George Mason University  
Instructor: Robin Schaefer  
Email: rschaef@gmu.edu  
Office Hours: By Appointment

Credits: 4 - Required Foundation Course

Course Description:
The focus of this course is on the fundamental elements of design and color and how these are applied to 2 dimensional works of art. A large portion of the class will involve hands on projects and working with various types of media such as acrylic paint, ink, pencil, charcoal and collage. You will be required to keep a design sketchbook for gathering information, sketching ideas and planning class projects. Homework in your sketchbook will be assigned weekly. Be prepared to do some outside research, writing and analysis on historical and contemporary artists and their work. There will be six projects assigned throughout the course, along with various in class exercises. Each project will culminate in a group critique and discussion. You will learn to use aspects of your environment as source material in your projects, drawing inspiration from nature, historical and contemporary artists, music, geometry and current events.

Goals and Course Objectives:
Over the course of this semester you will get a broad overview of the ways in which other artists have used design and color to make impactful and meaningful work. Throughout the course you will be asked to define your unique understanding and approach to working with these concepts and techniques.

Upon successful completion of the course, a student should be able to:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the elements of design; line, shape, value, space, texture.
2. Demonstrate basic principles of composition; harmony, balance, emphasis, scale/proportion, rhythm.
3. Demonstrate manual proficiency with tools and materials utilized in studio projects.
4. Express opinions concerning design and composition in critiques.
5. Proficiency with color theory and mixing color. Understand the effects of light on color and form, color relationships and color phenomenology, mood and emotional expression with color.

Grading Plan
Course work will be weighted as follows:
- Class Participation, Attendance, In-class Discussions and Critiques: 25%
- Completed Sketchbook: 25%
- Semester Projects: 25%
- Final Project: 25%
This course is project-oriented and lectures and/or demonstrations are given for new material at the beginning of each assignment. All projects must be kept safely in a portfolio and will be evaluated at mid-term and at the end of the semester.

This class fulfills a Mason Core requirement for Arts. Core 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.

Design Sketchbook
The Design Sketchbook will be based on a list of design concepts that I will provide you. For each concept you will find an example of an image that illustrates the design concept. You may find images from magazines, books, the internet. Each concept should be numbered and labeled with the title of the design concept and the image should be placed neatly on the page. Consider that you are making a resource book for yourself of design terms. The main consideration is that it be clearly labeled, and that you find good examples of each concept.

Design presentation
Each student will give a 3-5 minute presentation about an image of their choice, discussing the design elements and principles of this image. I will be giving you specific guidelines about this presentation during the course of the semester. They will begin after midterm.

Grades will be based on the following criteria:
- Participation in critiques, class discussions and group projects.
- Engagement with in class assignments, sketchbook and projects.
- Effort, motivation and preparedness *Note: This includes planning for projects, rough sketches, etc.
Effort will also mean participation in class critiques. It will be important to give and receive feedback.
- Self Improvement and overall quality of work produced.
- Meeting deadlines and successful completion of projects.
- Attendance and arriving on time (Grades will automatically drop a letter after three absences).

NOTE: If you begin to experience inordinate difficulties with the course, or have issues regarding the class that you want to discuss, please see me as soon as possible. If this does not seem appropriate, seek assistance from the Academic Advisor. If you wait until the end of the semester, the possibilities of receiving help are less promising.

Model Privacy Policy:
Any photographic recordation of models in class by any media is prohibited. Failure to observe this rule will result in expulsion from the class, a failing grade and disciplinary action at university level.

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 2019
February 23, 2019
March 30, 2019
April 13, 2019

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 Spring 2019
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/](http://soa.gmu.edu/visualvoices/)

January 24, 2019-Margaret Boozer
February 21, 2019-Jeremy Boyle
February 28, 2019-Montri Nuchang
March 7, 2019- Dorothy Moss

List of Required Materials

1 pad of 14”x 17” Bristol paper (larger but no smaller
Sketchbook 8.5”x11” or 11x14”, spiral or hardbound

Acrylic Paint: In tubes (suggested brands; Basic, Liquitex, or van Gogh)
**NO** bottled craft paint

Required colors:
- Cadmium red medium or Napthol red
- Cobalt or Ultramarine Blue
- Cadmium Yellow Medium or Light
- Titanium White
- Black Ivory or Mars

Optional Colors:
- Cadmium Orange
- Hooker’s or Viridian Green
- Dioxazine Purple

- Plastic palette/mixing knife
- Palette paper on which to mix paint
- Variety of brushes- Minimum Soft synthetic Round and Flat #2-6 and 1 large 1” Flat wash brush
- Metal ruler with cork back 18”
- Set of Micron black ink pens, various sizes or set
- Eraser
- Magazines, junk mail, postcards, etc. you can cut up for design concepts and visual sources
- Folder for magazine cutouts
- Large cup for water, rag, paper towels
- X-acto knife and sharp Scissors
- Pencil Set: Variety of H & B pencils (6B 2B HB 2H)
- Speedball Superblack Ink
- Blue Painters Tape
- Charcoal- vine and compressed
- Glue (2 Glues Sticks)
- Access to Camera (Camera Phone, Digital SLR, Point and Shoot)
- Portfolio case (18x24 or larger) for carrying art work in.
- Plastic tool box or container to hold supplies

Optional
- Colored pencils
- Gouache or Watercolors
- Pastels (chalk or oil) or Conte Crayons

Plaza Art Supply - 3045 Nutley St SW, Fairfax, VA 22031 Pan Am Shopping Center near vienna metro station), (DC, Bethesda, Rockville, Silver Spring). Has Student discount with ID and Savings Card http://www.Plazaart.com

Dick Blick Art Materials (Downtown Washington, DC) http://www.dickblick.com/
Utrecht (online) http://www.utrechtart.com
Jerry's Artarama (online) http://www.jerrysartarama.com/
A.C. Moore (Fairfax, Manassas, Falls Church, Ashburn) (Has 15% college student discount with School ID)
Michaels (Fairfax (Pan Am with Plaza), Fair Lakes, Manassas, Gainesville, Dulles, Reston, Sterling, Vienna, Falls Church, Springfield)