

George Mason University  
School of Art  
Professor: Ed Bisese  
Contact: ebisese@gmu.edu  
Spring 2017 AVT 222 – 002 TR 1:30pm – 4:10pm  
Spring 2017 AVT 222 – 003 TR 4:30pm – 7:10pm  
Art and Design Building 2049 January 24– May 4, 2017

# **AVT 222 – Drawing 1**

## **Syllabus**

### **MASON CORE CLASSES**

**This class fulfills a Mason Core requirement for Arts.**

Mason courses in the film making, visual and performing arts stress generative, inquiry based learning through direct aesthetic and creative experience in the studio environment. Art history courses address the intrinsic relationship of personal and cultural creativity, and the manifestation of aesthetics, visual culture and visual narrative within historical contexts.

### **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.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete a course in the Arts category must meet the first learning outcome and a minimum of two of the remaining four learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between artistic process, and a work's underlying concept, and where appropriate, contexts associated with the work.
2. Identify and analyze the formal elements of a particular art form using vocabulary and critique appropriate to that form.
3. Analyze cultural productions using standards appropriate to the form, as well as the works cultural significance and context.
4. Analyze and interpret the content of material or performance culture through its social, historical, and personal contexts.
5. Engage in generative artistic processes, including conception, creation, and ongoing critical analysis.

### **EXPECTATIONS:**

The course is comprised of studio assignments, homework assignments, research, written assignments and the keeping of a sketchbook. 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. Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared for class. You are expected to research and prepare for studio work as asked. 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.

### **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.

### Homework Drawings

Homework drawings will be assigned. Plan to give as much or even more attention to the homework drawings than you give in class assignments. 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. Late drawings will receive lowered grades, except as negotiated before the deadline.

### 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 is to 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)

-- It is recommended that you use the sketchbook to repeat classroom work to expand and reinforce your understanding of the material covered.

- Class notes, Reflections, observations (saw, heard, did, thought), ephemera, poems, current events, critique, and unexplained phenomenon

--The Sketchbook assignment includes "Image Reflection". At least six times during the semester, find artwork that relates to our classroom activities. Print a picture of the work. Glue the picture into the sketchbook. Write a paragraph or two about the image, the artist, your observations, and your reflections on drawing class activities. Try to find connections between what we are doing in class and the drawing you select. Write what is important to you. Think critically. Make your own judgments.

### Portfolio Review

There are two reviews scheduled. (7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Store all the work you do flat and dry throughout the semester. Do not fold your drawings.

### Preparation

Students are expected to bring materials to every class meeting and arrive prepared to draw. Students who attend without materials and are unable to work, 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 at the start of class on the date due. Late assignments will receive lowered grades, except as negotiated before the deadline.

### Attendance: Participation

AVT 222 is a studio course. Evaluation is strongly based on work done in the studio. 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. 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.

Students are allowed 3 absences without penalty. Excused and unexcused absences are treated the same. Every absence or part exceeding that limit lowers the final grade. A fourth absence lowers the grade by one full letter. Every additional absence lowers the final grade by half a letter grade.

Work, family visits, family crisis, airport shuttling, extra-curricular activities, car breakdowns, laundry and deadlines for other classes do not justify an excused absence. Submit written documentation of your absence within one week of the occurrence. Maintain documentation for submittal at the end of the semester. If you can't be on time, attend as much of the class as you can. It is much easier to make up work when you know what we did. Lateness counts as 1/2 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 by email.

\_\_If you are late or miss a class, you will miss important work. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed from one of your classmates. You must make up the work outside of class whether your absence was excused or unexcused. Drawing missing from the portfolio is graded zero and averaged into the grade.

\_\_Make up work is due one week after the absence. It is your responsibility to contact me to show me the completed work.

\_\_Any student who is absent a total of 7 classes is expected to withdraw from the class. And should not expect a passing grade.

### **DON'T BE LATE, DON'T LEAVE EARLY, DON'T MISS CLASS!**

**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.

### **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
- Understanding and use of 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 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 every class day, writing thorough, well-researched and thoughtful papers, and executing assignments on time with special attention to learned formal skills, content, craftsmanship, and presentation. The letter grade “A” will not be given if you have more than three absences from class. (A = takes your breath away)
- “B” work exceeds the basic requirements of the course, above average participation. The letter grade “B” will not be given if you have more than five absences from class. (B = good, You get it.)
- “C” work meets the basic requirements of each assignment. Completes work with uneven results. The letter grade “C” will not be given if you have more than seven absences from class. (C = Average, You did the drawing)
- “D” minimal effort. (D = didn’t quite do it)
- “F” no effort.
- + or - will be assigned to letter grades.

60% Drawing, including; in-class, home work

30% Participation (includes: attendance, active listening, active response, effort and the appearance of effort)

10% Sketchbook

**Self Evaluation**

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?

**Art Supply Stores:**

- Blick: 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

# AVT 222 – Drawing 1

## 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 or 2 sheets 19" x 25" Strathmore 500 Series Charcoal Paper, select a medium value
- 3 sheets 19" x 25" Strathmore 500 Series Charcoal Paper, black
- 1 sketchbook or journal, 9" x 12", 100 sheets (spiral bound preferred) (100-page composition notebook, 9-3/4" x 7-1/2" is acceptable)
- water resistant Portfolio, 19" x 26" or larger

### CHARCOAL

- Vine charcoal sticks; 2 packages of 12 sticks, soft and medium (not hard)
- Compressed charcoal sticks; min. 2H(hard), HB (hard), 2B (med.), and 4B (soft)
- Charcoal pencils; Soft, Medium
- White charcoal pencil, or stick
- Colored chalk pastel set, 12 count, get intense colors, avoid cheap pale sidewalk chalk,  
**Purchase chalk or chalk pastels. Do not purchase hard pastels or oil pastels.**

