

**INTRO TO THE ARTIST'S STUDIO**  
**AVT103-04 Spring 2017**  
**M/W: 3:00- 4:15 pm**

**Professor:** Natalie Guerrieri  
**Emails:** [nguerrie@gmu.edu](mailto:nguerrie@gmu.edu)  
(Office hours by appointment.)

**Course Description:**

This class is an introduction to studio fundamentals for *non-art majors*. It focuses on 2-dimensional art and the development of the picture plane as a window to illusory space and as a self-referential domain. Although the course is listed as a "lecture" class, students will be making art and having studio time. Projects will be technically, formally, and conceptually driven and will help students establish a basic vocabulary to address their own work, the work of other students, and work from the fine art world. An overview of specific art historical shifts will provide a contextual understanding of issues that inform the process and intent of art making, past and present.

**\* Important:** It is in your best interest to read the entire syllabus so that you are fully informed about this course, class policy, and what is expected of you as a student in my class.

**This class fulfills a General Education Core requirement for Arts.**

Core requirements help ensure that students become acquainted with the broad range of intellectual domains that contribute to a liberal education. By experiencing the subject matter and ways of knowing in a variety of fields, students will be better able to synthesize new knowledge, respond to fresh challenges, and meet the demands of a complex world.

**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 Methods:**

- Class discussions relating to visual perception, aesthetics and some relative art history, etc.
- Reading & writing assignments and discussion of the material, Art/ Artists films, and visual aids.
- In class art practice work, assignments and projects. (Involves studio time)
- Some quizzes based on course topics covered over semester.
- Class critiques: discuss student work as a group.
- Written Formal analysis/review paper of an artwork, and or art exhibits.
- Research an artist and share with group his or her work.

**General Expectations:**

- Class attendance is crucial, as well as class participation and supplies required.
- Class work and homework turned in on time.
- Drawing terms quiz and required field trips.
- Student participation: critiques and performance in class.
- **Cell phones must not be used while in class. Turn off -or ringer off!**
- No headphones or ear buds. (During some studio class time I will allow them as long as you can hear me.)
- Projects are graded on, end result/artwork, effort, craftsmanship, process, critique. \* **Always put your class, for ex. AVT-103-03, your name, date, assignment title on back of handed in work.**
- **Important:** Students are responsible for cleaning up their work area including tables, and supplies before leaving class. Since the studio is a shared room with other faculty and students, clean up is not an option it is mandatory.

**Grading Information:**

Grades are determined by class assignments, tests, quizzes, written assignments, "general expectations" criteria, students' attitude & effort, quality of work and the ability to understand the concepts/assignments. Students should be able to work in the studio environment independently, as well as in the group discussions and class sessions. Students should show improvement, willingness to learn and respond sincerely to class instruction, critique, artistic creativity, peer support, originality, presentation and class assignments are all equally important.

**Grading Scale:** To pass the class, students will fulfill the specific outcomes and other course expectations as listed in this syllabus. 40% Participation/ Attendance (Includes: critiques, group discussions, class participation, effort) 60% "Studio" (Includes: homework, sketchbook assignments 5%, graded projects 25%, Independent research 10%, final presentation/paper 20% **A= excellent, A-= below excellent, B+= above average, B= average, B-= below average, C= passing, D=poor, F= fail**

**Attendance: Please be aware of my attendance policy!**

Students are expected to attend classes, arrive on time and be prepared to work. **Students are allowed a total of 3 un-excused absences. After 3 absences, your grade will be lowered a letter grade for each day missed.** Since much of the learning and course work is done during class time, attendance and class participation are mandatory for a passing grade. If you are not in class, you are not learning. If you are seriously ill or have an emergency, contact me and let me know your situation. This will help you to not fall behind, as well as be prepared for the next class and assignment.

\* **Missed work** must be made up on your own time. There are a lot of students in class, and it's hard to take extra class time to teach the lesson again to one or two persons who may have missed. Any missed assignments are your responsibility to turn into me the following class or upon your return. If you do not, you will receive a zero for the grade missed.

**Note: Excessive tardiness to class will also lower your final grade. Don't be late, it is rude and interrupts class.**

**Art Exhibitions:**

Students will be required to attend art exhibits at George Mason University's Fine Arts Gallery/ Building and Johnson Center Art gallery. This includes visiting artists, faculty and student exhibitions. I will sometimes ask for a typed paragraph on the exhibit and will announce which ones and the date due. Students are also required to visit D.C area museums, galleries, and exhibitions. (**Assignments to be announced**).

