Syllabus

Printmaking I, AVT 243
Spring 2018, T/TH 1:30pm-4:10pm
School of Art: Room 1009

Instructor: Brigitte Caramanna
Email: bcaraman@gmu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:
This class is an introduction to the basics of printmaking. Students will gain familiarity with print shop protocol and safe print shop practices. This course will focus on finding creative solutions to visual problems, in addition to establishing a solid foundation of technical understanding within the discipline of printmaking. Students will be introduced to the tools, techniques, vocabulary, and image making methods in both traditional and contemporary fine art printmaking.

Expectations:
- Students must take safety in the print shop seriously.
- Students will need to come to class with the materials necessary for each assignment.
- Students must clean up after themselves; and leave the appropriate amount of time to do so before the end of class.
- When students are given reading assignments, they will be posted on blackboard. (There is no required textbook for this course.)
- Students will need to dedicate a significant amount of time to printing in the print studio for required assignments. (If you do not think you can make this obligation, please reconsider taking this class.)
- This class will have both informal and formal critiques and discussions after the completion of most major print assignments. Critique participation falls under the participation category of grading; therefore, it is important to not miss critiques.

Attendance Policy: Attendance affects your grade. If more than 20 minutes late, it is counted as an automatic unexcused absence. (The same goes for leaving class early)
3rd unexcused absence - drop by a letter grade
5th unexcused absence - automatic failure
Attendance is necessary for participation in this class; participation is a large portion of your final grade.

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. Class participation is a factor in grading; instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as evidence of nonparticipation.

Grading Policy:
50% Class Participation (Attendance, Class Discussions, In-class work, Completion of Assignments on Time, Daily Clean-Up, Required materials)
You can’t participate if you are not prepared. You must come prepared with homework assignments, materials/tools, readings, writings, and sketchbook.

**50% Work Produced** (Work Ethic, Conceptual Rigor, Process Development as seen through Sketchbook/Proofs/Editions, Execution/Quality/Craftsmanship, Expression) Projects are weighted by the amount of time given to work on them.

Grades will be given at midterm and final.

**Grading Scale:**

90-100 = A: Outstanding preparation in projects for class and critique; signifies that the student has achieved competence and performed at a superior level across all elements of the course experience.

80-89 = B: Progress noted since the previous class; above average competence

70-79 = C: Minimum/passable effort was made; average competence

60-69 = D: Student was present for class (does not fully understand problem content); poor

0 - 59 = F: Student was absent (nothing acceptable submitted); failing

**Class Schedule:** The following exercises are included as only an idea of the nature of projects included in this course. Projects may be altered in time and or content with notice given prior to their inception. In addition to printmaking techniques, we will also address formal elements such as line, mark making, color, and composition during demonstrations.

January 23: Course overview and printshop introduction
January 30: Demonstration; intaglio printing. Start discussion/Intro to vocabulary on editions, registrations, proofs. (At this point you should have made a trip to the art store and have your required materials)
February 1: In class work day
February 6: Demonstration; introduction to color: Chin-Colle and À La Poupée. Will also take a look at the color wheel, focus on color mixing, and discuss some color theory elements.
February 8: In class work day
February 13: Demonstration: Embossing and Monoprinting
February 15: In class work day; Review editions and registration
February 20: In class work day
February 22: In class critique; due: drypoint prints, proofs, monoprints; choice of a la poupée, chin colle, or embossing. Please keep all proofs and sketches; bring them to the critique to demonstrate your process.
February 27: Critique continued if needed, Introduction to screenprinting
March 1: Demonstration; also focus on positive and negative space discussion
March 6: In class work day
March 8: Demonstration, bleed printing and archiving
Spring Break
March 20: Demonstration: color
March 22: continue demonstration/in class work day
March 27: In class work day
March 29: Critique; screen printing assignments due
April 3: Critique continued
April 5: Demonstration: relief printmaking
April 10: In class work day
April 12: In class work day/ introducing final projects
April 17: Demonstration, multiple plate printing
April 19: In class work day
April 24: Final Demonstrations, Review final projects
April 26: In class work day
May 1: critique, print exchange (21 edition prints), relief and multiple plate prints due
May 3: critique continued

There may be a class field trip; in which you will be given appropriate notice prior.

**Print Exchange**
During the final critique students will be asked to bring 21 editions of a print project they have worked on during the semester. Students will exchange their prints with the class.

