

New Majors Colloquium

AVT 101.001

Spring 2017

Tuesdays 7:20-10:00pm

Location: AB 1005

Instructor: Wayne Adams

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm – Visit avt.acuityscheduling.com

Office: Art & Design Building Room 2008

Mailbox Location: Art & Design Building Room 2050 (Front Office)

Email: radams11@gmu.edu

Blackboard site: mymasonportal.gmu.edu

Course Description:

This is a course for new majors in the School of Art. It is a place to ask questions about your new experiences studying art at George Mason University, to become integrated into the learning community of the School of Art, and to orient yourself to what it means to study art today. You will also meet other members of the full-time faculty of the School of Art, who will tell you about their work and about opportunities for students to become involved in projects within and beyond the curriculum. Students are required to attend all sessions, review the speaker's materials prior to the class, engage in co-curricular events, and complete written critiques.

Course Learning Objectives:

By participating actively in this course students will achieve the following three learning objectives:

1. To become familiar with faculty and resources in the School of Art and the larger community.
2. To understand the contexts by which we arrived at contemporary art and design practice.
3. To have a toolbox of strategies for creating works of art art/design and pathways for success as a student and artist.

Course Requirements:

1. You must enroll in AVT 300:201, 202 or 203 (CRN 13236, 13237, 13238). The Artsbus trip to New York City is strongly encouraged, although a local DC alternative trip is acceptable but must be approved by the instructor of the course **BEFORE** you attend. If you are enrolled in other courses that require AVT 300 participation, only one AVT 300 enrollment is necessary.

Course Text:

Readings will be assigned and available via blackboard.

Course Policies:

1. *Attendance:* All students are required to attend and actively participate in all scheduled course meetings. Part of your grade includes in-class participation. If for any reason that you cannot make it to a course meeting, you must contact the instructor immediately. Sign the attendance sheet when you enter class. Late arrivals sign in at the end of class. **Signing in another student as “present” constitutes an honors code violation, and will result in an automatic grade of “F” in this course, as well as other University disciplinary action.**
2. *Late Assignments:* All assignments must be turned in on the due date noted. Assignments turned in late will be eligible for only 50% of the available points. Please contact the instructor before the due date if you cannot turn an assignment in at the scheduled time.
3. *Incompletes:* No incompletes will be granted for this class unless there is an extreme circumstance. All incompletes will be granted according to university policies found at: <http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=5399>
4. *Technology:* Students will not use the computers/internet for reasons not related to the course. Text messaging and talking on cellular phones are not permitted during class time. All e-mail communication with the professor must take place using your Mason e-mail. No additional/alternative e-mail addresses are allowed. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

Classroom Environment:

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).

Academic Integrity:

Students must be responsible for their own work, and students and faculty must take on the responsibility of dealing explicitly with violations. The tenet must be a foundation of our university culture. [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/mason-values-academic-integrity/>].

Honor Code:

Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>].

MasonLive/Email:

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account. [See <https://masonlivelogin.gmu.edu/login>].

Writing Center:

The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>].

School of Art Print Studio

School of Art Print Studio (SOAP) is located in the School of Art Building on the Fairfax Campus. As a non-profit studio, SOAP offers a variety of services including printing and production services to students, faculty and staff. All jobs are processed with high quality materials on state-of-the-art equipment, specifically for graphic design portfolios, mixed-media paintings and reproductions, posters, handmade books, student assignments and proof sheets. More information can be found at soaprint.gmu.edu or 703-993-7203.

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 Office of Disability Services (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 ODS.

Counseling and Psychological Services:

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu>].

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), also known as the "Buckley Amendment," is a federal law that gives protection to student educational records and provides students with certain rights. [See <http://registrar.gmu.edu/privacy>].

Open Studio Hours:

School of Art 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 AVT studio faculty and are posted in the studios.

ArtsBus Spring 2017 Dates and Credit:

February 18

March 25

April 15

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. The instructor of the course that is requiring an ArtsBus trip must approve alternate trips.

Visual Voices Lecture Series Spring 2017

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.

January 26	Judith Harris	"Renaming Things"
February 9	J.J. McCracken	"The Dirt Eater and the Scold"
March 9	John Jacob	"Photography at the Smithsonian"
March 23	Carmen Ramos	"Rufino Tamayo: The New York Years"
March 30	Helen Frederick	"Absorbing Traditions: The Labor of Art"

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.

Lynda.com @ Mason:

Mason has partnered with lynda.com to provide free and unlimited online training to Mason students, faculty, and staff. An online subscription library, lynda.com offers more than 2,000 videos on a broad range of subjects, including business skills, photography, music and video editing and production, animation, and web design and development. New courses are added weekly. Access the lynda.com library 24/7—even from your iPhone, iPad, Android device, or mobile phone—using your Mason NetID and Patriot Pass password. [See <http://lynda.gmu.edu/>].

