

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
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**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**

**ARTS 3915V Special Projects**

Credit Hours: 1-3 CR. (VARIABLE)

Independent Study

Prerequisite(s): six hours of upper level studio art courses and consent of the instructor

Effective Catalog: 2019-20

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

Focuses on creating a number of works that address form, content, and subject matter in the style and medium of their choice. Produces a highly-developed body of work with a coherent visual theme that promotes an individual approach to creating art.

**B. Additional Information**

ARTS 3915V Special Projects is self-directed; students must present convincing evidence of a capacity for sustained, self-directed work. Students will present a proposal to a studio art faculty for approval prior to enrolling in the class. Upon approval of the proposal, a student is granted permission to enroll in the course. Studio time is scheduled based on credit hours. Scheduled reviews of work in progress are scheduled with the lead faculty. Panel reviews with three faculty members will be scheduled several times during the semester. A final review that determines a grade for the course will be scheduled during exam week. This review will take place as a formal exhibit of the work. All Studio Art faculty will participate in the final review. This course will be treated as an independent study for faculty load purposes.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Present a formal proposal that clearly defines the project.
2. Keep a sketchbook and log of activities pertaining to developing and producing the work created for the final review.

3. Maintain a record of references and resources used for the project.
4. Organize and focus on a topic or theme as it relates to the proposal.
5. Write a coherent “artist statement.”
6. Use appropriate materials, mediums and techniques to complete the project.
7. Reflect upon comments and direction given by the faculty and panel in order to increase quality and production of the work involved.
8. Produce quality work that meets the standards agreed to in the proposal.
9. Install an exhibit in an appropriate space for the final review.

## **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

### **Analytical Skills**

#### **Critical Thinking**

Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. They will identify a problem or issue.

Students will research, evaluate, and compare information from varying sources in order to evaluate authority, accuracy, recency, and bias relevant to the problems/issues. Students will generate solutions/analysis of problems/issues evaluated and assess and justify the solutions and/or analysis.

#### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will write cogent artist statements of intent. Students will present their work, discuss their process and intent, and answer questions.

## **III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Proposal
- B. Theme/motif
- C. Form, content, subject matter
- D. Process
- E. Materials/mediums
- F. Expression
- G. Means to accomplish a synthesis of form and content
- H. Documentation
- I. Installation of art exhibit (eye level, sequence, and spacing)
- J. Quality and quantity of work in terms of a comprehensive visual statement