

Moravian College

ART 142 Z Visual Foundations

Fall 2009 Tuesday/Thursday:

Room:

Office hours: T/TH Art Office:

Instructor: Aron Johnston

Email: astrogato@hotmail.com Cell:

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:

Text book:

Assorted handouts and reading materials will be assigned though 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:

Attendance is mandatory. Each meeting of class is considered a session. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each session. Students arriving 5-20 minutes late for any class session are considered tardy. Three tardy counts equal one un-excused absence.

-Arriving more than 20 minutes late or missing an entire class session is considered an absence.

-Students who do not return to class after break or who leave early will be considered absent.

-Showing up without your supplies is also considered an absence.

-Three unexcused absences may result in your grade being decreased one whole letter.

Four un-excused absences is automatic failure.

-An absence may be excused if there is a medical reason, family emergency or extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. The determination of whether an absence will be excused is left to the discretion of the instructor.

-It is the responsibility of the student to ask his or her colleagues what information was missed during an absence and to make-up the work missed.

-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.

Grading:

Due to the volume of material to be covered it is essential that you be in class every class (unless an excuse has been presented and permitted) have completed the homework and are prepared to fully engage in class discussion. This is a secure space where every idea, comment or question will be addressed with respect. You will be graded on participation, intent, creativity, and technique. Work that is truly exceptional and moves beyond expectation will be graded in the A range. Work that is interesting and moves beyond average will be graded in the B range and work that exhibits good/ average quality will be within the C range. Individual meetings will be scheduled mid-term and 2 weeks before the final to assess your strengths and weaknesses. This will allow you ample time to address any issues before a final grade is submitted.

It is the responsibility of the professor to assist the student with the development of each and every segment of the class. The professor should give opinions in a helpful and collaborative manner. It is, however, the responsibility of the student to ask for help when he or she is confused, a misunderstanding exists, or there is simply a question that may hinder the student's development if not addressed. This is a safe environment where learning is the primary goal of both parties. Yet, if the student does not ask questions when help is needed the professor has no choice but to grade accordingly (i.e. the professor is not a mind reader and will assign a grade based on the criteria above). Please feel free to meet with me at any moment throughout the course. I have posted office hours but am also available by appointment.

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

Academics Honesty (issues of plagiarism)

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses that erode the academic environment. Moravian College and the Department of Visual Arts will condone NO form of plagiarism-

Defined as the use of another's words, ideas, visual or verbal material as one's own without proper permission or citation. Each student has the responsibility to make sure they have a clear understanding of this important issue and how it applies to a studio class and their imagery. Any and all image appropriation needs to be discussed with the professor prior to usage. This includes material found on the internet.

Students who violate the standards of academic honesty face serious disciplinary consequences, including referral before the honor council and/or immediate course failure.

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.

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 on _____. 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 ARE 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)

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

Syllabus

09/01: *Intro, syllabus supply check and distribution*
09/03: *Defining the picture plane, understanding craft*
(HW collect comic pre 1987 due first week in April)

09/08: *defining the elements of visualization (seeing) Composition studies*
 09/10: *thinking about what you see and doing. Composition studies*
 09/15: *elements of space general to specific*
 09/17: *Positive and negative space*
 09/22: *Composition studies. Rhythm repetition and balance*
 09/24: *Balance: Asymmetrical-. HW- balance- asymmetrical or symmetrical
(find a picture Face space picture)*
 09/29: *Defining the pictorial. Project introduction: My Face Space*
 10/01: *Project: My Face Space. work in class*
 10/06: *Project: My Face Space. work in class*
 10/08: *Mid term project Due, Mid term Crit*
 10/12: *Fall Break*
 10/13: *Fall Break*
 10/15: *Individual Critiques*
 10/20: *group Critique. (Groups: 1&3).*
 10/22: *group Critique (Groups: 2&4)*
 10/27: *Individual Midterm Critique. Types of line and mark making*
 10/29: *Individual Midterm critiques. Value study with varied line*
 11/03: *Composition studies. With line and value*
 11/05: *Composition studies. Light and dark. Tint, tone and shade*
 11/06: *Field trip New York*
 11/10: *Color: Slide presentation, introduction of color value studies*
 11/12: *Color: Color value scales, color mixing*
 11/17: *Color value scales, color mixing*
 11/19: *Critique Color scales, gray scales*
 11/24: *Color: Comic composition studies. Focal point and movement with color*
 11/25: *Thanksgiving Break*
 11/26: *Thanksgiving Break*
 12/01: *Color: Comic composition studies cross complements*
 Color: Comic composition studies effect and affect
 12/03: *Comic color Project Introduction*
 12/08: *work on final*
 12/10: *work on final Select time for final Individual critique*
 12/10: *work on final*
 12/15: *Final project critique. – group*

 12/17:

*** 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.