**SOA Spring 2017 Arts Bus**

See website for schedule. Arts Bus Website: <http://artsbus.gmu.edu/>

**Tentative Class schedule:** (Based on class/student progress.)

**Mondays:** Typically used for class discussions, topic and project introduction, films, some art history related discussion, quizzes, or gallery visits and artists talks. Class reading assignments will be emailed as pdf files. (You should create a folder in your email to keep the assigned reading in)

**Wednesdays:** Typically studio time, and or research related to class projects, papers, and group assignments. Art exhibit visits on campus, artist visits/talks; Art related events happening on campus, and class critiques.

- **AH: Refers to Art History and movements in Art.**
- **Handouts: Please keep all class handouts, reading assignments, projects, anything used for the course.** At the end of the semester, I take them back to recycle for the next semester and classes. If you return them in usable condition, I will give you extra credit.

\* **Example for schedule layout:** Class Reading = (CR): Chapter 1; Art History = (AH): Renaissance (TBA)= To be announced. **Quizzes** (will be announced at least a week in advance)

**January 2016:**

**First Week:**

Class Introduction; discuss syllabus, reading assignments, supply list, what to expect, discuss class projects, assignments, papers, artist research assignment, tests, quizzes, etc. Students will need to purchase supplies ASAP! (See supply list and where to purchase below.)

\* **First set of Handouts:** Set of Basic handouts to use as reference and practice work. Elements of design, Principles of design handout; Basic 2D shapes, types of shading techniques, and homework practice in sketchbook assignment.

- Students will do some in class studio time working and getting comfortable with materials we will be using. Practice handouts given.
- **First Reading assignment: Emailed to class. Introduction of Art and the Art world; "The Evolving Nature of Art".** Basic info for Art terms, brief history, concepts, types, and expanding personal awareness of Art.

**Film 1:** “*Masters of Illusion*”; Art History perspective: Ancient and Medieval art to Renaissance Art; how artists went from a 2D flat picture plane, to the illusion of spatial depth 3D.

**\* January continued:**

**Cover the following:**

- Shape and Form.
- Positive and Negative
- Explain “Figure - Ground” relationship, in class and homework assignment.
- Picture plane and Format when used in artwork.

**\* Line**

Lecture discussion on Line, types of line; line in design, various ways of using lines. Contour and Blind Contour practice drawing. Show examples and discuss various thicknesses of line and how artists use line for artists and design.

**In class line assignment:** Discover and practice varied types of Line. Draw 5 types of line (you will need Micron Pens and Bristol board)

**Film: BBC Series; *How Art Made the world, More Human than Human*. Part 1**

**Texture;**

Discuss surface area, different types of texture, i.e.: real and visual texture: Using shading techniques like; **Hatching and Cross Hatching.**

- In class assignment: Drawing the illusion of visual texture. (Need Micron Pens and Bristol board)

**Film: Wayne White- *Beauty is Embarrassing***

**\* March:**

**Important dates:** \* Midterm period: Mon Feb 20 – Fri Mar 24 /**Spring Break:** Mon Mar 13 – Sun Mar 19

**Class mid-term:** date: TBA: In class assignment; “TMZ style” artist research oral report to share with class

**Value:**

- Discuss light and shadow/ value and Assign project:
- 2 options: Shadow & light Words: 3D paper sculptures as 2D drawings/ or Use four different mediums to create a value study based on black and white photo.

**Other important topics:**

- Form, Content and Context discussed
- Principles of design integrated:  
Focal Point, Scale and Proportion;
- Perspective studies and lecture
- Expressionism, Cubism, Fauvism, Non-objective art.

**Film:** William Kentridge; “*Drawing the Passage of Time*”.

**Formal analysis paper:** “*Looking vs. Seeing*”; short research paper be written and emailed: Pick an artist and a well-known work of art to analyze/research assignment. Give assignment handout and visual examples. (Due date: TBA)

**Film:** How Art Made the World; *The Day Pictures were born*; Part 2

**April**

**Color:** “The Element of Color”

- Studio time: Explore Color: history, psychological, mixing, Tint, Tone and Shade.
- Color Project; Project Part due; TBA

**Films:** Edward Hopper

**BBC - How Art made the world; To Death and Back, Part 4.**

**Collage:**

- Minimalism and Pop art, Expressionist, Conceptual Art, Mixed Media, Abstract Expressionism.
- AH: Illustration, Surrealism, Dada movement, Artists of these movements. **Max Ernst, Hanna Hoch, Anselm Kiefer, Picasso, Magritte'**, etc.
- Film: "The ABC's of Dadaism"

\* Final project: 2 options: Short Film, Cordell print book

\* Film: ART 21 or BBC Series; *How Art made the world; Once upon a Time; Part 4*

\* Final week of class (April 24th/26<sup>th</sup>)

\* 5/ 1-3 /13: Final Class and Critique; Final project due.

