

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
VISUAL FOUNDATIONS (ART 142)
SYLLABUS / FALL 2009

INSTRUCTOR: Michael Burmeister
DAYS / TIME / CLASSROOM: M –W / 9:00 - 11:30am / Room 8
E-MAIL: mcburmeister@hotmail.com

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 though out 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:

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 a class 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 project's 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, Sketchbook assignments, & 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.

DISABILITIES:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services. All discussions will remain confidential.

MATERIALS LIST:

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, but this must be done on your own time and at your expense.

OPTIONAL MATERIALS:

inexpensive container for supplies and brushes (fishing tackle box, ArtBin, etc.)
water container (used cottage cheese or butter containers - plastic)
disposable palette or freezer paper (for acrylic paint)
containers for storing mixed paint (small resealable jars, such as GladWare)
cutting mat
set of color markers (with or without a thin and thick end)
French Curve (various drafting devices)

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 Materials
 South Mall
 3152 Lehigh Street
 Allentown, PA 18103
 Phone: 610-791-7576

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.

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.

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: Friday, November 6, 2009

Note: I must receive all papers by Wednesday, November 23. 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 jeopardize the class participation portion of your grade. These papers are intended to offer you a space to share your own viewpoint, there is no need for plagiarism from a catalog or on-line resource. Plagiarism will

not be tolerated.

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 gray cutting mats located in the studio. Anyone caught cutting directly on a drafting table (without using a gray cutting mat) will be billed for the cost of a new table top. No iPod's or personal listening devices (MP3 players) are allowed in class. Turn cell phones to the "silent" position before class begins. You may drink in class, coffee, soda, etc., but you may not bring food to class, unless health reasons require you to do so.

SAFETY PROCEDURES:

1. All acrylic paints and gesso should be used in a well ventilated area.
2. Discarded acrylic paint and 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. Used rinse water should be screened to remove paint particles.
3. Wear latex gloves for hand protection and an apron to protect your clothing. Please wear the appropriate clothing to class because art materials will always find a way of getting onto your clothes.
4. Spray paint, aerosol glues, and fixatives are extremely flammable, do not use near an open flame. If you are going to use any of these products at home, spray outside or wear a high-quality respirator.
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 mat knives, Xacto 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 eye wear; 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 light, 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).

COURSE OUTLINE VISUAL FOUNDATIONS (ART 142) Fall 2009 Michael Burmeister

Days	Date	Assignment
M	AUG 31	Introduction to course / materials Introduce: Line Project : working with the physical and expressive properties of line and an introduction to composition: directionality, variety, and movement. HW: Sketchbook Assignment #1
W	SEPT 2	Continue: Line Project Reading: Ideas about Line
M	SEPT 7	No Class: Labor Day Recess
W	SEPT 9	Critique: Line Project HW: Sketchbook Assignment #2
M	SEPT 14	Introduce and Begin: Shape Project : understanding and working with shape (both positive and negative) and positive and negative space. Reading: Ideas about Shape Due: Line Project
W-M	SEPT 16, 21	Continue: Shape Project
W	SEPT 23	Critique: Shape Project HW: Sketchbook Assignment #3
M	SEPT 28	Introduce and Begin: Value / Space Project: working with the gray scale, value keys, local value, spatial recession, effects of atmosphere, and over-lapping planes. Reading: Value (light) & Space (depth) Due: Shape Project
W	SEPT 30	Continue: Value / Space Project
M	OCT 5	Continue: Value / Space Project
W	OCT 7	Critique: Value / Space Project HW: Sketchbook Assignment #4
M	OCT 12	No Class: Fall Recess

W	OCT 14	Introduce and Begin: Color Project 1: an introduction to understanding and working with Hue, Value, and Intensity. Reading: Ideas about Color Due: Value / Space Project
M-W	OCT 19, 21	Continue: Color Project 1
M-W	OCT 26, 28	Continue: Color Project 1
M	NOV 2	Critique: Color Project 1 HW: Sketchbook Assignment #5
W	NOV 4	Introduce and Begin: Color Project 2: further study in Hue, Value, and Intensity and an introduction to understanding and working with Color Systems. reread: Continued Ideas about Color Due: Color Project 1
F	NOV 6	Art Department Trip to NY
M-W	NOV 9, 11	Continue: Color Project 2
M-W	NOV 16, 18	Continue: Color Project 2
M	NOV 23	Critique: Color Project 2 HW: Sketchbook Assignment #6 NY Response Papers Due, last day they will be accepted
W	NOV 25	No Class - Thanksgiving Recess
M	NOV 30	Introduce and Begin: Color Project 3, Expression: learning to use color and shape expressively and conceptually through depicting the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter Reading: Ideas on Expressionistic Color & Shape Due: Color Project 2
W	DEC 2	Continue: Color Project 3
M-W	DEC 7, 9	Continue: Color Project 3
M-W	DEC 14, 16	Final Critique/Review with Professor: Individual 15 min intervals.

HW = Homework

This course outline is a guide and subject to change.

Note: Students who undertake projects which are larger or more involved than that which is normally undertaken by the rest of the class may receive extended working time.