AVT 222 – Drawing 1
Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Introduction and exploration of the fundamentals of drawing methods and materials, with emphasis on observational study and critical analysis of the effective and expressive use of line, mass, value, perspective, and formal composition. Emphasis on problems involved in representational and abstract visual interpretations of forms.

COURSE GOALS:
The goal of this class is to introduce the student to drawing. The successful student will begin to acquire the fundamentals of drawing and visual understanding. The student should develop an awareness of drawing materials. Curiosity and appreciation of Art History is encouraged. Every student should display originality and an ability to respond confidently to challenging drawing assignments.

EXPECTATIONS:
The course is comprised of studio assignments, homework assignments, research, written assignments and the keeping of a sketchbook. Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared for class. Active participation is expected in the studio. This will be demonstrated by meeting assignments with curiosity and interest, by asking good questions, by working hard and being prepared to discuss your results and experiences as well as evaluating finished work. AVT 222 is designed to include assignments that require time outside of class to complete. You are expected to research and prepare for studio work as asked. You are asked to maintain a personal sketchbook in order to develop ideas and issues introduced in class. You are expected to demonstrate curiosity and appreciation of Art History. Every student is expected to display originality and the ability to respond confidently to challenging drawing assignments.

E-MAIL:
All students enrolled in this class are required to have an operative e-mail account set up through the registration process with George Mason University.

COURSE FORMAT:
Studio Assignments
A variety of assignments and exercises will be undertaken each week in class. It is the student’s responsibility to come to class prepared to work on the day’s activities. Students are required to take necessary care of all studio work throughout the semester. You will be required to formally present your work for portfolio review in good condition. Quality of presentation reflects student respect for the treatment and functions of materials and will be considered an important part of your review.
Independent Research
This course requires a minimum of 4 hours per week outside of class. Class time will be devoted to reviewing, discussing and developing your drawing.

Sketchbook
A personal sketchbook is a requirement for this course and will be graded accordingly. Maintaining a sketchbook is good practice for developing drawing ideas and provides a less constrained format for visual note taking. Your sketchbook will be dedicated to AVT 222. As a drawing student your sketchbook should be used to take notes in class and should show continued evidence of visual idea development. Every student is expected to completely fill at least one 100 page sketchbook during the semester. (6 pages per week are assigned)

Portfolio Review
There are two reviews scheduled. (7th and 15th weeks) These are opportunities to present an overview of your progress for diagnostic evaluation. All relevant coursework, sketchbook and assignments will be submitted for review. Any missing work warrants appropriate alteration of your grade. Non-submission or late portfolios will receive a grade of F, unless prior arrangements have been made. More specific information will be delivered prior to portfolio submission dates. Keep all of the work you do throughout the semester. Keep it dry and store it flat.

Preparation
Students are expected to bring materials to every class meeting. If you arrive without materials and are unable to work, you will be counted as absent for that day.

Clean-up
Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves so that the room is ready for the next class. At the end of the semester, please thoroughly clean out your locker/file. Do not leave anything behind.

Critiques
We will hold periodic informal critiques after projects. The critiques are designed to help students improve their work and develop a vocabulary to discuss their own work as well as the work of their classmates. Participating in the critiques is mandatory.

Due Dates
Assignments are expected to be complete and prepared for presentation on the date due. Assignments turned in late will not receive full credit.

Attendance: Participation
Experience has proven students who do not attend drawing class do poorly. All students are expected to attend and actively participate in classroom discussions and critiques. This is a studio course. Evaluation is strongly based on work done in class. Your ability to articulate key ideas and critically evaluate work is an important part of your development in this course. It is imperative that you participate in every class meeting. It is almost impossible to make up work if a class is missed.

Students are allowed 1 absence without penalty. Every absence taken after the first will result in a drop of one letter grade for each absence.

