

THE GAIA AESTHETIC

"Making Art as if the Earth Mattered"

Fall and Winter, 1984-85

COVENANT

"It is not necessary for eagles to be crown."

—Tatanka Iyotanka

(Sitting Bull)

Learning Objectives:

1. To deepen comprehension of one's relationship to the Earth, to one's art, and to oneself as a responsible member of the community and the culture; of the importance of emotional courage and intellectual integrity; of the need to learn how to combine play with work and the like.
2. To clarify one's values—beliefs about what really matters.
3. First, to learn the rules; second, to learn how and when to break them.
4. To measurably improve artistic craft.
5. To improve skills in reading comprehension, writing, and oral communication.
6. To develop discipline.
7. To have an awareness of art and literature from a variety of cultural perspectives.
8. To learn how to organize work around a central theme.
9. To learn how to complete work.
10. To let the work become your teacher.
- (11. A poem is always married to someone.)

Program Animal and Color

The program animal is the dragonfly. The program color is purple.

Evaluation Procedures:

Students will be evaluated on their ability to write and speak in a way which allows them to clearly communicate ideas and concepts and on their ability to do creative work of an increasingly skilled nature. They will be expected to read assigned material and discuss it and write about it with increasing sensitivity. They will be expected to gain an awareness of the themes, myths,

symbols and major ideas in the works they read and to understand the cultural traditions in which those myths and symbols are grounded.

Students will be evaluated individually by their small group seminar leader, with the assistance of the other faculty member. The faculty team as a whole will consider the matter in case of disagreement concerning a student's evaluation. Part-time credit (4 credits) from outside the program will be permitted; please consult with your seminar leader about your choice of part-time study.

Student Duties:

Students are expected to be on time and prepared to discuss readings, show work, and participate in program activities as assigned. Absenteeism, failure to show and refusal to do work are grounds for dismissal from the program; if a student is asked to leave the program, he or she can appeal the decision by presenting evidence as to why it should be reversed to the faculty team.

Faculty Duties:

Faculty are expected to come on time and be prepared for program functions.

At faculty seminars and business meetings, faculty are expected to be on time, be prepared, be ready to discuss the books assigned, examine topics, and air gripes openly and directly if they occur.

Faculty will be required to give an "in house" evaluation of each other's work at the end of each quarter and a formal evaluation at the end of the program year.

The program history will be prepared by the entire faculty team who will keep records and work together to re-evaluate the program at the end of the year.

Changes in the curriculum will be made by the entire faculty team if they should become necessary. If discord concerning change develops, the deans will be consulted.

Faculty Responsibilities:

Coordinator

budget
liaison with deans and
and administration
space & scheduling
coordinate with
other campus faculty
for program input with
total group approval

Faculty Team to Share Equally

student records for small group seminar
faculty seminar (topics)
approval of seminar group switches
advising students in small group seminar
enrollment of new students
equipment and supplies as each needs
changes in planned curriculum
liaison with LRC, SFNU, etc.
visiting speakers, demonstrations
workshops and field trips

Each faculty member will conduct their own small seminar group and give lecture presentations of their own choice to the total group within the areas of their own expertise.

Grievances:

If anyone in the program, student or faculty, has a grievance against any other member of the program, the first person to take it up with is the person against whom you have the grievance. Only after this attempt to work things out has failed are mediators called in. Solve the problem as close to the source as possible; deans or others outside the program are only to be called upon if all efforts closer to home have failed.

Meg Hunt

Craig Carlson

(name)