

# The Book as Art- Pat Badt

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I. **Course Description:** The focus of this course will be on the investigation into the process of bookmaking from simple zines to unique artist books. We will learn several different structures and produce books with and without text. Students will work individually and collectively to explore different ways of creating. Ideas of narrative, found language, concrete poetry and illustration will be addressed

II. **Course Objective:** Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate competence in the following areas:

- A. Understanding bookmaking processes and different book structures
- B. Understanding elements of narration, design and creating a unified bookform
- C. Use creativity and aesthetic judgment in creating a project
- D. Developing the verbal skills to discuss formal aspects of a project
- E. To critically examine works on the basis of their aesthetic and communitive merit.
- F. Understand and practice safe and considerate studio procedures

III. **Course Method:** Method of instruction includes lectures, slide presentations, class discussion, and studio demonstrations, in progress and finished work critiques and personal student conferences in addition to hands-on bookmaking processes.

IV. **Method of Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on the following criteria according to the accompanying scale

Attendance

Projects ( 20pts/project)

Homework

Sketchbook journal

Each project will be evaluated on 4 criteria, each criteria is worth 5-10 points with an overall total for each project being 25pts.

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|-------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Fulfillment of Requirement | 5 pts  |
| 2. Craftsmanship              | 10 pts |
| 3. Development of Idea        | 5 pts  |
| 4. Creativity                 | 5 pts  |

All assignments must be submitted when they are due. Late assignments will be penalized one grade level or 5 points. Work submitted more than one week beyond the due date will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made between the student and the instructor.

There will be a **FINAL** book project. You will also be asked to hand in your sketchbook/journal. **Any item missing from Final (projects, assignments, journal, self-evaluation) will result in lowering grade by one grade point. In addition as a part of the final you will be expected to help clean up the studio.**

V. **Policy for class attendance:** Attendance is mandatory! After 3 unexcused absences your grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Tardiness should be avoided. Being late on three occasions constitutes as an unexcused absence.

VI. **Classroom conduct:** Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest Honor Code. Such behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to their Cedar Crest College education.

## VII. Materials List:

\*Journal book (will discuss in class, find a hard-bound book)

pencils, color pencils

Scissors

x-acto knife

Metal triangle

Bone folder

Assorted paper, materials, as needed for each project

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## Draft Syllabus:

**Artists' books** (also called bookworks) are works of art realized in the form of a book. They are usually published in small editions, though sometimes they are one-of-a-kind objects. Artists' books have employed a wide range of forms, including scrolls, fold-outs or loose items contained in a box.

Although artists have been active in printing and book production for centuries, the artist's book is primarily a 20th century form.

*www.wickopedia.com*

**For each project I will expect you to have journal sketches of ideas and plans**

## **NON-ADHESIVE BOOK FORMS: Projects 1-3:**

1. Project 1: **Zines/Maze book**: Create a book using *Images only*.  
Homework Assignment: create a ZineMaze book (different maze) using *Images and Text* (involving the idea of narrative, story)
2. Project 2: **Pocket book with pocket binding**
3. Project 3: Prototypes of **Side-sewn** and **Pamphlet stitch bookform**  
Make a finished book from **one** of these forms using **TEXT ONLY**

## **Paste Paper demonstration**

4. **ADHESIVE BOOKFORMS: Project 4: Prototypes of Folding-style bookform (paper cover/paste paper) and Concertina bookform (cloth cover, paste paper inside)**,  
Make maquette demonstrating both styles, then choose one for project
5. Project 5: **Altered book I (Hard book)**
  - a. using the book
  - b. completely altering the book

introduce Altered Book II
6. Project 6: **Altered Book II (Hardbound book)**

\***Concrete poetry** or **shape poetry** is poetry in which the typographical arrangement of words is as important in conveying the intended effect as the conventional elements of the poem, such as meaning of words, rhythm, rhyme and so on. It is sometimes referred to as **visual poetry**, a term that has evolved to have distinct meaning of its own, because the words themselves form a picture.

\*\***Exquisite corpse** (also known as "exquisite cadaver" or "rotating corpse") is a method by which a collection of words or images are collectively assembled, the result being known as the exquisite corpse or *cadavre exquis* in French. Often the work develops without visual information and grows on its own, in parts and only whole in the final unveiling.