Students are allowed a maximum of 3 excused absences. Any request for an excused absence must be in writing. Each additional absence will reduce the final grade by one
letter grade. Work, family visits, family crisis, extra curricular activities, car breakdowns, laundry and deadlines for other classes do not justify an excused absence. Submit written documentation of excused absence within one week of the occurrence. Maintain documentation for submittal at the end of the semester. Each part absence that cumulatively exceeds 3 will result in a lowered grade. Lateness counts as 1/3 absence. Early departures count as half an absence. Students arriving 15 minutes or more late for class will be counted as absent for the day. Students leaving 15 minutes or more before class ends will be counted as absent for the day.

Class will be dismissed with time provided for packing materials and cleaning up. Please do not prepare to depart before class is dismissed. It is disruptive and unfair to your classmates.

If you are going to miss class for any reason, it is important that you contact me.

If you are late or miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from one of your classmates. The work will have to be made up outside of class. Missing work is graded as zero and averaged in to the grade.

The following are considered excused absences:
1. Family emergency
2. University established religious holiday
3. Illness with a dated doctor’s note
4. University sponsored events, documented

** If you are going to miss class for any reason, it is important that you contact me.

** If you miss or are late to a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from one of your classmates. The work will have to be made up outside of class.

DON’T BE LATE, DON’T LEAVE EARLY, DON’T MISS CLASS!

GRADING POLICY:
All students are graded on an equal basis for the work completed. Students who attend class regularly and satisfy the requirements of each assignment should expect a C in this class. The grade of A is reserved to recognize exceptional effort, intensity and involvement. Grades in this course will be evaluated based on the following criteria and system:

Factors considered in assessing final grade:
- Attendance, punctuality, preparedness for and active participation in class
- Understand and use the formal elements of art (use of line, color, texture, shape and value) to explore emotional, social or cultural content
- Use of media and an understanding of the transformation of visual ideas through the use of a variety of materials, Technical skill with a variety of materials
- Respect for peer ideas, Responsive attitude to critique and tutorial input
- Demonstrates understanding of formal language
- Verbal demonstration of analytic and critical skills
- Awareness of the role of aesthetic judgment, intuition and critical analysis in making creative decisions
- Visual research (accumulation of written and/or visual resources)

Letter grades that will be assigned:

- “A” work is considered outstanding within the context of the course. This includes actively participating in class every day, writing thorough, well-researched and thoughtful papers, and executing assignments on time with special attention to learned formal skills, content, craftsmanship, and presentation. An “A” letter grade will not be given if you have more than one unexcused absence from class.
- “B” work exceeds the basic requirements of the course, above average participation. A “B” letter grade will not be given if you have more than two unexcused absences from class.
- “C” work meets the basic requirements of each assignment. Completes work with uneven results. A “C” letter grade will not be given if you have more than three unexcused absences from class.
- “D” minimal effort.
- “F” no effort.
- + or - will be assigned to letter grades according to letter scale.

50% Drawing, including: in-class, home work
40% Participation (includes: attendance, active listening, active response, effort and the appearance of effort)
10% Sketchbook

Ask yourself these questions throughout the semester:
- Have I done the assignments, fulfilling the requirements of each?
- Do I participate in class discussions and critiques?
- Do I pursue learning outside of lecture/studio time?
- Is this the best I can do? Are my efforts outstanding?
- Is my work unique and creative?
- Have I been present, prompt, prepared and resourceful?

Materials List

**PAPER**
- 1 pad of 18" x 24" sketch paper 100 sheets (smooth surface)(tape bound preferred)
- 1 pad of 18" x 24" newsprint paper 100 sheets (smooth surface)(tape bound preferred)
- 1 sketchbook or journal, 9" x 12" (or larger) (spiral bound preferred)
- water resistant Portfolio, 19" x 25" or larger

**CHARCOAL**
- Vine charcoal sticks; 1 package each of soft and medium (not hard)
- Compressed charcoal sticks; min. 2H(hard), HB (hard), 2B (med.), and 4B (soft)
- Charcoal pencils; Soft, Medium and Hard
- White charcoal pencil
- Colored chalk set, 12 count, get intense colors, avoid cheap pastel colored chalk
PENCILS
- Drawing pencils; 6B, 4B, 2B, HB, 2H, 4H
- Graphite sticks; soft and medium
- Kneaded rubber eraser, white vinyl eraser, Pink Pearl eraser

