

George Mason University  
School of Art  
Professor: Ed Bisese  
Contact: ebisese@gmu.edu  
Fall 2016 AVT 222 – 002 TR 1:30pm – 4:10pm  
Fall 2016 AVT 222 – 003 TR 4:30pm – 7:10pm  
Art and Design Building 2049 August 29 – December 10, 2016

## **AVT 222 – Drawing 1**

### **Syllabus**

#### **MASON CORE CLASSES**

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.

#### **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.

#### **COURSE GOALS:**

The goal of this class is to introduce the student to drawing. The successful student will begin to acquire the fundamentals of drawing and visual understanding. The student should develop an awareness of drawing materials. Curiosity and appreciation of Art History is encouraged. Every student should display originality and an ability to respond confidently to challenging drawing assignments.

#### **EXPECTATIONS:**

The course is comprised of studio assignments, homework assignments, research, written assignments and the keeping of a sketchbook. Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared for class. 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. AVT 222 is designed to include assignments that require time outside of class to complete. You are expected to research and prepare for studio work as asked. You are asked to maintain a personal sketchbook in order to develop ideas and issues introduced in class. 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

Four 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.

### Independent Research

This course requires a 3 to 5 page research paper written about a drawing topic of your choice. The paper is due in the next to last week of classes. Additionally, you are expected to find a new artist that interests you every other week, print a reproduction of the artist's drawing in the sketchbook and write a page about your discovery and how the work relates to the topics of Drawing 1.

### 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 will 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)

### 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. Keep all of the work you do throughout the semester dry and stored flat. Do not fold your drawings.

### Preparation

Students are expected to bring materials to every class meeting in order to be prepared to draw. If you arrive without materials and are unable to work, you 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 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. It is almost impossible to make up work if a class is missed.

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, 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.

\_\_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.

George Mason University considers these excused absences:

1. Family emergency
2. University established religious holiday
3. Illness with a **dated** doctor's note
4. University sponsored events, documented

**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 the 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. An “A” letter grade will not be given if you have more than three absences from class.
- “B” work exceeds the basic requirements of the course, above average participation. A “B” letter grade will not be given if you have more than five absences from class.
- “C” work meets the basic requirements of each assignment. Completes work with uneven results. A “C” letter grade will not be given if you have more than seven absences from class.
- “D” minimal effort. A “D” letter grade will not be given if you have more than nine absences from class.
- “F” no effort.
- + or - will be assigned to letter grades.

50% Drawing, including; in-class, home work

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

10% Research Paper

10% Sketchbook

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?

### **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 sketchbook or journal, 9" x 12" (or larger) (spiral bound preferred)
- water resistant Portfolio, 19" x 25" or larger

#### **CHARCOAL**

- Vine charcoal sticks; 1 package each of soft and medium (not hard)
- Compressed charcoal sticks; min. 2H(hard), HB (hard), 2B (med.), and 4B (soft)
- Charcoal pencils; Soft, Medium and Hard
- White charcoal pencil
- Colored chalk set, 12 count, get intense colors, avoid cheap pastel colored chalk

#### **PENCILS**

- Drawing pencils; 6B, 4B, 2B, HB, 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)

#### **TOOLS**

- Drawing Board, 23-1/2" x 26", masonite
- 2 binder clips, large enough to hold pad
- 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*
- *2 or 3 sheets 18" x 24" tinted charcoal paper, medium value*
- *Rives BFK- a better paper*
- *Graphite sticks; soft and medium*
- *Pink Pearl eraser*
- *Black India ink*
- *Assorted brushes—bamboo brush, assorted sizes from 1/2" to 3", (at least one)*
- *Croquil drawing pen, bamboo pen*

- *X-acto knife and refill blades or utility knife*
- *glue stick*

You may run out of materials and or find that you have materials that we don't use. 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.

**Art Supply Stores:**

- Utrecht: 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

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Sketchbook** – each week fill 6 pages in the sketchbook (84), Goal to completely fill a 100-page sketchbook,

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

--The Sketchbook assignment includes artist research. At least seven times during the semester, find an artist that you find interesting, find a drawing the artist made, print a picture of the artist's work, glue the picture into the sketchbook, and write a paragraph or two about the image, the artist and your observations. Try to find connections between what we are doing in class and the artist you select. Write what is important to you. Think critically. Make your own judgments. Copying and pasting is pointless.

**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, Gesture

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages with Expressive Lines and label them with the expression you drew.

**Week 2**

Gesture, Blocking, Sighting

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages with Gesture drawing from TV.

Written Assignment: Artist Study, Suggestion: Look for expressive lines or gesture drawing this week.

**Week 3**

Organizational Lines, Emphasis, 4-Hand Drawing

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages with different kinds of contour lines; Exterior, Interior, Cross Contour, Doodle, Pattern

**Week 4**

Blind Contour, Line Study

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages with Blind Contour drawing.

Written Assignment: Artist Study

**Week 5**

Hatching, Cross Hatching

16 part Value Scale

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Make several value scales using Tone, Hatch and Cross Hatch, pencil and ink.

**Week 6**

Dug Up Drawing

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Dug up drawing

Written Assignment: Artist Study

**Week 7**

Value Reversal

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Value reversal

**Week 8**

High Contrast Value, Drawn Patterns in place of observed value (Celebrity Texture Portrait)

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Stencil, Patterns

Written Assignment: Artist Study

**Week 9**

Positive/Negative Space

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. pos/neg space

**Week 10**

Explore Formats, Balance Studies

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Eccentric Frames

Written Assignment: Artist Study

**Week 11**

Rhythm: Staccato, Legato, Perspective

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Cubes in Perspective

**Week 12**

Perspective; Stacks, Geometric Solids, Transparent Object

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Objects in 2 pt perspective

Written Assignment: Artist Study

**Week 13**

2 point Perspective; Room and Disaster

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. 2 pt spaces

**Week 14**

Color, White Still Life, White Drape

Sketchbook Assignment: Fill 6 pages. Color

**Week 15**

Color Portrait, Local Color

Final Portfolio Review

**University and School of Art Policies**

**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.

**Important University Dates:**

Consortium Registration Deadline	TBD
First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date	August 29
Labor Day, university closed	September 5
Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	September 6
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	September 20
Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)	September 30
Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web	September 26 – October 21
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	October 3 – October 28
Columbus Day recess (Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday, Tuesday classes do not meet this week)	October 10
Incomplete work from spring/summer 2016 due to instructor	October 28
Incomplete grade changes from spring/summer 2016 due to Registrar	November 4
Thanksgiving recess	November 23 – 27
Last day of classes	December 10
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.	December 12
Exam Period	Tues December 13 – Tues December 20
Degree Conferral Date The Winter Graduation Ceremony will be held on Wed December 21.	December 21

**ArtsBus - Dates for Fall 2016:** September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**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/>. Dates for Fall 2016: September 1<sup>st</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup>, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**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/>