Teaching Philosophy

In my teaching practices, I provide students with a platform for critical thinking, technical skills, understanding of materials, an outlet for creativity and a greater understanding of the visual world in which we live. In this environment students will gain knowledge and express individuality through various creative processes. Working collaboratively students can learn from their peers and grow as a community. For example, I have had students create a public art piece with painters' tape and worked together on an expressive response painting. These experiences allow the students to build an understanding of artistic practices in a unique way that focuses on collaboration and problem solving. These are skills that students can utilize in all areas of their education and in multiple fields.

An important part of my courses is working across multiple disciplines outside of visual arts. I have created three Zines, which are a visual merger of art and literature. A powerful example of cross-curricular explorations was a grant funded project that addressed the opioid crisis in the creation of a visual and literary book. This project merged research, literature and mixed media studio practices to bring awareness to this important issue. These teaching practices have been recognized with positive responses in student and administrative evaluations.

I believe in continuing to learn and grow with new developments in technology. The inclusion of new technology in the studio creates opportunities for the students to utilize contemporary design practices. I have developed new curriculums that bring contemporary technology and merge it with traditional artistic practices. In these courses students are learning new artistic and design skills that can be applied to their current majors like Digital Design majors.

In my courses it is important to understand the needs, interests and diversity of each student. I take the time to get to know all the students, this helps to guide my instruction to ensure each student can be successful in my courses. I make the delivery of instruction comprehensible by using multimedia instructional tools to teach all types of learners. I listen to student feedback and use that to enhance future projects and course development. This philosophy is always evolving with the current trends and needs of the students and University.