Mid-Semester Evaluations:

Towards the end of October, you will receive a mid-semester evaluation. This evaluation will indicate your grade in the course thus far and specifically note any issues that are adversely affecting your grade. At any time during the semester, please feel free to see the instructor and/or peer advisor to discuss any challenges that you may be experiencing.

Add/Drop Dates:

First day of classes	1/23
Last day to drop with no tuition penalties	1/30
Last day to add classes	1/30
Last day to drop with 33% tuition penalty	2/13
Last day to drop with a 67% tuition penalty	2/24
Selective Withdrawal Period	2/20-3/31
Last day of classes	5/6
Exam Period	5/10-5/17

Grading Scale

A+	100-98	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D	69-60
A	97-94	B	86-84	C	76-74	F	Below 60
A-	93-90	B-	83-80	C-	73-70		

Assignments and Grading:

Interest Sheet	5 points
Class Participation & Attendance	30 points
AVT Event Critiques	30 points
StrengthsFinder Top 5 Signature Themes	5 points
Sorted Books Project	10 points
Final Paper	10 points
EXAM: Attendance at Senior Showcase	10 points
Total:	100 points

Interest Sheet: (5 points)

Students must complete the Interest Sheet form and submit it on Blackboard on **1/31**. See assignments section to download Interest Sheet.

Class Participation & Attendance: (30 points)

You are expected to attend and participate in all class discussions and activities; therefore, absences and late arrivals will reduce your participation grade. It is expected that you notify the instructor if you will be absent or late, prior to the start of class. If an unforeseen circumstance prevents you from attending class, follow-up communication with the instructor in a timely manner will be taken into account in calculating the participation grade. Your successful completion of the Artsbus is also factored into this grade. **NOTE: 5 points will be deducted for every missed class after one absence. 2 points will be deducted for every late arrival or early departure after the first late entrance or early departure. More than four missed classes will result in an "F".**

AVT Event Critiques: (30 points – 10 points per essay)

To broaden your knowledge of School of Art resources and activities, you are required to attend three AVT gallery receptions/artist lectures outside of the classroom during the semester. You must attend 3 of the gallery receptions/artist lectures listed in the syllabus or on blackboard. **NOTE: Only ONE can be from the Visual Voices lecture series and you cannot use events experienced on the Artsbus. You can also only attend one lecture/workshop per exhibition.** Your grade for each outside event will be based on a critique paper (title and summary of the event, reflection on how the artist's work impacts you, what worked and didn't work) – typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font in Times New Roman, proofread for grammar and errors, and one page of text in length. You will also need to submit in the same document one "selfie" of yourself at the event (not included in the page count). You do not need to include your name/class/date as you are posting your assignments on Blackboard. **Your assignments should be submitted electronically on Blackboard as one word document or PDF on the due date listed below:**

AVT Event #1 Critique due: **2/21**

AVT Event #2 Critique due: **3/28**

AVT Event #3 Critique due: **4/25**

***You may seek other events but I must approve them before you attend the event. The artist(s) must be present at the event.**

StrengthsFinder Assessment (5 points)

Many years of research conducted by The Gallup Organization suggest that the most effective people are those who understand their strengths and behaviors. A review of the knowledge and skills you have acquired can provide a basic sense of your abilities, but an awareness and understanding of your natural talents will provide true insight into the core reasons behind your consistent successes.

Your Signature Themes report presents your five most dominant themes of talent, in the rank order revealed by your responses to StrengthsFinder. Of the 34 themes measured, these are your "top five." Your Signature Themes are very important in maximizing the talents that lead to your successes. By focusing on your Signature Themes, separately and in combination, you can identify your talents, build them into strengths, and enjoy personal and career success through consistent, near-perfect performance. **You must bring turn in a copy of your Signature Themes in class on 2/28.**

Sorted Books Project (10 points)

The Sorted Books Project began in 1993 and was created by Nina Katchadourian. For this class, I use the framework of this project to have you explore the Fenwick library & Provisions Library (Lower-level of the Art & Design building). The assignment requires you to: cull through a collection of books, pull particular titles, and eventually group them into clusters so that the titles can be read in sequence from top to bottom.

