skills. In order to stay on the forefront of contemporary art practice and continue contributing to the field of study, I need to stay current and encourage students to do the same.

It has become very apparent that teaching ART 372: Color Photography course as an analog equipment driven course is no longer tenable. In response, I have integrated a variety of methods to explore alternative definitions of color photography and expand on both technique and content. However, in order to fully serve students and to help prepare image-makers to actively maintain an ongoing dialogue within the color photographic medium, the ART 372 course needs to be revised, resuscitated, and redesigned.

Description of Intended Work

1. **RESEARCH, COMPARE, & CONTRAST:** This proposal is to research and redesign the ART 372: Color Photography course into-- *ART 372 New Experimental Color Photography*. The current analog color processor is no longer practical to maintain and has been decommissioned. The course needs to be revised entirely in order to reflect changing contemporary practices. Requiring substantial research and acquisition of new material, I will further expand on the history and significance of color imagery, as well as the contemporary work of photographic-digital artists working with color photography.
2. **REGIONAL CAMPUS VISITS:** Throughout the summer of 2019, I will visit a variety of university photography programs and investigate how current color photography courses are being taught, technology used, and facility/lab design. I have already established on-going relationships with several instructors throughout the region. Visiting and working with colleagues from Oregon State University, Washington State University, the University of Washington and Emily Carr University of Art & Design will create a context for investigating how peer institutions are addressing color photography in both large and small programs. Although there is no determine date for potential lab redesign at WWU, conducting research will prepare me and help assist in future planning of a new facility that suits the needs of the photography concentration and the department of Art & Art History Studio Art program.
3. **REDESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, AND OUTCOME:** The course has been dependent on an analog processor as a starting point for teaching basic color applications and corrections. In order to stay current and serve our students in a more cross-disciplinary context, it is imperative that the course be redesigned to reflect contemporary studio practice. Further developing new course projects to address and build the knowledge of understanding color photography, digital image processing, and photographic history, *ART 372: New Experimental Color Photography* will expand on notions surrounding color theory as applied to the electronic image, the creative process, and encompass the latest technologies and photographic trends in digital imaging and analog methods. Technically, the new course will provide students with the basic skills necessary to produce digital color images. No longer using the color processor, I will create new projects that will emphasize experimentation while using Digital SLR cameras (acquired through the STF program), basic image manipulation using Lightroom, digital printing and color management will be pushed further into cross disciplinary applications combining both analog and digital techniques.

Timeline-Grant Support

July 2019: Schedule prearranged campus visits to Oregon State University, Washington State University, the University of Washington and Emily Carr University of Art & Design and meet with Art Department Faculty.

August 2019: Research and redesign projects to reflect new direction of course.

2019 Summer Teaching Grant Proposal

Rubric Criteria

Will this activity expand the applicant's expertise as a teacher?

The newly designed *ART 372: New Experimental Color Photography* course will underscore the primary goals of my philosophy as a teacher. As an active exhibiting artist and teacher, I believe leading by example is necessary. I am passionate about my creative endeavors and I encourage my students to be equally passionate about their own projects. Redesigning Art 372 will enrich my existing course work and expand on the curriculum currently taught in the photography concentration.

Will it enhance the applicant's professional development in other ways?

Visiting other institutions and collaborating with colleagues in and beyond the region not only helps to further strengthen my professional relationships, but also will directly promote new connections between Western's Art Department and other regional universities. Arranging site visits at other universities is a major component of the proposed redesign. Essentially, researching what other programs are teaching and how I can model, emulate, and design a new experimental color photography class based on my research will further enhance my professional development.

Will the activity enhance specific courses, the program, or departmental curriculum?

Researching and developing a more inter-disciplinary and experimental color photography class will certainly attract more students. Not only from Studio Art, but also from Fairhaven, Industrial Design, and other programs from across campus. Growing the Photography Concentration and serving the needs of the studio program is a primary concern and redesigning the *ART 372: New Experimental Color Photography* course by embracing new applications and technologies will directly benefit the Department of Art and Art History, and the university.

Will the activity enhance student learning and better serve students, the department, and the university?

The redesign of *ART 372: New Experimental Color Photography* course content could easily contribute and enhance the development of students beyond the Photography Concentration. Expanding into a more comprehensive, experimental color course would invite students from different fields. For example, understanding color could easily benefit a student from the painting program, to someone in science. Moving beyond photo-based technology, and continuing to redefine and evolve an experimental color course would expand on conceptual methodology that underscores the understanding ideas surrounding aesthetic technical explorations, as well as, philosophical concerns regarding color. ART 372 will not only emphasize the traditions of making art, but will also explore contemporary theory, cross cultural concerns, and multimedia applications.

Will students benefit significantly from the proposal results?

Redesigning and embracing contemporary practices, the course will not only attract more students, but could most likely be taught throughout the year. Infrequently taught because of dependency on analog technology,

this proposed redesign would benefit students significantly by introducing them to a variety of cross-disciplinary approaches to color photography. It will also provide an introduction to the theory, practice and aesthetics of color image making. Successful projects could be further developed (see links: [Carver](#), [Macy's](#), [Library](#)).

Does the activity promote the mission of the department, college or university?

In keeping with the Department mission and goals of both the college and university, redesigning the ART 372 course will reinforce the basic tenants of the mission, which include, "innovation, creative thinking, and curiosity." Furthermore, the course will embrace the values of the university in terms of "Commitment to student success, critical thought, creativity..." According to a recently revised WWU strategic plan, "The world needs graduates who have a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences- already a major strength of Western- so that they can become life-long learners, creative thinkers and determined problem solvers." Revamping, reimagining, and reinventing ART 372 Color Photography into a more comprehensive, inter-disciplinary course will reflect not only the mission of the department and university, but will better prepare our students for postgraduate success.

Select Bibliography

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