

**Moravian College**  
**ART 142 Visual Foundations (2-Dimensional Design)**  
**Monday/Wednesday 6:30 to 9:00.**  
**Room:**  
**Spring 2009**  
**Office hours: M/W**  
**Art Office:**  
**Instructor: Aron Johnston**  
**Email: [astrogato@hotmail.com](mailto:astrogato@hotmail.com) Cell: 512-560-1832**

**Course Description:**

An introduction to the theory and application of two-dimensional design as it applies to the creation of pictorial space. Students will be guided through a series of weekly and bi-weekly projects in visual expression, introducing them to the formal elements of design: line, shape, value, color, and space and the principles of organization: harmony, variety, balance, proportion, scale, dominance, movement, and economy in a variety of concepts, mediums, and techniques.

**Text:**

A text will not be required. Assorted handouts and reading materials will be assigned throughout the semester

**Course Goals:**

- To develop an understanding of the interrelationship of the elements of art and the principles of design.
- To realize the conceptual through the pictorial.
- To promote visual thinking.
- To introduce a critical framework for thinking and looking at design.

**Attendance Policy:**

All students must attend all classes and required lectures. Poor attendance and or consistent tardiness could negatively impact a project's grade, and by extension your overall course grade. Class participation and attendance are major considerations when assigning grades for projects and final grades. How well you prepare for class, work during class time, and participate in critiques and discussions will influence your final grade. Work that is late due to illness, or other emergencies, will not be penalized. An excused absence is one confirmed by a note from the Dean's Office, Student Services, the Learning Center, or verified with a doctor's note (upon your return to class). Other forms of written verification may be acceptable and will be judged on a case by case basis. An e-mail to me is also necessary for all absences. Without some form of written excuse you will receive an unexcused absence. Job interviews, doctor's appointments, etc., are not to be scheduled during class. Documentation is required for all sports. Your coach, or you, should e-mail me ahead of time for anything that would require your absence from class. *Students, not the professor, are responsible for assignments given on a day when they are not in class. All missed work must be made up within one week of the due date, unless another date is arranged and agreed upon with the instructor.*

The following also count as unexcused absences:

More than 15 minutes late for class  
Failure to bring supplies to class  
Failure to return from break  
Leaving class early

After the second unexcused absence, the student's final grade will be dropped by one full letter grade.

After the fourth unexcused absence, the student will receive a failing final grade.

This attendance information is Art Department policy and will be strictly enforced.

### **Grading:**

Each project must be successfully completed in order to receive credit for the course. Final grades will be based on: work done both in and out of class, meeting the projects objectives, level of achievement, creativity and imagination, craftsmanship, and presentation. Class participation and attendance are major considerations when assigning grades. How well you prepare for class, work during class, and actively participate in critiques and discussions will influence your grade.

### **CRITERIA FOR GRADES ARE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:**

- A. Superior: 93-100, A- 91-92
  - Scholarship: strong exceeding requirements of instructor
  - Initiative: contributions exceeding the assignment, showing independent resourcefulness
  - Attitude: positive, beneficial to class
  - Individual Improvement: continually developing
- B. Good - Above average: B+ 88-90, B 84-87, B- 81-83
  - Scholarship: accurate and complete, meeting all requirements of instructor
  - Initiative: good, meeting requirements of assignments
  - Attitude: proper, beneficial to class
  - Individual Improvement: shows signs of progress, responds positively to criticism
- C. Average: C+ 78-80, C 74-77, C- 71-73
  - Scholarship: barely meeting requirements of instructor
  - Initiative: uncertain, apparent only at times
  - Attitude: generally neutral, but not objectionable
  - Individual Improvement: not showing signs of progress, not responding to criticism
- D. Below average, yet passing: 70-61
  - Scholarship: not meeting requirements of instructor,
  - Initiative: not meeting requirements of assignments, not completing assignments
  - Attitude: indifferent, possibly objectionable
  - Individual improvement: not noticeable
- F. Completely unsatisfactory: 60 and below

Students will receive in-progress grades throughout the semester:

Assigned projects, in studio work	85 %
Attendance and Class participation	15 %

If you are absent from a critique without a doctor's excuse or written notification from Student Services, you will receive a partial grade reduction of up to 10 points for the assignment. If you attend the critique but do not hand your work in on time, you will receive up to a 4 point reduction for each class that the work is late. All projects/assignments may be resubmitted if you choose to rework them after they are graded. You have two (2) weeks to do so.