INK
- 1 Tombo ABT N15 BrushPen or Faber Castell Artists Pens- set of 4, brush – fine point

TOOLS
- Drawing Board, 23-1/2” x 26”, masonite
- 2 binder clips, large enough to hold pad
- Roll of ½” drafting tape
- 1/8” dowel stick 10” long or suitable alternative (thin knitting needle, shish-kebab skewer, wire hanger)(bring in or make in class)
- Viewfinder, (Can be purchased) Bring chipboard, matboard or illustration board to make in class.
- Small hand mirror
- Spray fixative (Krylon Crystal Clear)

EXTRA
- pad of 18” x 24” multimedia paper
- Rives BFK- a better paper
- Black India ink
- Assorted brushes—bamboo brush, assorted sizes from 1/2" to 3", (at least one)
- Croquil drawing pen, bamboo pen
- X-acto knife and refill blades
- glue stick
- Assortment of plastic containers for water

Additional materials and individual sheets of drawing paper may be purchased as needed. Italicized items need not be purchased immediately. You will be informed ahead of time if ahead of time when these items are needed for a specific classroom or homework assignment.

Art Supply Stores:
- Utrecht: 1250 I St., NW, WDC, 202-898-0555
- Plaza: 3045 Nutley St., Fairfax: 703-288-4500
- AC Moore: 9650 Main St., Fairfax: 703-764-2004

ASSIGNMENTS
Sketchbook – each week fill 6 pages in the sketchbook (84). Goal to completely fill a 100-page sketchbook.
- Class notes, Artist Study, observations (saw, heard, did, thought), ephemera, poems, current events, critique, and unexplained phenomenon
- --The Sketchbook assignment includes artist research. At least seven times during the semester, select an artist that you find interesting, print a picture of the artist’s work, glue the picture into the sketchbook, and write a paragraph or two about the image. Try to find connections between what we are doing in class and the artist you select. Write what is important to you about the artwork or the artist. Think critically. Make your own judgments. Repeating someone else’s thought is pointless.
You get extra points for using art vocabulary correctly, but it isn’t critical. When time allows we will share our artist discoveries.

**COURSE OUTLINE**
This is a tentative schedule of the topics that will be covered. It is subject to change as deemed necessary. Works are due at the beginning of class on due/critique dates. An explanation of my expectations for each project will accompany each assignment.

**Tuesday Class:** Slide talk, introduction of new materials, demonstration  
Class projects due from previous week  
Critique of completed work  
Drawing

**Thursday Class:** Technical instruction  
Project discussion  
Discuss individual research  
Drawing

**Week 1**
Discussion of class procedures, materials list, syllabus, etc.  
Material Try-out, Gesture  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Expressive Lines

**Week 2**
Gesture, Blocking, Sighting  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Gesture drawing from TV.  
Written Assignment: Artist Study

**Week 3**
Organizational Lines, Emphasis, 4-Hand Drawing  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Exterior, Interior, Cross Contour, Doodle, Pattern

**Week 4**
Blind Contour, Line Study  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Blind Contour  
Written Assignment: Artist Study

**Week 5**
Hatching, Cross Hatching  
16 part Value Scale  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Hatch, Cross Hatch

**Week 6**
Dug Up Drawing  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Dug up drawing  
Written Assignment: Artist Study

**Week 7**
Value Reversal  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Value reversal

**Week 8**
High Contrast Value, Drawn Patterns in place of observed value (Celebrity Texture Portrait)  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Stencil, Patterns  
Written Assignment: Artist Study
Week 9
Positive/Negative Space
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. pos/neg space

Week 10
Explore Formats, Balance Studies
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Eccentric Frames
Written Assignment: Artist Study

Week 11
Rhythm: Staccato, Legato, Perspective
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Cubes in Perspective

