Course Description
What do you want to do before you die? Inspired by Candy Chang’s public art project turned worldwide phenomenon, this class will engage with and respond to the community through public prompts and creative responses. Students will develop independent portfolios of artwork and writing inspired by the “honest mess of longing, pain, joy insecurity, gratitude fear, and wonder” expressed by Ogdenites.

Required Materials
- Supplemental readings made available on Canvas that you are required to print and bring to class.
- A writing notebook
- The “Before I Die” art supply kit from Art Elements

Honors Program Learning Outcomes
1. Clear and compelling written expression
2. Critical thinking that is open-minded, objective, and as free as possible from prejudice and presupposition
3. The comprehension of abstract arguments and the ability to move between the general and the particular
4. An appreciation for the variety of human experience, exploring both its universality and its diversity
5. An understanding of and appreciation for the various modes of artistic expression
6. Collaboration on group projects or activities.

Humanities General Education Student Learning Outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of diverse philosophical, communicative, linguistic, or literary traditions, as well as of key themes, concepts, issues, terminology, and ethical standards in humanities disciplines.
2. Students will analyze cultural artifacts within a given discipline, and, when appropriate, across disciplines, time periods, and cultures.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate their understanding of humanities materials in written, oral, or graphic forms.
Readings & Assignments

Important: You are required to produce new and original work for this class. All assigned writing must be typed and turned in on time. Should you need to email your work in case of an absence, do so via Canvas by the time class starts to be counted on time. You are responsible for saving copies of any work turned in for grading.

Readings

Readings will support in-class discussion and creative work, and may change to respond to issues that arise during class discussion. Please make note of readings as they are announced in class, and bring them in print on the day they will be discussed.

Assignments

In-Progress Assignments

• Three Pieces of Writing (30%)

This assignment consists of three original creative writing submissions inspired by the responses to our bi-weekly public prompts. Each assignment is worth ten (10) completion points, for a total of three submissions worth 30% of your overall grade.

• Three Pieces of Art (30%)

This assignment consists of three original pieces of art inspired by the responses to our bi-weekly public prompts. Each assignment is worth ten (10) completion points, for a total of three submissions worth 30% of your overall grade.

Please note that works submitted for feedback are regarded as works-in-progress and are therefore not assigned a letter grade based on whether they are perfect, polished, and publishable or museum-ready. In the spirit of being respectful of the workshop environment, we do expect you to make an honest attempt at the writing and artwork you put up for feedback.

Late submissions lose one point for every day late (not every class day). Thus, any submission not received after ten days, or not submitted at all, receive zero credit. Late artwork must be delivered to Molly’s office (KA321). Late work will not be discussed in class and detailed feedback is not guaranteed.

Exhibition Installation and Removal (5%)

On Friday, December 11th, our class will open its doors to the campus and community for an end-of-term exhibition. You will need to select, install, and take down one piece of your writing and one piece of your art for this exhibition. Due to the constraints of public exhibition, you work must arrive on time and ready to hang. Late work will not be accepted.
Final Portfolio with Reflection and Final Presentation (20%)
Your Final Portfolio will be a representation of your work and progress as an artist and writer over the course of the semester. It will consist of all three of your pieces of writing (heavily revised) and good documentation of three re-worked, carefully finished works of art.

Your portfolio will also include a 2 – 3 page (double-spaced, 12-pt font, Times New Roman, proper MLA headings) reflective essay. In your essay, you will need to discuss your reasons for choosing the pieces you displayed for our class exhibition. Your essay should also reflect on your growth as an artist and writer over the course of the semester. Additional guidelines and details about assessment will be provided later in the semester. No late portfolios will be accepted.

During finals week, our class will meet one more time at the gallery. You will need to come prepared with your Final Portfolio and with a brief presentation in which you discuss your reasons for selecting your exhibition pieces. Presentations should last no more than 10 minutes.

Group Prompt Installation and Removal (5%)
At assigned times during the semester, each group will install and take down our class prompt from their designated locations. The sign-up sheet with installation/removal dates will be available during the first week of class.

Group Blog Post (10%)
At assigned times during the semester, each group will update our class blog the week following their prompt's removal. Groups will sign up for a blog post date when signing up for the installation/removal date.

COURSE POLICIES
Attendance
You are expected to attend class and attend it on time. Because this participation-heavy class meets only one day a week, you are permitted one absence without any effect on your overall course grade. Every additional absence will reduce your course grade by half a letter grade. At your 4th absence, you will fail the course. Please note that all absences are treated equally, meaning there are no “excused” or “unexcused” absences.

Core Beliefs
According to PPM 6–22 IV, students are to “[d]etermine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with a student's core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not oblige the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal. This request must be made to the instructor in writing and the student must deliver a copy of the request to the office of the department head. The student's request must articulate the burden the requirement would place on the student's beliefs.”
*** Please note that the course readings and pieces submitted for critique in the workshop may include material that may be offensive. We aim to teach with the most relevant models, and it is not unusual for writing and art to include profanity, depictions of sexual encounters, violence, and political or religious content. We welcome all forms of writing and art here, provided that they aspire towards excellent craftsmanship.

A Note on Academic Dishonesty (Plagiarism)
As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is “the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person’s or group’s ideas or work.” Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism are subject to failure of a specific assignment, or, in more serious cases, failure of the entire course and referral to the MENG Program Director.

Disability Accommodation
PPM 3-34 notes: “When students seek accommodation in a regularly scheduled course, they have the responsibility to make such requests at the Center for Students with Disabilities before the beginning of the quarter [semester] in which the accommodation is being requested. When a student fails to make such arrangements, interim accommodations can be made by the instructor, pending the determination of the request for a permanent accommodation.”

Emergency Closure
If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via Canvas. Look for announcements through your Weber email and on our Canvas page.

Counseling Center
Being in college can add a whole new set of challenges to balancing family, work, friendships, and other responsibilities. If you’re feeling overwhelmed, anxious or even just a little down, please take advantage of the FREE, confidential services at the counseling center. Contact them at 801-626-6406; Student Services 280; weber.edu/CounselingCenter.

Please refer to this scale when final grades are posted:

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<th>74-76</th>
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