**Disability-** Any student with documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Disabled Student Services.

**Cell Phones-** must be turned to the Silent position.

MATERIALS LIST:

VISUAL FOUNDATIONS (ART 142)

Students will be provided with all materials required for this class. The cost of materials will be billed to each student's Moravian account. You may find that you want to add to your materials, by necessity this must be done on your own time and at your expense.

**OPTIONAL MATERIALS:**

Cutting matt  
set of color markers (with or without a thin and a thick end)  
french curve (various drafting devices)  
mechanical pens and/or pencils  
container for brushes

Area art supply stores may give a 10% student discount. Bring your student I.D. and your materials list with you.

**Suppliers:** Dick Blick Art Store  
3152 Lehigh St (at the South Mall)  
Allentown, PA  
Phone: 610- 791-7576

A.C. Moore Co.  
2633 MacArthur Road  
Whitehall, PA  
Phone: 610-264-4003

Art & Drafting Connection  
Westgate Mall  
Bethlehem, PA  
Phone: 610-882-0533

There are several other suppliers in the area.

***Cleanliness-*** It is the job of every student to leave the studio better than the way they found it. Disrespecting your environment and those around you implies poor participation and may affect your grade.

***Wear appropriate clothing-*** you will get some kind of art material on everything you bring into the studio... it just happens.

**CRITIQUES:**

At the end of each project there will be a major critique during which the entire class presents their individual project's solution (as a group) and the instructor leads, with full student involvement, a discussion in which the work of each student is analyzed in terms of: meeting the projects objectives (technically, formally, and conceptually), originality and creativity, degree of involvement, problem solving ability, craftsmanship, and presentation. Learning to analyze one's own work and the work of others is as important a skill as making the work. There will also be many individual and small group preliminary critiques.

#### LECTURES and TRIPS:

During the course of the semester you will be required to attend an on-campus art event and one off-campus (generally a bus trip to NYC to visit museums and galleries) art event and write a short (300-400 word) paper on one of these events in addition to your design project requirements. The paper is generally due one week after the date of the event. Types of events include Gallery Openings, Visiting Artists, and Bus Trips. Gallery Openings are public events which occur at some point during the course of each Gallery Exhibition. These generally include a short talk by the artist being shown or the curator of the exhibit. Visiting Artists may feature slide talks by art department faculty, visiting artists, art historians, critics, and/or art professionals such as conservators, illustrators, and art editors. The Bus Trip is usually to New York City, where we might start the day viewing classic works at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and finish with contemporary artwork in museums and galleries downtown.

#### Date for Bus Trip to NYC:

Note: I must receive all papers by Wednesday, December 3. I must receive them as hard copies, not email attachments. The papers will not receive a grade, but will count toward the class participation portion of your grade. Not handing in a paper will seriously jeopardize the class participation portion of your grade.

#### ATTENDANCE AT ALL CRITIQUES IS MANDATORY.

Again, if you are absent without a doctor's excuse or written documentation from student services, you will receive a partial grade reduction of up to 10 points for the assignment. If you attend the critique but do not hand your work in on time, you will receive up to a 4 point reduction for each class that the work is late. All problems may be resubmitted if you choose to rework them after they are graded. You have two (2) weeks to do so.

