

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Art Division of Painting and Drawing**  
**Fall 2017**

AVT 222 // Drawing I // Room 2047

Monday / Wednesday 7:20-10:00

**Instructor:** Nathan Loda

**Email:** [nloda@gmu.edu](mailto:nloda@gmu.edu)

**Office Hours:** By appointment only

**Arts goal**

Courses aim to achieve a majority of the following learning outcomes: students will be able to identify and analyze the formal elements of a particular art form using vocabulary appropriate to that form; demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between artistic technique and the expression of a work's underlying concept; analyze cultural productions using standards appropriate to the form and cultural context; analyze and interpret material or performance culture in its social, historical, and personal contexts; and engage in the artistic process, including conception, creation, and ongoing critical analysis.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course students are introduced to the materials, tools and techniques of drawing and are instructed in skills and methods to the discipline through lectures, demonstrations, critiques as well as one to one instruction. As students work from observation to progress and become skilled in controlling the medium and understand the process of creating a work of art with different drawing materials, students also learn about the conceptual and compositional structure of 2-D art, in order to continue developing their aesthetic ability and visual perception.

**OBJECTIVES**

The course's objectives are:

- (a) To give students an awareness of how drawing may record, critique, interpret, and inform social and cultural issues both in historical and contemporary contexts.
- (b) Build an awareness of drawing's role as a tool for thinking, invention, and communication.
- (c) To further develop the student's ability to draw from observation and render a visually believable space.
- (d) To stimulate the students' observational and organizational skills, so that they can begin to discover and develop their own personal creative vocabulary.
- (e) To introduce students to the work of various artists.

**MATERIALS LIST**

**Basic Supplies:**

The following are supplies you will need for class this semester

- 1 - 18"x 24" newsprint pad
- 1 - 18"x 24" white drawing paper pad (Strathmore, Bienfang, Utrecht, Pearl - any brand as long as it is white and the cover indicates it is suitable for charcoal and pencil, smooth or hot pressed is best for graphite)
- 1 - 11" x 14" bound Drawing sketchbook white paper (hot pressed, pastel paper, or any fairly smooth paper.
- 1 piece of 8" x 10" plexiglass, plastic, or clear acrylic ( can be purchased at HomeDepot or Ace Hardware)
- 1 5" x 7" mirror (glass or plastic)
- 1 can of mat fixative \*\*Do not use hairspray!\*\* (optional, required to make your charcoal drawings last)
- 6 or more sticks of vine charcoal \*Soft
- 6 or more sticks of compressed charcoal
- 2 or more H graphite pencils
- 2 or more HB graphite pencils
- 2 or more 2B graphite pencils
- 2 or more 4B graphite pencils

2 or more 6B graphite pencils  
1 Kneaded eraser  
1 Black Sharpie Permanent Marker  
1 Black Non permanent wet erase marker (Vis-A-Vis Wet Erase Overhead Transparency Marker)  
1 Mars plastic or other white eraser  
1 small bottle of India ink\* 2-3 soft haired brushes for ink- large and small (These brushes do not need to be ink specific, they may be ones you already have for acrylic or watercolor)  
1 roll of masking tape, 1 or 2 inch wide  
1 paper portfolio to hold your drawings - purchased or homemade (using cardboard)  
1 toolbox/bag to carry all drawing supplies (something to keep all your supplies together – charcoal is fragile)

Supplies can overlap from other classes. Always be well stocked and prepared for class.

#### **IV. GRADING PROCEDURES**

Your midterm and final grades will be based equally on the completion and execution of all assignments, quality of drawings and sketchbook assignments, attendance, and class participation. The student's individual level of improvement throughout the semester is also factored in to this equation. Projects will be graded on creativity, technical merit, labor, and effort. The student is expected to complete all assignments on time and to the required specifications. Attendance is mandatory, 5 or more unexcused (no Doctor, Teacher, or personal note) and you will receive a F and FAIL the class.

Students are expected to work on assignments outside of class time and will be graded on this effort. Assignments turned in late are subject to reduction of one letter grade. A missed assignment must be submitted as soon as possible. Note: it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of a missed class and arrange via email in advance to make up the following class. It is also the students responsibility to obtain information missed.