For this assignment, you will need to submit 3 book clusters of at least 4 books per cluster. You must submit at least one cluster from Fenwick Library and one from the Provisions Library. The third cluster can be from a library of your choice. The content of your clusters should relate to one of the [34 meridians](#) established by the Provisions Library. **Your clusters should be submitted electronically as photographs in one document (Word or PDF) on Blackboard by 4/11. Please identify the library and meridian that you used for each cluster. (See example in Blackboard)**

Final Paper: (10 points)

On or before **May 5** students must post on blackboard a well thought-out a 3-page paper of their specific interest in art, and their final senior project idea. This is not the technical side but the content in which their interest lies. Follow this outline for that paper.

Final Paper: Length: Three pages. Typed, double-spaced, 12pt. font in Times New Roman, no misspellings, etc.

I. Write about your specific interest in art. Your interest can relate to any area in the field. Why are you interested in this area? Here are some questions to help you.

- What courses have you taken or are taking that influenced this interest?
- Has your interest changed over the past year? Why? Be specific.
- Have any of the guest lecturers influenced what you think you want to do? If so, in what way?

II. Write about what life style issues will influence what kind of job you seek?

- Do you want to live in a specific part of the country? East Coast? West Coast? Abroad? Travel or not? Don't Care? City? Rural?
- Do you want a 9-5 job or do you mind having longer more flexible hours?
- Do you want to stay near family? What area of the country?

III. Potential job.

- Who has a job in art you would like to have in 5-10 years?
- If you don't know anyone, go on the web and review what positions are out there and how they might work for you?
- Identify the job, the location, the hours, and the responsibilities to see if that fits within your life style needs.

IV. Senior Project

- The rest of this paper is an expansion of the interest sheet you handed in at the beginning of the semester that identified your interest, your hobbies, and possible ideas for senior project. Think about what final senior project would be best for you in terms of what you have available to you, your life goals, and the potential position you want. This subject should be something you can live with for at least a year.

Course Schedule:

A course schedule is provided below. Note that unforeseen circumstances may cause changes to the schedule, but you will be notified of changes accordingly. If class is canceled for some reason, you are expected to complete that week’s assignment, as if class was held.

Date	Topics	Submit in class/online	Homework for next class/In-Progress Assignments
1/24	Introduction to the class, Syllabus review, Artsbus/Senior Project	Introduce yourself on blackboard (please include a picture as this will help me remember your name!).	*Review the School of Art website; specifically the undergraduate tab *Complete Interest Sheet and post introduction (see blackboard).
1/31	Delivery Systems: How Art Fits into the Rest of Human Activity Guest Speaker - Peter Winant, Director	Interest Sheet – Submit on Blackboard	* Look at upcoming events to attend by visiting the Events folder on Blackboard. *Check Blackboard for additional readings for class.
2/7	Study Abroad at Mason Guest Speaker – Sarah Moran, Mason Study Abroad	NONE	*Check Blackboard for additional readings for class. *AVT Event #1 Critique
2/14	Academic and University Tools – University Policies/Degree Works *Bring your laptop to class if you have one	NONE	*AVT Event #1 Critique *Check Blackboard for additional readings for class.
2/21	Provisions Library Guest Speaker - Don Russell, Provisions Library and University Curator	AVT Event #1 Critique	*Check Blackboard for additional readings for class. *Take StrengthsFinder Assessment and bring Top 5 Signature Themes to class (see blackboard for more details)
2/28	StrengthsQuest	Submit your Top 5 Signature Themes in class.	*AVT Event #2 Critique *Check Blackboard for additional readings for class.

3/7	Finding your Voice Guest Speakers – Chawky Frenn, SOA Faculty; Painting and Drawing		*AVT Event #2 Critique *Check Blackboard for additional readings for class.
3/14	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK		*AVT Event #2 Critique
3/21	NO CLASS – LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT/ADVISING		*AVT Event #2 Critique *Library Assignment
3/28	NO CLASS – LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT/ADVISING	AVT Event #2 Critique	*Library Assignment *Check Blackboard for additional readings for class.
4/4	Art Education Guest Speaker – Justin Sutters, SOA Faculty; Art Education (MAT)		*AVT Event #3 Critique *Library Assignment *Start thinking about your Final Paper *Check Blackboard for additional readings for class.
4/11	Contemporary Design Guest Speaker – Don Starr, Associate Director; Graphic Design	Library Assignment	*AVT Event #3 Critique *Continue working on Final Paper *Check Blackboard for additional readings for class.
4/18	Faculty Lecture - TBD		*AVT Event #3 Critique *Continue working on Final Paper
4/25	Grad School in Art and Design. Why, When, How, and Where?	AVT Event #3 Critique	*Continue working on Final Paper
5/2	Course Wrap-up/Evaluations		*Final Paper (5/5 - submitted on blackboard)
5/12	EXAM: Senior Showcase Art & Design Building – 6:30pm *Check-in at Main Entrance of Gallery		