### PENCILS

- Drawing pencils; 6B, 4B, 2B, 2H
- Kneaded rubber eraser, white vinyl eraser

### INK

- 1 Tombo ABT N15 BrushPen, black
- 1 Super Twin Tip Sharpie, black (or 1 Super Sharpie and a Chisel Tip)
- Strongly suggested for AVT Majors -Higgins Student Grade Waterproof Ink with wide mouth bottle, 1 Japanese Quill Brush, 1 Bamboo Reed Pen

### TOOLS

- Drawing Board, 23-1/2" x 26", masonite (special considerations)
- 2 binder clips, large enough to hold pad to board
- Roll of 1/2" drafting tape
- 1/8" dowel stick 10" long or suitable alternative (shish-kebab skewer)
- Viewfinder, (Can be purchased) Bring chipboard, matboard or illustration board to make in class. (Can be made from a cereal or similar box.)
- Small hand mirror
- Spray fixative (Krylon Crystal Clear)

### EXTRA

- *pad of 18" x 24" multimedia paper (substitute for drawing paper)*
- *Graphite sticks; soft and medium*
- *Pink Pearl eraser*
- *utility knife*
- *glue stick*
- *plastic cups*

### **Optional for non-art majors**

- *Higgins Student Grade Waterproof Ink*
- *bamboo reed pen*
- *Assorted brushes—Japanese Quill Brush, assorted sizes from 1/2" to 3", (at least one)*

You may run out of materials and/or find that we do not get a chance to use all of the materials you purchase. Additional materials and individual sheets of drawing paper may be purchased as needed. Italicized items need not be purchased. You will be informed ahead of time if these items are needed for a specific classroom or homework assignment.

## **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, Blind Contour, Modified Blind Contour, Looking Contour  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages with Blind Contour.  
Prompt: Reflect on drawing without looking.

### **Week 2**

Contour Line, Cross Contour, 4-Hand Drawing, Doodle  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages with different kinds of contour lines; Exterior, Interior, Cross Contour, Doodle, Pattern.  
Prompt: Write a reflection of drawing lines.

### **Week 3**

Crit: Line Study  
Gesture, Positive/ Negative Space,  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages with gesture from moving images  
Prompt: Write a reflection of Gesture and Negative Space.

### **Week 4**

Organizational Lines, Measuring, Blocking, Sighting, Sighting Stick, Viewfinder  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages with organizational lines.  
Prompt: Reflect on drawing by measuring.

### **Week 5**

Parts of a Shadow, Value Scale, Tone as Value, Hatch, Cross Hatch  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages with Value.  
Prompt: Write about value and seeing.

### **Week 6**

Dug Up Drawing, Subtractive Drawing  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Dug up drawing  
Prompt: Write about drawing backwards.  
Prepare Midterm Portfolio

### **Week 7**

Crit: Peanut  
**Midterm Exam**  
Midterm Portfolio Review  
Sketchbook Challenge: Fill 6 pages.

### **Week 8**

Value Reversal, Tonal Value Study  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages with value studies.  
Prompt: Write about drawing backwards.

### **Week 9**

Explore Formats, Arrangement, Balance, Rhythm  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Balance, rhythm, eccentric formats  
Prompt: Reflect on this week's drawing experiments.

#### **Week 10**

Hatch, Cross Hatch, Open Marks, Stipple  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Line networks  
Prompt: Write about how many marks are needed to create the illusion.

#### **Week 11**

Texture, Stipple, Pattern  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Texture as value  
Prompt: Write about making marks to imitate value.

#### **Week 12**

Crit: Stipple  
Self Portraits, Eccentric Point of View  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Portrait studies  
Prompt: What is the experience of creating a self-portrait?

#### **Week 13**

Perspective, 1pt, 2pt, 3 Stacks of 3, Transparent Object  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. 1 point and 2 point spaces  
Prompt: Reflect on the rules of perspective.

#### **Week 14**

Color, Visual Weight of Color, White Drape  
Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Color  
Prompt: Write about using color.  
Prepare Final Portfolio

#### **Week 15**

**Final Exam – Capstone Drawing**  
Final Portfolio Review  
Sketchbook due.

#### **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 ARTSBUS NOT REQUIRED FOR AVT 222, SPRING 2017.**

Dates for Spring 2017: February 18, March 25, April 15

**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**

Dates for Spring 2017: January 26, February 9, March 9, March 23, March 30

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**

<i>January 1 Day of Week</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Martin Luther King Day (no classes)	Mon Jan 16
<b>First day of classes</b> ; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date; full semester waitlists removed	Mon Jan 23
<b>Last day to add classes</b> —all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	Mon Jan 30
<b>Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty</b>	Mon Feb 13
<b>Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)</b>	Fri Feb 24
Immunization Record Deadline	Wed Mar 1
Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via <a href="#">Patriot Web</a>	Mon Feb 20 – Fri Mar 24
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	Mon Feb 27 – Fri Mar 31
Spring Break	Mon Mar 13 – Sun Mar 19
<b>Incomplete work from Fall 2016 due to Instructor</b>	<b>Fri March 31</b>
<b>Incomplete grade changes from Fall 2016 due to Registrar</b>	<b>Fri April 7</b>
Dissertation/Thesis Deadline	Fri May 5
<b>Last day of classes</b>	Sat May 6
<b>Reading Days</b> 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.	Mon May 8 – Tue May 9
<b>Exam Period</b> (beginning at 7:30 a.m.)	Wed May 10 – Wed May 17
<b>Commencement and Degree Conferral Date</b>	May 20

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](http://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/>

**University Policies:** <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>