Week 12
Perspective; Stacks, Geometric Solids, Transparent Object
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Objects in 2 pt perspective
Written Assignment: Artist Study

Week 13
2 point Perspective; Room and Disaster
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. 2 pt spaces

Week 14
Color, White Still Life, White Drape
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Color

Week 15
Color Portrait, Local Colornj
Final Portfolio Review

University and School of Art Policies
In accordance with George Mason University policy, turn off all beepers, cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at the start of class. The instructor of the class will keep his/her cell phone active to assure receipt of any Mason Alerts in a timely fashion; or in the event that the instructor does not have a cell phone, he/she will designate one student to keep a cell phone active to receive such alerts.

Commitment to Diversity
This class will be conducted as an intentionally inclusive community that celebrates diversity and welcomes the participation in the life of the university of faculty, staff and students who reflect the diversity of our plural society. All may feel free to speak and to be heard without fear that the content of the opinions they express will bias the evaluation of their academic performance or hinder their opportunities for participation in class activities. In turn, all are expected to be respectful of each other without regard to race, class, linguistic background, religion, political beliefs, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, veteran’s status, or physical ability.

Statement on Ethics in Teaching and Practicing Art and Design
As professionals responsible for the education of undergraduate and graduate art and design students, the faculty of the School of Art adheres to the ethical standards and practices incorporated in the professional Code of Ethics of our national accreditation organization, The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

Open Studio Hours
SOA teaching studios are open to students for extended periods of time mornings, evenings and weekends whenever classes are not in progress. Policies, procedures and schedules for studio use are established by the SOA studio faculty and are posted in the studios.
ArtsBus - Dates for Spring 2016
February 20
March 19
April 9

ArtsBus Credit
* Each student must have up to 5 AVT 300/Artsbus credits before graduation. For credit to appear on your transcript you must enroll in AVT 300. This also applies to anyone who intends to travel to New York independently, or do the DC Alternate Assignment.
* If you plan/need to go on multiple ArtsBus trips during a semester and need them towards your total requirement, you must enroll in multiple sections of AVT 300. Please go to the ArtsBus website: http://artsbus.gmu.edu “Student Information” for additional, very important information regarding ArtsBus policy.
* Non-AVT majors taking art classes do not need Artsbus credit BUT may need to go on the Artsbus for a class assignment. You can either sign up for AVT 300 or buy a ticket for the bus trip at the Center of the Arts. Alternate trips must be approved by the instructor of the course that is requiring an ArtsBus trip.

Visual Voices Lecture Series Spring 2016
Visual Voices is a year-long series of lectures by artists, art historians and others about contemporary art and art practice. Visual Voices lectures are held on Thursday evenings from 7:20-9:00 p.m. in Harris Theater: http://soa.gmu.edu/visualvoices/

Important Deadlines:

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<tr>
<th>January 1 Day of Week</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Day (no classes)</td>
<td>Mon Jan 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date; full semester waitlists removed</td>
<td>Tue Jan 19</td>
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<td>Summer 2016 Graduation Intent Available via Patriot Web</td>
<td>Mon Jan 25</td>
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<td>Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due</td>
<td>Tues Jan 26</td>
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<td>Last day to drop with no tuition penalty</td>
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<td>Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty</td>
<td>Tues Feb 2</td>
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<td>Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)</td>
<td>Fri Feb 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to file your Spring 2016 Graduation Intent</td>
<td>Fri Feb 19</td>
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<td>Immunization Record Deadline</td>
<td>Tue Mar 1</td>
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<td>Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web</td>
<td>Mon Feb 15 – Fri Mar 18</td>
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<td>Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)</td>
<td>Mon Feb 22 – Fri Mar 25</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Mon Mar 7 – Sun Mar 13</td>
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<td>Incomplete work from Fall 2015 due to Instructor</td>
<td>Fri Mar 25</td>
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<td>Incomplete grade changes from Fall 2015 due to Registrar</td>
<td>Fri Apr 1</td>
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<td>Dissertation/Thesis Deadline</td>
<td>Fri Apr 29</td>
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<td>Last day of classes</td>
<td>Mon May 2</td>
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<td>Reading Days</td>
<td>Tue May 3</td>
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<td>Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions, but regular classes or exams may not be held.</td>
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<td>Exam Period (beginning at 7:30 a.m.)</td>
<td>Wed May 4 – Wed May 11</td>
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<td>Commencement and Degree Conferral Date</td>
<td>May 14</td>
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Once the add and drop deadlines have passed, instructors do not have the authority to approve requests from students to add or drop/withdraw late. Requests for late adds (up until the last day of classes) must be made by the student in the SOA office (or the office of the department offering the course), and generally are only approved in the case of a documented university error (such as a problem with financial aid being processed), LATE ADD fee will apply. Requests for non-selective withdrawals and retroactive adds (adds after the last day of classes) must be approved by the academic dean of the college in which the student’s major is located. For AVT majors, that is the CVPA Office of Academic Affairs, Performing Arts Building A407.