#### STUDIO:

Students are responsible for the studio (room 8) and equipment. Please get into the habit of cleaning up after yourself at the end of each work session. Our drafting tables are a valuable resource. Their surfaces must be kept clean and undamaged. Any cutting must **not** be done directly on the table's surface, but rather on one of the many grey cutting mats located in the studio. Anyone caught cutting directly on a drafting table (without using a grey cutting matt) will be billed for the cost of a new table top. No personal listening devices are allowed in class (no earphones, etc.). Turn off cell phones before class begins. You may drink in class, coffee, soda, etc., but you may not bring food to class.

#### SAFETY PROCEDURES:

1. All acrylic paints and gesso should be used in a well ventilated area.
2. Discarded acrylic paint, and rinse water from brush cleaning, should never be disposed of in the sink. Always use acrylic waste disposal containers provided in the studios for that purpose. The used rinse water will be screened to remove paint particles.
3. Wear latex gloves for hand protection and an apron to protect your clothing.
4. Spray paint, aerosol glues, and fixatives are extremely flammable, do not use near an open flame.
5. Only use aerosols in the spray booths provided in the studios.
6. Turn on the spray booth first and follow the instructions on the can. Avoid breathing these vapors as they are a health hazard. After the work has dried, discard scrap papers in the metal cans provided. When finished, turn off spray booth and store spray cans in fireproof metal cabinet with other flammable supplies.
7. Use matt knives, exacto knives, and scissors with care. Retract, or cover blades after use. Dispose of used blades properly.
8. Read, understand, and follow all recommendations for health and safety precautions labeled on products.
9. Read, understand and follow all manufacturer recommendations for the proper use of products, materials, and tools.
10. Always follow all recommended studio rules and procedures.
11. Wear proper protective eyewear; dust masks, protective clothing, etc. as indicated.
12. Do not operate tools or equipment without being instructed in their proper and safe use.
13. Do not use materials without being instructed in their proper and safe use.
14. Always work in a well ventilated, well lighted, and safe workplace.
15. Report any unusual incident with materials, tools or equipment immediately to the instructor and to the College Health Center, 610-861-1567 (evenings, to Campus Safety Office, 610-861-1421)

#### **Syllabus**

01/19:            *Intro, syllabus supply check and distribution*

01/21:            *Defining the picture plane, understanding craft*

(HW collect comic pre 1987 due first week in April)

01/26: defining the elements of visualization (seeing) Composition studies

01/28: thinking about what you see and doing. Composition studies

02/2: elements of space general to specific

02/4: Positive and negative space

02/09: Composition studies. Rhythm repetition and balance

02/11: Balance: Asymmetrical-. HW- balance- asymmetrical or symmetrical  
(find a picture Face space picture)

02/16: Defining the pictorial. Project introduction: My Face Space

02/18: Project: My Face Space. work in class

02/23: Project: My Face Space. work in class

02/25: Project: My Face Space. Last day to work in class, project due

03/02: **spring break**

03/04: **spring break**

03/09: group Critique. (Groups: 1&3).

03/11: group Critique (Groups: 2&4)

03/16: Individual Midterm Critique. Types of line and mark making

03/18: Individual Midterm critiques. Value study with varied line

03/23: Composition studies. With line and value

03/25: Composition studies. Light and dark. Tint, tone and shade

03/30: Color: Slide presentation, introduction of color value studies

04/01: Color: Color value scales, color mixing

04/25: Color value scales, color mixing

03/27: Critique Color scales, gray scales

04/01: Color: Comic composition studies. Focal point and movement with color

04/06: Color: Comic composition studies cross complements

04/08: Color: Comic composition studies effect and affect

04/13: Comic color Project Introduction

04/15: work on final

04/20: work on final Select time for final Individual critique

04/22: work on final

04/27: Final project critique. – group

04/29: Final critique- individual..

**\* Note: this is a working syllabus subject to change.**

Supplies- An art kit will be distributed in class; the cost will be billed to your student account.