Paper, Print, Book as Language // AVT 345

This syllabus is posted on the SOA website at soa.gmu.edu under academics.

This course is a three-credit course intended to introduce, through study and practice, the basic techniques of papermaking, printmaking and bookmaking. Our primary focus will be the common ingredient: paper, both as a substrate and beyond a substrate (an art object in itself).

Through projects, demonstrations, readings, group discussions, presentations, reviews and critiques, we will learn about characteristics of Western and Eastern papermaking traditions: how to use papermaking equipment and materials; how to form, press and dry sheets paper; and to apply printing and bookmaking techniques appropriate to the paper. Through these processes we will explore the properties of different fibers used to make paper, including repurposed and recycled materials, cotton, abaca, flax and kozo. Imagery and concepts will be developed through inclusions of a variety of interesting materials, pulp painting and stencils, as well as three-dimensional work through casting and armature processes. At the end of the class, you will create a book of sample papers and notes of each fiber and technique learned.

The theme for the GMU Printshop this Spring 2018 is myth. In our class we will explore this theme as narrative and truth embedded, while also considering sequence, place, hapticity and materiality.

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General Course Description: Introduces the artist's book as both physical structure and creative association of words and images. Students learn techniques of bookmaking, binding, and traditional and digital printmaking to produce an artist-made book with narrative and sequential elements.

Texts: (Highly suggested, will also be made available during class and for readings)


Paper, An Elegy, Ian Sansom, HarperCollins Publisher 2012

Sketchbook & Binder: Students will hand bind their sketchbook in class to be used for the duration of the semester. This sketchbook will be the home for project ideas, daily prompts, drawing, notes, etc. Your sketchbook will be reviewed throughout the semester and graded as an ongoing project. A small three-ring binder with clear page holders will be needed for holding handouts and paper samples.

Demonstrations: We will be holding in-class demonstrations of various papermaking processes, as well as some printmaking and bookbinding. It is vital that you are present, engaged, and taking notes during these sessions.

Critiques: We will hold critiques at the end of each assignment, discussing the work, successes, challenges, and what you learned. Your presence and participation is imperative on these days.
Work Sessions & Printmaking Studio Code: We will have in-class work sessions, but you will also need to come outside of class to work in order to complete your projects. The door code for Printmaking Studio is 1009018. Do not give this to anyone unless they are enrolled in a course that meets in this room. After class hours, don’t use any equipment you do not know how to use, unless with supervision.

Cleaning & Maintenance of the Papermaking Studio / Printshop: Your care and attention to the studio and its equipment is absolutely required as part of the course work. Clean-up “chores” will be assigned and rotated so that each person is aware of their task at the end of work sessions. Disregard to the paper studio and printshop rules will diminish your grade. Follow any handouts supplied, all posted signs, and clean up after yourself. At the end of the semester, you will be required to sign up for one hour of directed shop clean up. Failure to do so will affect your grade.

Cell Phones & Computers: Cell phones and computers are not to be used in class unless specially permitted for research or image development. Respect your fellow students and professor by giving your full attention and participation. (Practically-speaking: papermaking is two-hands-on and involves a lot of water, which isn’t the best mix with tech devices). Please refrain from using headphones while working during class.

Related readings will be assigned throughout the semester and posted on blackboard. You will be expected to read and be prepared to discuss in class.

Attendance is imperative. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be counted absent. More than 2 unexcused absences will automatically reduce your grade: 3rd unexcused absence - drop by a letter grade. 5th unexcused absence - automatic failure. Each missed deadline, scheduled review or meeting will lower your grade by 10%. Your absence diminishes the potential for learning in the class for the rest of us. If you are absent you must contact a classmate to learn what is missed and what to do in preparation for the next class session.

Your contributions to the class will include:
a) full class attendance with any preparation for assignments, necessary tools and materials
b) completion of assignments on time
c) being prepared and willing to participate in class discussions,
d) participation in orderly function of the papermaking and classroom areas including clean-up, care of equipment, and proper return of borrowed equipment.

Grading Policy:
50% Class Participation (Attendance, Class Discussions, Coming to class prepared, in-class work, Completion of Assignments on Time, Daily Drawing/Writing Exercises, Daily Clean-Up)
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, Execution/Quality/Craftsmanship, Expression). Student work will be critiqued as scheduled. Grades will be given at midterm and final.

Supplies and Tools:
Journal for sketches and note taking (we will make)
Small three ring binder with plastic sleeves for handouts
Box of large-sized freezer bags, yoghurt containers or tupperware
Roll of masking tape and duct tape
Large permanent sharpie marker
Good scissors and break-away blade
Toothbrush and small scrub brush
Wet (plastic) apron
Shoes with good tread that can get wet
Some wire and caning armature supplies (will be discussed)
Lots of inclusions – cool stuff you like – fabrics, lace, silk threads, text, photos
Small portfolio to store your paper
8 x 10 plywood or linoleum for relief printing (will be discussed)

Resources for Art Supplies
Plaza Art (30% off coupons!)
3045 Nutley Street Fairfax, VA
Pan Am Shopping Center
703-280--4500
www.plazaart.com

Renaissance Graphic Arts
printmaking-materials.com
888--833--3396

Talas
330 Morgan Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11211
212--219--0770
http://talasonline.com/

Utrecht Art Supply/Blick
1250 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC
202-898--0555
www.dickblick.com

Carriage House Paper
245 Kent Ave.
Brooklyn, NY, 11249
Tel/Fax: 718-599-PULP (7857)
Orders: 800-669-8781
info@carriagehousepaper.com
carriagehousepaper.com

A.C. Moore (Fairfax, Manassas, Falls Church, Ashburn) (Has 15% discount with student ID)
Michaels (Fairfax, Fair Lakes, Manassas, Reston, Vienna, Falls Church, Springfield)
Home Depot, Lowes, ACE Hardware

Open Print Sessions: Students in Print I and Digital Print cannot print in the printshop after class unless there is a Print Monitor on Duty. 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.

