

ART S111 Visual Thinking

Summer 2024 Session A

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T / TH 9:00 - 12:15,

Overview This is an introductory course focusing on visual literacy through the exploration of formal issues. Visual vocabulary as it pertains to the reading of composition, color, and space will be the basis of critiques and discussions. Through regular guided exercises we will explore art work through a multi-disciplinary lens with emphasis given to the integral relation between form and content. Repetition, accumulation, and permutation will be key approaches throughout the semester. Process will be more important than finished products. Projects address all four major concentrations in the school of art (graphic design, painting / printmaking, photography, and sculpture).

Assessment Each student is assessed in terms of effort, progress and attitude. An openness to giving and receiving criticism and feedback is essential. There will be a mixture of individual and group assignments. An openness to cooperating and collaborating on group projects is necessary. Individual projects will be given with a varying degree of specific guidance (i.e. there will be independent / open studio projects with the expectation that students will bring their own direction, ideas and enthusiasms to the work.) Please communicate with your classmates, the teaching assistant and myself about any course related questions, concerns, and ideas.

- Finish all projects on time and to the best of your ability
- Come to class on time and prepared to work
- Participate in all critiques, discussions and field trips
- Be active and constructively helpful peers to one another
- Strive to build a creative and productive environment while cleaning as you work
- Maintain a sketch and/or notebook throughout the semester and keep track of all information, exercises, and research – this means you will take notes during all demos and lectures.
- Read and be prepared to discuss all readings located on our canvas page
- Expect to spend a minimum of 3 hours to 5 hours a week outside of class on projects..

Attendance You may miss class with reasonable cause. If you need to miss class with reasonable cause, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to receive instruction for how to make up for the missed class. Missing class for other than a reasonable cause may jeopardize your academic standing in the class. If you miss MORE than ONE class, whether or not for a reasonable cause, then your grade will drop for the class. Your grade will continue to drop for EACH additional absence. This starts from the first class.

Projects and Topics Each week is dedicated to exploring an aspect of visual thinking through generative studio prompts and projects. At the beginning of each week the instructor will give a brief overview of that week's focus and objectives and introduce a project. Detailed project descriptions will be posted to CANVAS for students to refer to. Many projects build off of each other and include several iterations making it difficult to accurately create fixed timelines. The artistic process is fluid and malleable (and so is this syllabus). This course description is

subject to change. Always take note of any course schedule changes and never hesitate to ask questions about the content / direction of the course.

Materials:

1. a set of 3-4 charcoal pencils of varying hardnesses (soft/4b, medium/2b, and hard) \$6-\$10
2. a kneaded rubber eraser \$1-\$2
3. a small bottle of black sumi-e or india ink \$6-\$7
4. a medium sized calligraphy brush \$4-\$6
5. 11"x14" (or larger) mixed media pad of paper (15 sheets or more) \$15-\$18
6. A pair of scissors
7. Set of acrylic paints: 1 (2-4 oz.tube heavy body) of each of the following colors: Yellow (Process/Primary, chrome, or cadmium will do), Blue (Ultramarine, Cyan, or Process/Primary), Red/Magenta (Process/Primary, Cadmium) Black and White.
8. Set of 4 brushes (Round, Flat, 2 sizes Filbert)

Schedule

WEEK 1

Tuesday May 28

Drawing: Space, time, observation and touch

Flow chart, group drawing, drawing time, frottage

Thursday May 30

Composition: Formats, frames and fragments

Visit to The Yale University Art Gallery (YUAG)

1 page response paper to YUAG artwork

Discuss: Carol Bove essay

Read chapters 1 & 2 of *How Color Works* by Pamela Fraser and introduction to *The Interaction of Color* by Josef Albers

Project 1: Rupture and reassemble

WEEK 2

Tuesday June 4

Color: Relational color

Albers exercises. Color painting I

Visit to the Haas Arts Library Special Collection

Read chapters 4 & 5 of *How Color Works* by Pamela Fraser and Amy Sillman's "On Color"

Project 2: Color didactics

Thursday June 6

Painting: Color schemes

Iterative painting

Watch Jennifer Roberts Mellon Lecture: "Pressure"

Project 3: Variations

WEEK 3

Tuesday June 11

Printmaking: Mono printing

Project 4: Drawing for print

Thursday June 13

Printmaking: Separations

RISOgraph demonstration

Visit to YUAG Prints and Drawing Study Room

Read: "What Art is and Where it Belongs" by Paul Chan

Bring in materials for sculpture projects

1 page response paper to YUAG artwork

Final project proposal

WEEK 4

Tuesday June 18

Sculpture: One minute sculptures

Creative reuse, ready made, instruction, documentation, performance. Individual meetings

Read excerpts from Yoko Ono's *Grapefruit*

Project 5: Prompts

Thursday June 20

Sculpture: Extension and adaptation

Suggested use, theatrical property

WEEK 5

Tuesday June 25

Open studio day

Thursday June 27

Final Critique