**Students with Disabilities and Learning Differences**

If you have a diagnosed disability or learning difference and you need academic accommodations, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and contact the Disabilities Resource Center (SUB I room 234, 703-993-2474). You must provide me with a faculty contact sheet from that office outlining the accommodations needed for your disability or learning difference. All academic accommodations must be arranged in advance through the DRC.

**Official Communications via GMU E-Mail**

Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

**Attendance Policies**

Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.

**Honor Code**

Students in this class are bound by the Honor Code, as stated in the George Mason University Catalog. The honor code requires that the work you do as an individual be the product of your own individual synthesis or integration of ideas. (This does not prohibit collaborative work when it is approved by your instructor.) As a faculty member, I have an obligation to refer the names of students who may have violated the Honor Code to the Student Honor Council, which treats such cases very seriously. No grade is important enough to justify cheating, for which there are serious consequences that will follow you for the rest of your life. If you feel unusual pressure about your grade in this or any other course, please talk to me or to a member of the GMU Counseling Center staff.

Using someone else’s words or ideas without giving them credit is plagiarism, a very serious Honor Code offense. It is very important to understand how to prevent committing plagiarism when using material from a source. If you wish to quote verbatim, you must use the exact words and punctuation just as the passage appears in the original and must use quotation marks and page numbers in your citation. If you want to paraphrase or summarize ideas from a source, you must put the ideas into your own words, and you must cite the source, using the APA or MLA format. (For assistance with documentation, I recommend Diana Hacker, A Writer’s Reference.) The exception to this rule is information termed general knowledge—information that is widely known and stated in a number of sources. Determining what is general knowledge can be complicated, so the wise course is, “When in doubt, cite.”

Be especially careful when using the Internet for research. Not all Internet sources are equally reliable; some are just plain wrong. Also, since you can download text, it becomes very easy to inadvertently
plagiarize. If you use an Internet source, you must cite the exact URL in your paper and include with it the
last date that you successfully accessed the site.

**Writing Center**

Students who are in need of intensive help with grammar, structure or mechanics in their writing should
make use of the services of Writing Center, located in Robinson A116 (703-993-1200). The services of the
Writing Center are available by appointment, online and, occasionally, on a walk-in basis.

The Collaborative Learning Hub Located in Johnson Center 311 (703-993-3141), the lab offers in-person
one-on-one support for the Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office, Blackboard, and a variety of other
software. Dual monitor PCs make the lab ideal for collaborating on group projects, Macs are also available;
as well as a digital recording space, collaborative tables, and a SMART Board. Free workshops are also
available (Adobe and Microsoft) through Training and Certification; visit ittraining.gmu.edu to see the
schedule of workshops and to sign up.

**University Libraries “Ask a Librarian”**

http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** (703) 993-2380;

http://caps.gmu.edu

**University Catalog:** [http://catalog.gmu.edu/](http://catalog.gmu.edu/)

**University Policies:** [http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/)