

## AVT 324:001 Figure Drawing Syllabus

M/W 4:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.  
Department of AVT, Room 2049  
Professor Pete Petrine  
[ppetrin1@gmu.edu](mailto:ppetrin1@gmu.edu)  
[petepetrine@gmail.com](mailto:petepetrine@gmail.com)  
Office hours by appointment

\*\*\*Please read all of the enclosed information regarding this course. You are responsible for understanding and following the guidelines provided, unless amended by me, the professor. I will give ample time to complete assignments/projects if changes are made to the syllabus. If you have any concerns, please contact me via email or in person.

### Course Description and Objectives

AVT-324, Figure Drawing, is just that, the study of the human form through the fine arts discipline of drawing. Figuration has a long history in art. In this course, we will investigate this lineage and pull from it an understanding to better express how we see the body and choose to use it in the art making process. In, class, we will be drawing from a live model as much as possible. Homework will consist of weekly drawings that address different aspects and areas of the human form. There are 3 assigned, independent drawings that are the equivalent to tests called "projects" that will track your progress in the course. The final will also follow in this same personalized format, with the goal of showing what you have learned throughout the semester.

### Attendance Policy:

"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." - GMU Catalog 2008-2009 Page 35.

This is a studio class and it is impossible to make up missed work. Therefore, attendance is critical to your success in this class! Students are required to attend all classes and responsible for personal attendance sign-in. However...

Students are permitted to have **three** excused and/or unexcused absences during the semester. However, you are still 100% responsible for all missed assignments.

**Four** classes missed (one beyond three excused absences) will result in a lowering of your final (attendance) grade by a full letter grade. **Five** classes missed will result in the final (attendance) grade being lowered by two full letter grades. **Six** absences (three beyond three excused absences) **will result in a failing grade for the course. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

If you are late to class or leave early, **two late arrivals or early departures are equal to one absence** in the course. Coming late to a class or critique and pinning your work up late counts as a late attendance and a late project.

All work missed must be made up on the student's own time. If a project is due on a day when the student must miss class, it is the student's responsibility to send the work with a classmate or deliver it early. **Late work will be marked down!** If a student has an emergency or is ill, the instructor should be notified by telephone/e-mail that day before class.

## Reading Assignments and Materials

Reading assignments and other teaching material I will provide. I will make specific arrangements to electronically get you that week's materials. There are multiple ways to address a drawing and/or a work of art. My goal of supplying you with PDF, video, links, etc., is to best support your individual process in this course and cut down the amount of lecture time in the studio so that we can concentrate on drawing. This is a huge undertaking on my part, but it supports my artistic philosophy that the answer lies within the individual. If you need something explained beyond the material provided or from my class explanation, then please talk or contact me.

## Homework Evaluation/Grade

Homework will consist of light drawing, reading/viewing provided material, image collecting, and written responses. If you miss a class, you are responsible for any topic or work missed. I will be checking homework every Wednesday. It is the responsibility of you the student to make sure that your homework is checked for credit.

Homework will be evaluated in a point system ranging from 0-4 points.

0 points= No credit.

1 point= You did it.

2 points= You did it with expected effort

3 points= Wow! Great job!

4 points= Extra WOW and extra bonus point.

Homework grade is the percentage of points earned from the total of 30 points, which is 3 X's the 10 times I check it. If you plan to miss a Wednesday, you can hand it in early, send me an image, or receive a lower value for homework effort.

## Project Policies

**Projects** are drawings that are the equivalent of major tests. There will be three projects due this semester. (This does not include the Final.) *I take these drawing very seriously and so should you.* Projects are graded in four parts: process, concept, execution/presentation and professor evaluation. Projects are **finished drawings** and **need to be presented the way you want them to be shown**. Again, if you have a question anywhere in the Project process, please ask me questions in class or via email.

## Grading for Projects

Grades for projects will be evaluated in four parts: process, concept, and execution/presentation and professor's critique. By breaking up the grade into sections, hopefully the pressure to make mistakes will be lessened. Not every drawing is going to be successful. Often it is the mistakes that provide the most beneficial lessons in making a work of art.

Below is the explanation of all four grading criteria.

**Process (1-25 points):** Drawings are evaluated with consideration for one's reflection (including visual and oral presentation) on the drawing methods and ideas through sketching, preliminary studies and material trials and final presentation of a work.

**Concept (1-25 points):** The exploration of drawing, spatial concepts and imagination includes the content and/or ideas important to the problem. During the formation of ideas for a composition - how did the ideas develop and how were alternatives explored along the way - their meaning and purpose to the drawing (project) at hand and final presentation.

**Execution/Presentation (1-25 points):** The execution of materials (and tools) employed during the development of a project: This includes how materials and tools are utilized in a creative and exploratory fashion leading to the final crafting of a work for presentation. The verbal presentation of one's work includes awareness of the project goals and the drawing elements, vocabulary, and the principles of their application. It also includes a broader view of the application of the problem to various art and design precedents, history of art, the environment (natural and man-made), and society. Participation in critiques of fellow students' presentations with objective, rational and purposeful commentary, advice and constructive criticism is an important part of class participation.

**Professor Critique (1-25 points):** This is where I evaluate your project. I am constantly watching your artistic progress. I grade everyone individually.

### **Submission Policies**

All work is due at the beginning of class, on time and presented the way you want the work to be shown.

Drawing projects submitted beyond the due date/time will be automatically reduced one letter grade for each class period late beyond the due date. Work, that is not ready for presentation (before the beginning of class), will be graded accordingly.