**Note:** This syllabus may be altered during the course of the semester to allow for changes, class progress and unscheduled educational opportunities that may arise during the semester.

**Class Supply List:**

- Sketchbook: spiral type, 9"x12"
- Bristol Board pad 11"x14"
- Tracing paper pad (If you feel that you will need to trace instead of drawing free hand)
- Drawing pencils; HB, 2B, 4B, 6B, 8B
- Set of Micron ink pens, various sizes or set. (Waterproof)
- Sharpies; At least 3, assorted thickness (black only)
- Kneaded eraser
- Vine Charcoal: Black (Medium) small box
- Ruler, Scissors, Scotch tape
- Old magazines (to cut up)
- Good quality glue stick (acid free)
- Plastic toolbox or container to hold supplies in
- Flat or filbert synthetic brushes: (Consider buying an inexpensive set with a range of sizes) do not use watercolor or Makeup brushes please.

\* Places to Purchase supplies: Target (has some of the supplies at a good price-including sketchbook), Utrecht:

1250 I St., NW, WDC, 202-898-0555, Plaza Art: 3045 Nutley St., Fairfax: 703-288-4500, AC Moore: 9650 Main St., Fairfax: 703-764-2004

\* 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 and 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.

#### ArtsBus

Dates for Spring 2017:

February 18

March 25

April 15

ArtsBus Credit:

\* Each student must have up to 5 AVT 300/Artsbus credits before graduation. 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. Please go to the ArtsBus website: <http://artsbus.gmu.edu> "Student Information" for additional, very important information regarding ArtsBus policy.

\* 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

Dates for Spring 2017:

January 26

February 9

March 9

March 23

March 30

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/>

#### Important Deadlines

<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
Last day to add classes—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 Patriot Web	Mon Feb 20 – Fri Mar 24
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	Mon Feb 27 – Fri Mar 31
Spring Break	Mon Mar 13 – Sun Mar 19
<b>Incomplete work from Fall 2016 due to Instructor</b>	<b>Fri March 31</b>
<b>Incomplete 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>Reading Days</b> 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 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>	May 20

Once the add and drop deadlines have passed, instructors do not have the authority to approve requests from students to add or drop/withdraw late. Requests for late adds (up until the last day of classes) must be made by the student in the SOA office (or the office of the department offering the course), and generally are only approved in the case of a documented university error (such as a problem with financial aid being processed), LATE ADD fee will apply. Requests for non-selective withdrawals and retroactive adds (adds after the last day of classes) must be approved by the academic dean of the college in which the student's major is located. For AVT majors, that is the CVPA Office of Academic Affairs, Performing Arts Building A407.

#### 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 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 DRC.

#### 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, as stated in the George Mason University Catalog. The honor code requires that the work you do as an individual be the product of your own individual synthesis or integration of ideas. (This does not prohibit collaborative work when it is approved by your instructor.) As a faculty member, I have an obligation to refer the names of students who may have violated the Honor Code to the Student Honor Council, which treats such cases very seriously. No grade is important enough to justify cheating, for which there are serious consequences that will follow you for the rest of your life. If you feel unusual pressure about your grade in this or any other course, please talk to me or to a member of the GMU Counseling Center staff.

Using someone else's words or ideas without giving them credit is plagiarism, a very serious Honor Code offense. It is very important to understand how to prevent committing plagiarism when using material from a source. If you wish to quote verbatim, you must use the exact words and punctuation just as the passage appears in the original and must use quotation marks and page numbers in your citation. If you want to paraphrase or summarize ideas from a source, you must put the ideas into your own words, and you must cite the source, using the APA or MLA format. (For assistance with documentation, I recommend Diana Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*.) The exception to this rule is information termed general knowledge—information that is widely known and stated in a number of sources. Determining what is general knowledge can be complicated, so the wise course is, "When in doubt, cite."

Be especially careful when using the Internet for research. Not all Internet sources are equally reliable; some are just plain wrong. Also, since you can download text, it becomes very easy to inadvertently plagiarize. If you use an Internet source, you must cite the exact URL in your paper and include with it the last date that you successfully accessed the site.

#### 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.