#### **SOURCES FOR SUPPLIES**

- Michael (3089A Nutley Street Fairfax, VA 22031, offer great coupons and good prices.)
- Plaza 3045 Nutley Street Pan Am Shopping Center Fairfax, VA (703) 280-4500
- Utrecht Art Supply (good prices, own brand inexpensive paints, student discount) 1250 Eye Street, NW (at 13th and NY Ave) Washington, DC (202) 898-0555

#### **(1) MASON CORE CLASSES:**

Mason Core Arts; Please include the following for sections of AVT 103, 104, 215, 222, 232, 243, 252, 253, 262, 272, 385:

This class fulfills a Mason Core requirement for Arts. Arts goal: Courses aim to achieve a majority of the following learning outcomes: students will be able to identify and analyze the formal elements of a particular art form using vocabulary appropriate to that form; demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between artistic technique and the expression of a work's underlying concept; analyze cultural productions using standards appropriate to the form and cultural context; analyze and interpret material or performance culture in its social, historical, and personal contexts; and engage in the artistic process, including conception, creation, and ongoing critical analysis.

Mason Core IT; Please include the following for sections of AVT 180:

This class fulfills a Mason Core requirement for Information Technology. IT goal: The purpose of the information technology requirement is to ensure that students achieve an essential understanding of information technology infrastructure encompassing systems and devices; learn to make the most of the Web and other network resources; protect their digital data and devices; take advantage of latest technologies; and become more sophisticated technology users and consumers.

1. IT courses will fulfill a majority of the following learning outcomes: Students will be able to use technology to locate, access, evaluate, and use information, and appropriately cite resources from digital/electronic media.
2. Students will understand the core IT concepts in a range of current and emerging technologies and learn to apply appropriate technologies to a range of tasks.
3. Students will understand many of the key ethical, legal and social issues related to information technology and how to interpret and comply with ethical principles, laws, regulations, and institutional policies.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate, create, and collaborate effectively using state-of-the-art information technologies in multiple modalities.
5. Students will understand the essential issues related to information security, how to take precautions and use techniques and tools to defend against computer crimes.

Mason Core Synthesis; Please include the following for sections of AVT 385, 497 and 498:

This course fulfills a Mason Core requirement for Synthesis. The purpose of the synthesis course is to provide students with the opportunity to synthesize the knowledge, skills and values gained from the Mason Core curriculum. Synthesis courses strive to expand students' ability to master new content, think critically, and develop life-long learning skills across the disciplines. While it is not feasible to design courses that cover "all" areas of general

education, synthesis courses should function as a careful alignment of disciplinary goals with a range of Mason Core learning outcomes.

A general education synthesis course must address outcomes 1 and 2, and at least one outcome under 3. Upon completing a synthesis course, students will be able to:

1. Communicate effectively in both oral and written forms, applying appropriate rhetorical standards (e.g., audience adaptation, language, argument, organization, evidence, etc.)
2. Using perspectives from two or more disciplines, connect issues in a given field to wider intellectual, community or societal concerns
3. Apply critical thinking skills to:

1. Evaluate the quality, credibility and limitations of an argument or a solution using appropriate evidence or resources, OR,

2. Judge the quality or value of an idea, work, or principle based on appropriate analytics and standards

(2) GENERAL INFORMATION; Please include in ALL syllabi:

Important University Dates:

ArtsBus - Dates for Fall 2017:

September 23

October 21

November 18

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 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: <http://soa.gmu.edu/visualvoices/>

August 31...Simon Schwartz

Sept 14... Andy Birnbaum

Oct 5...Patricia Bello-Gillen

Oct 19...Sadie Barnette

Nov 11... Walter Kravitz

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 your instructor 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.

**Cell Phones:** 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.

**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, and are responsible knowing the rules, as stated on the George Mason University website's Academic Integrity page (<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>). "To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, trust, and fairness among all members of the Mason community, and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code:

Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

Mason's Commitment: To create an environment that is innovative, diverse, entrepreneurial, and accessible-helping you avoid accidental or intentional violations of the Honor Code."

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.