Approval for a late project must be documented in an acceptable written form such as a letter from a doctor, lawyer, police or psychiatrist and must be verifiable.

### **Project Dates**

**Project 1:** (Due 2-23-17)  
**Project 2:** (Due 3-6-17)  
**Project 3:** (Due 4-3-17)

**Final:** (Due 5-3-17)

### **Grading**

Attendance, completion of homework/journal assignments, participation in the studio, personal progress, and project grades (process, concept, execution/presentation and professor's critique). Each student is expected to fully participate in written and oral critiques and in studio activities.

The grade of "A" 90 - 100% signifies that the student has achieved competence and performed at a superior level across all elements of the course experience. "B" 80% - 89% is above average competence. "C" 70% - 79% is average competence. "D" 60% - 69% is poor and "F" 0% - 59% is failing. A full range of grades will be used. *The instructor reserves the right to subjectively and professionally judge your work and performance in this course.*

### **Schedule of Class Material**

#### **Week 2.**

- Slide lecture
- Graphite/Charcoal review
- Work with skeleton, Identifying the inside structure to better represent outside features.
- Techniques of getting proportions correct
- Sighting
- From contour to structuring form, and vice versa.

- Overview of what to expect when working from a model.

### **Week 3.**

- Models
- Gesture
- Contour
- Importance of lighting
- Creating volume
- Foreshortening/ Perspective
- Layout Process
- Weight
- Value
- Proportions

### **Week4.**

- **Project 1 (Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, self-portrait)**
- Thinking about your approach to making art using the body
- Composition (How does it influence how you and the viewer see the body?)
- Positive/Negative Space
- Understanding shape to push conceptual ideas
- Scale
- Understanding medium and how it influences art making process.

### **Week5.**

- Model
- Color pencil experiment
- Play
- Dramatic Composition
- Cropping (before or after?)

### **Week 6.**

- Model
- Long Pose
- Design (Before starting, pre sketching)
- Possible use of multiple mediums
- Plan Development
- Intro into Content
- Background

### **Week 7.**

- Model
- Gesture as expression
- Abstraction
- Line Expression
- Play

### **Week 8.**

- Geometric
- Pattern
- Cubism? Capturing movement.
- Cartoon
- Speed

- Visual Noise
- **Project 2 (March 6th)**

**Week 9.**

- Models
- Expressive possibilities
- Imagination
- Mixing Styles
- Meaning
- Collage
- Relationships
- Repetition      Irony
- Point of View
- Range of Marks

**Week10.**

- Models
- Personal Expression
- Using wet media (Gesso, Gauche)
- Focus
- Making choices for personal expression/purpose
- Homework= Portrait /Head

**Week 11.**

- Models
- Continue personal investigation in style and concept
- Homework= Work on Project 3

**Week 12.**

- **Project 3 (April 3rd)**
- Models

**Week 13.**

- Long pose
- Model
- Think about Final

**Week 14.**

- In class work on the **Final**

**Week 15**

- In class work on Final

**Week 16**

- **Final (May 3rd)**

**Important Dates:**

<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
Elective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	Mon Feb 27 – Fri Mar 31
Spring Break	Mon Mar 13 – Sun Mar 19
<b>Final complete work from Fall 2016 due to Instructor</b>	<b>Fri March 31</b>
<b>Final complete 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>Leading Days</b> Leading 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>	

**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 Office of Disability Services.

**Technology:** In accordance with George Mason University policy, please silence all 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 2017: February . March . April**

**ArtsBus Credit and Policies:** You are responsible for knowing and following Artsbus policies and rules. Please go to the ArtsBus website: <http://artsbus.gmu.edu> "Student Information" for important information regarding ArtsBus policy. 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.

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:** Fall 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/>.

**Masonlive/Email:** 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 must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code. Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

**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.

## Materials:

Making art is not cheap but I will do my best to not have you buy unnecessary supplies. Charcoal, for example, gets used up quickly so make sure you have enough to complete projects or to use in class. Additional supplies might be needed, so be prepared. I recommend that you go to an art store to purchase these items. I frequent both Plaza Artist Materials and Blick Art Supplies for my own materials. I like Blick/Utrecht's more but it is in D.C..

Note: The quality of the materials that you use does affect your ability to draw. Recommended brands are labeled by "®" symbol.

Sketchbook (8.5" x11" or larger) 100 pages or more  
Drawing paper pad (18" x 24")  
Drawing board with clips (19" x19")  
Graphite pencil set (2H, B, 2B, 4B, 6B, Ebony and more) ® woodless  
2 Kneaded erasers  
1 pink pearl eraser  
(4 jumbo vine charcoal sticks (soft or extra soft))  
4 compressed charcoal sticks (Char-kole squares soft or extra soft)  
4 charcoal pencils (soft or medium) ® Fiber Castell, Pitt  
2 Pencil erasers  
1 Artist's chamois or cotton rags (an old tee-shirt)  
2 stomps -cardboard shading sticks (large and small)  
Utility knife with new blades  
Workable fixative  
Pencil Sharpener (optional but suggested)  
Glue stick (suggested)  
Masking tape (suggested)  
Conte – 1 pencil and 1 stick minimum  
Color pencil set  
Felt tip pens  
Pen and ink  
Brush  
Small bottle of India ink  
*Pencil Extenders (optional)*  
*Portfolio Envelope -large enough to carry paper (2 pieces of cardboard tapped together is fine)*  
*Art Bin (or container to carry drawing supplies)*

## 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