

CRITIQUE DECORUM

Critiques are taken seriously here. A certain amount of respect is requested. There are some modes of behavior that are recommended and others that are unacceptable. Your body language is a reasonable indication of your attitude. It is in your best interest to send the right messages to your fellow students.

Arrive on time Everyone is expected to arrive at the start of class time and immediately begin hanging their prints. You are allowed to hang 15 minutes into class time only! Anything more than this takes away from discussion time. Everyone who is not showing should spend hang time examining the prints on the wall, picking their favorites, and formulating statements about them.

Say something The people showing will all pick their favorite print (other than one of their own) and comment on it, trying to choose a print by someone who has not been picked. Then everyone else will pick an unselected print to speak about. Finally, we will address everyone on an individual basis. Each student needs your comments. If you cannot find anything to say about someone else's prints, how can you expect them to say anything about yours?

Pay attention Direct your attention toward the prints that are currently being discussed. Looking or discussing other student's prints dilutes the focus of the crit. Do not, for any reason, engage in any other activities, such as reading magazines, even if they were brought in for the class to be looked at. There is a proper time for everything.

Sit up straight Slouching lazily is an indication of disrespect – toward the crit, toward your classmates, and toward your instructor. Don't put your feet up on other chairs or on the tables. This is not a convent, but it is not a bar. Body language is another way to communicate how much you care.

Keep conversations directed Nothing is more distracting than ongoing chitchat between two or three persons on the side. Occasional comments are fine, but anything of merit should be directed toward the entire class.

Eat elsewhere Photographs and mayonnaise do not mix well. It is difficult to hold a conversation over the sound of crunching potato chips. For these reasons, please do not bring food into the crit room. Arrange your time so you will not starve through class. *Note: There are times when the preceding class runs over. The instructors teach on a very tight schedule. Sometimes they will be forced to consume food at the beginning of class rather than going out to eat and arriving late.*

Clean up After the crit is over, look around the room and discard any trash that you see lying around. Make sure you take all the push-pins out of the wall as well.

Go to the bathroom before class starts. Walking out in the middle of a conversation is rude and disrupting. If you cannot hold liquids, do not drink before class.

Clear early departures with the instructor before class. If you cannot stay, you should have a good reason. A midterm exam tomorrow is not a good reason to abandon your classmates when they need your feedback tonight.

Be here Do not ever cut a crit, slide lecture, or any class, to work in the Lab.

Reciprocate The bottom line is to treat your classmates with the respect and attention that you would like to receive. How can you expect someone to give you what you will not give them. It's the golden rule, remember?