**Open Print Sessions:** Print Monitors will be on duty Monday through Thursday 7:30pm to 9:30pm. Friday and Saturday during the day 11am - 4pm. Check the time sheet on the door before planning your week.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Cell phone use is prohibited during class. If you are on your phone participation points will be taken off of your grade (keep in mind that Class Participation is 50% of your grade)

**No Food Permitted in the Printshop.**

**Flat Files:** 2 students will share one flat file in the print shop. Label the flat file with your names, semester, and class. Example: First Name Last Name / SPRING 2018 / PRINT I
Your Flat File is where you will keep your assignments, paper for printing, and other supplies. Do not open or search through someone else’s flat file. If you are caught removing material from a flat file that is not your own you will automatically drop a letter grade. Respect your peers. Respect other people’s space and materials.

**Print Shop Tumblr:** Classes in 1009 will be developing a Tumblr site to host sketches, artists to look at, links to shows, and links to texts. Student work, process, documentation, and writing will be posted. **GMUprint.tumblr.com**

**GMU Print Guild:** This printmaking guild is open to students, alumni, and the public (annual membership). It meets regularly in the GMU Print Shop on Friday and Saturday. You have the opportunity to take advantage of this lively organization and join them in events, shows, and workshops, if you are working in the studio on the weekends, you’ll see they offer a wealth of information. Reach out. Consider membership. It’s important to think of ways to continue a printmaking practice outside of class work.

**TEN09:** is working to develop a new print, zine, and artist book student organization. TEN09 is a loose collective of printers, bookmakers, and zinesters working in the printmaking studio at George Mason University. Ten09 uses print to explore both interests in process and distribution as well as the contemporary landscape of Northern Virginia.
Ask about becoming a member and helping to register this as an official student organization. We will be attending zine and print fairs in VA, DC, Philly, Baltimore, and NYC.

ten09print.tumblr.com

**Art supply sources:**
Plaza Art (closest to GMU)
3045 Nutley Street Fairfax, VA

Utrecht Art Supply/ Blick
1250 Eye Street, NW Washington, DC
dickblick.com

Renaissance Graphic Arts
printmaking-materials.com

Takach Press
takachpress.com

Hardware Stores, Home Depot/Lowes/ Ace

Art Supply Stores, Michaels, AC Moore

**Supplies and Materials:**
Small Sketchbook
18x 24 inch or larger Newsprint pad
Drawing supplies- Pencils/pens
Staedtler Mars Plastic Eraser
Artist tape/ masking tape
Scissors
Sharpie/ permanent marker, fine and bold
Pack of disposable gloves
Paint brushes
Paper towels
Dish soap
2 inking knives
Akua Printmaking Plates (transparent plastic)
18 inch ruler
apron
1 sheet of mylar
Speedball Linoleum Cutter Set
Various types of printmaking paper; cotton and Japanese printing papers
Speedball Speedy Carve Block
Baren
Etching needle
Bristol board
4 inch Brayer
Cutting Mat
Contact Paper
Packing tape (3m/ better quality) or Exterior Blue tape
Wood
Ph Neutral white glue
Transfer paper
Tarlatan
Xacto knife and blade
Glassine or wax paper
Newspaper
Phone books
Old clothes/rags for studio clean up
Tupperware with lids
Portfolio
Box for supplies

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.

Important University Dates:

Martin Luther King Day (no classes) Mon Jan 15

First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date; full semester waitlists removed Mon Jan 22

Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due

Last day to drop with no tuition penalty Mon Jan 29

Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty Mon Feb 12

Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty) Fri Feb 23

Immunization Record Deadline Thu Mar 1

Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web Mon Feb 19 – Fri Mar 23

Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only) Mon Feb 26 – Fri Mar 30
Spring Break Mon Mar 12 – Sun Mar 18

Incomplete work from Fall 2017 due to Instructor Fri Mar 23

Incomplete grade changes from Fall 2017 due to Registrar Fri Mar 30

Dissertation/Thesis Deadline Fri May 4

Last day of classes Sat May 5

Reading Days

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 7 – Tue May 8

Exam Period (beginning at 7:30 a.m.) Wed May 9 – Wed May 16

Commencement Fri May 18

Degree Conferral Date Sat May 19

**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.

**ArtsBus - Dates for Spring 2018:**

February 24

March 24

April 14

**Visual Voices Lecture Series Spring 2018:** 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/

January 24 – Brian Noyes
February 1 – Teresa Jaynes

February 22 – Sharif Bey

March 1 – Juliet Bellow

March 8 – John Henry

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’ 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 to see the schedule of workshops and to sign up.