Papermaking Studio: Students may not use the Hollander beater on their own--they must sign up for a time in which an instructor or monitor is available.

NO FOOD PERMITTED IN THE PRINT SHOP 1009. Eat before class. Eat outside of class. You will be asked to leave if you bring food into the print shop.

Flat Files: 2 students will share one flat file in the print shop. Label the flat file with your names, semester, and class. ex: FirstName LastName / 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](http://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**: We are 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. We are using print to explore both our interests in process and distribution as well as the contemporary landscape of Northern Virginia. We are currently very excited about our Risograph RZ590UI machine, “Iris Risopolis.” Goddess of Rainbows. Destroyer of Masters. 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](http://ten09print.tumblr.com)

**Art Events**: Course research includes responding to exhibitions on campus and in our Northern Virginia / D.C. area. Take notes in your sketchbook, including any drawings or images. You will be required to report on one artist and one off-campus exhibition this semester.

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**PROJECTS**

This course includes a variety of smaller projects and larger assignments, assigned readings, one artist report and one exhibition report. Please note and follow due-dates on all assignment handouts that will be given.

Smaller projects will be related to in-class demonstrations and will have a quicker turnaround time with a review. They are intended to develop your skills and concepts for the larger assignments. These may include printmaking, small books, specific papermaking techniques, or group activities such as large sheet formation or casting on the vacuum table.
Larger assignments are noted in the schedule, will require more out-of-class studio time, and will be critiqued. These will include:

- Accordion Fold Book with Inclusions
- Paper In the Round
- Final Project
- Paper Sample book & box

CLASS SCHEDULE

The instructor may adjust or change the syllabus in response to the needs of the class or to make use of learning opportunities that may appear during the course of the semester. Use this as a guideline and make note of any announced changes.

Week 1

1/22 Papermaking Studio Orientation. Discuss semester's plan and course requirements, tools.

1/24 Discussion of Paper: An Elegy introduction; found paper exercise, sketch book binding, mould & deckle sealing

Week 2


1/31 Special Collections visit (*Tentative Date, TBD)

Week 3

2/5 Cotton & Abaca linters, thick & thin, inclusions

2/7 Guest Lecture & Demo: Patrick Sargent (recycled rag, community engagement)

Week 4

2/12 continue cotton rag; begin kozo processing

2/14 Kozo beating & sheet forming; Introduce Assignment: Accordion Fold + Inclusions

Week 5

2/19 Relief Printing Demo

2/21 Work session

Week 6

2/26 Work session

2/28 CRIT

Week 7
3/5  Pulp Painting

3/7  Pulp Painting

Week 8  SPRING BREAK

Week 9
3/19  Exhibition report due; Flax beating; Intro Assignment: Paper in the Round
3/21  Flax

Week 10
3/26  work session
3/28  work session

Week 11
4/2  CRIT
4/4  Guest Lecture: Helen Frederick (*Tentative date, TBD)

Week 12
4/9  Large Pours; Intro Assignment: Final Project
4/11  Vacuum Table Casting

Week 13
4/16  Artist Process: Paper & Place Casting (*Tentative date)
4/18  work session

Week 14
4/23  work session
4/25  Bookbinding & Box-making demo for fiber sample book

Week 15
4/30  Work session
5/2  FINAL CRIT

EXAM WEEK
5/7  Shop Clean Up
5/8  Shop Clean Up
### Important University Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Day (no classes)</td>
<td>Mon Jan 15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First day of classes:</strong> last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date; full semester waitlists removed</td>
<td>Mon Jan 22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Last day to add classes</strong>—all individualized section forms due</td>
<td>Mon Jan 29</td>
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<td>Last day to drop with no tuition penalty</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty</strong></td>
<td>Mon Feb 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)</td>
<td>Fri Feb 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunization Record Deadline</td>
<td>Thu Mar 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via <a href="http://artsbus.gmu.edu">Patriot Web</a></td>
<td>Mon Feb 19 – Fri Mar 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)</td>
<td>Mon Feb 26 – Fri Mar 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Mon Mar 12 – Sun Mar 18</td>
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<td><strong>Incomplete work from Fall 2017 due to Instructor</strong></td>
<td>Fri Mar 23</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Incomplete grade changes from Fall 2017 due to Registrar</strong></td>
<td>Fri Mar 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation/Thesis Deadline</td>
<td>Fri May 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Last day of classes</strong></td>
<td>Sat May 5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading Days</strong></td>
<td>Mon May 7 – Tue May 8</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exam Period</strong> (beginning at 7:30 a.m.)</td>
<td>Wed May 9 – Wed May 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>Fri May 18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Degree Conferral Date</strong></td>
<td>Sat May 19</td>
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**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](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.