

## **Guided Independent Study Syllabus: Folk | Outsider Art of Alabama**

ART 4493 (3-3) | By Arrangement | Malone 132

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### **Course Description:**

*Guided Independent Study is an opportunity for students to progress further in an area of study, a process, a topic or medium that not otherwise available through the current curriculum. This course, although supervised, by a faculty member, is predominantly left up to the student to meet all expected outcomes to the satisfaction of the overseeing instructor.*

### **What this Guided Independent Study is about:**

This course will challenge the student to deeply investigate the impact of folk and outsider art as it relates to Alabama and its artistic heritage

### **What you should expect to do:**

It is expected that the students will do a comprehensive background research of folk art and outsider art, fully exploring both through the past two hundred years. The student will not only research the general, recent history of folk/outsider art, but will progressively draw focus upon the folk/outsider art of Alabama. Ultimately, the student will gather interviews and visual documentation of contemporary folk/outsider artists of Alabama and compose a visual and written piece for evaluation.

### **About the instructor:**

The instructor, Jerry R. Johnson, M.Ed., M.F.A., is chairman of the Department of Art and Design at TROY and has previously taught design at both Oklahoma State University and Southern Arkansas University where he was also the chairman of the Department of Art for nine years. Although his educational background is in art education, graphic design and illustration, he has exhibited his analog and digital works of fine art in national and international juried exhibitions. Outside of managing a growing academic department, Johnson continues to provide consulting work for assorted clients in industry as well as speak at national and international conferences on topics related to design education, industry and intercultural communications. His design work is noted in *American Corporate Identity 6* as exemplar of excellence in corporate identity. He has also won numerous Gold and Silver ADDY Awards from the advertising community and recently served as President of the Montgomery Advertising Federation.

### **What you will turn in to instructor**

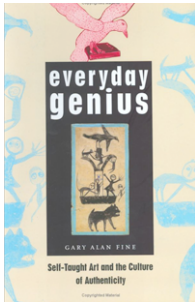
- A 10-page report regarding your findings about folk art and outsider art of the past 200 years (in America most likely, but you are free to draw international parallels). This paper should be written in APA format (<http://www.docstyles.com/apacrib.htm>). Instructor will announce deadline. (15% of grade)
- A 5-page report regarding the significance that Alabama/Georgia has displayed in this genre of art. (Mose T, Howard Finster, etc.). Instructor will announce deadline. (15% of grade)
- Student will conduct interviews (showing documentation when appropriate) and capture aural,

written and visual evidence of such to be used for the production of a printed publication. Instructor will announce deadline. (30% of grade)

- Student will turn in a portfolio (in the form of a handsomely designed, published book or booklet) showing evidence of the above as well as reflecting superior artistic and design skills. The final portfolio will be evaluated according to craftsmanship, accuracy and care worthy of the profession. (40% of grade)

**PREREQUISITES:** Student must either have completed a minimum of 15 hours in their approved academic art major or have permission from the Department Chairman.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:** You are required to attain and read the following books (4) as supportive materials in your research. Your readings should be evidenced in your required reports and other. AMERICAN FOLK by Carol Troyen, Abaigeal Duda, Sue Welsh Reed, and Gilian Ford Shallcross (2002); THE FLOWERING OF AMERICAN FOLK ART 1776-1876 by Jean Lipman, Alice Winchester, and Whitney Museum of American Art (1997); AMERICAN FOLK ART FOR KIDS: With 21 Activities (for Kid Series) by Richard Panchyk and Jr., William C. Ketchum (2004); and EVERYDAY GENIUS: Self-Taught Art and the Culture of Authenticity by Gary Alan Fine (2006).



The above books can be found new and used for reasonable prices. Additionally, there may be other supplemental reading required by instructor.

**GRADING/ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Class attendance is EXPECTED and is a strong determinant of your success in this course. Absences beyond two (2) will lower the final grade by one-half letter grade per absence. Absenteeism includes late arrivals and unexcused, early departures (2 of these = one absence). Any late competency project will result in an automatic grade reduction and any subsequently delinquent projects will receive compounded grade reductions.

Grade reductions are completely at the discretion of the instructor. [Attendance to this particular section of Guided Independent Study is on arrangement basis. Student and instructor will meet on a TBA schedule.](#)

Letter grade designations: **A = (100-90) Truly, extraordinary!**

Professional caliber, work that achieves excellence in most, if not all, specified criteria.

**B = (89-80) Outstanding.**

Professional quality, above average in most specified criteria.

**C = (79-70) Average.**

Acceptable, meets criteria but does not attain exceptional standards in some or all categories.

**D = (69-60) Poor.**

**F = (59 and below) Failure.**

**INCOMPLETE GRADES:** If for some reason a student is unable to complete the required coursework or attend classes due to come extenuating circumstances, the student may request an academic withdrawal from the University OR the student may petition for an "INC" grade. However, our departmental policy is that a student must have completed at least 80% of the coursework up to that point to make such a petition. Otherwise, an academic withdrawal through University Records is the recommended course of action.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** Any student whose disabilities fall within the ADA must inform the instructor at the beginning of the term of any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements of the course.