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### ARTZ 106A.01: Visual Language - 2D Foundations

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# University of Montana School of Art

Instructor:	Kate Lund	Visual Language: 2D Foundations, ARTZ 106A.01 (3
Email:	<a href="mailto:kathryn.lund@umontana.edu">kathryn.lund@umontana.edu</a>	Credits)
Office:	Schreiber Gym room 127	Spring 2016, Tuesday and Thursday 2:10-4PM, Fine Arts
Office hours:	Wednesday: 11am-12pm	Room 404

**Course Description:** An introduction to the formal elements and principles of design, color theory, and predominant western and non-western historical styles. Emphasis on solving specific design problems.

## Course Objectives:

1. Art is about communicating ideas. This course explores the relationship between art principles and meaning in your work. We will specifically explore:
  - a. How form and aesthetics can contribute to meaning
  - b. Gain proficiency in planning and executing composition
  - c. Color, both additive (light-based such as digital video monitor) and subtractive (pigments like acrylic paint)
2. Every material and process has a unique perspective and voice. Artists often select a medium because of it can articulate an idea in a very particular way. Throughout the term we will explore many different materials and processes, including digital, drawing, printing, painting and collage, to begin to become familiar with the implications of each.
  - a. Digital: Students will gain familiarity with input, editing and output.
  - b. Manipulation of paint and color mixing
3. Merge critical thinking and visual communication skills to express ideas and evaluate artworks in formal and individual critiques.

**Textbook:** Mary Stewart. Launching the Imagination: a Comprehensive Guide to Basic Design, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2008. Second edition may also be used. This will be on reserve in the resource room and it is available entirely on Moodle. Save it to your desktop.

**Course Format:** The first half of the semester will be dedicated to mastering the fundamental skills and concepts of 2D Foundations. The structure will consist of introduction to new skills/concepts on Tuesday and description of homework. Thursday will be used to work on this homework. Plan on taking time over the weekend to complete the reading and gather materials for the subsequent week's assignments. **Under this structure it is imperative to come to class prepared with all supplies, research completed, and source material. Any student who is not prepared to work for the entire class will automatically be marked absent.**

During in-class studio time, I will work one-on-one with you to provide suggestions and help refine your solutions. In addition to class time, expect to spend five hours a week working outside of class. Your openness to taking chances, following unexpected new directions and engage seriously and creatively with each assignment is essential for your success. Do not be satisfied with your first idea or the easiest solution.

Later on in the semester we will complete three larger, more complex assignments which employ the cumulative skills of the semester.

In addition to exercises and assignments, we will use other way to understand concepts: Class critiques will be held at the end of major assignments to give you feedback and allow you to see other student's solutions. Lectures will highlight major ideas and introduce artists to illustrate various concepts. Regular required readings will also elaborate important ideas and concepts.

**Attendance:** This is a studio art class and therefore regular attendance is essential. Each student will be permitted **3 unexcused absences**. After three unexcused absences, your grade will **drop one letter grade for each day missed**. If you miss more than 6 classes it will be impossible for you to receive anything but a failing grade (F) for the course. Know that this is not a recreational course, and any activity that disrupts focus of classmates will not be tolerated

If you have a cell phone that disrupts the class or you use the phone during class time for anything unrelated to the course, it will count as an absence. Students who habitually arrive late, arrive without necessary materials, leave early or take extended breaks will also be considered absent.

**Work schedules, minor illness, oversleeping, studying for other classes, etc. are not acceptable excuses for missing class.**

**When you are absent or late for a class, you are still responsible for the information and assignments presented. You must pursue the information you have missed. Please exchange contact information with two other students in the class during the first class meeting. If you need clarification on scheduled class meetings or assignments, contact these two students before contacting me!** All presentations and readings will be posted on Moodle but In-Class demonstrations will NOT be repeated for the convenience of an individual student. The instructor reserves the right to review attendance problems on an individual basis.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Full Information on the Withdrawal Policy for University of Montana courses can be found on the web at <http://www2.umt.edu/catalog/acpolpro.htm>.

**Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:** Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic F for the course. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321).

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities may request reasonable modification by contacting the instructor. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disability, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more Information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>. Student with disabilities or special needs should see the instructor within the first two weeks of class

**Health and Safety:** The School of Art uses environmentally sound methods. Required materials from your supply list are in compliance, with the exception of spray fixative. **Fixative must be used in the spray booth only.** First aid kits, dust masks, gloves, eye wash, and eye protection are located by sink. Food and drink are not allowed in the studio. Animals and children will not enter the room.

**Building Hours:** The use of School of Art studios requires current enrollment in a studio course. Hours are 7:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M. Fridays are reserved for studio days, as there are no classes scheduled.

**Studio Use Guidelines:**

- You are individually responsible for the cleanup at the end of each session in the classroom. The last ten minutes is used for clean up, and your space will be left better condition that you found it.
- As a class we are allotted nine lockers, you must partner up and share a locker. You will provide your own lock. Make sure you have 2 keys.
- Art work may be stored in the vertical files labeled **Lund 2D**

- All artwork, and portfolios must be clearly marked with student's name, course, instructor, semester, and year. Work that is not labeled will be discarded.
- Front critique board must be empty at the end of class.
- Cell phones must be turned off, NO HEADPHONES, music permitted by instructor.

### Grading and Evaluation

A/ 100-94	A-/93-91		excelled at every phase of the course
B+/90-87	B/96-84	B-/83-81	demonstrated above average work
C+/80-77	C/75-74	C-/73-71	fulfilled every requirement of the course
D+/70-67	D/66-64	D-/63-61	made progress, but fulfilled requirements in a substandard way
F/60-0			failed to meet the course requirements

### For this course, students will be evaluated in five major areas:

1. Demonstrating a positive attitude and a willingness to improve upon skills
2. Craftsmanship: every area of work must be thoughtfully and technically addressed
3. Fulfillment of Project Objectives and completed drawings
4. Coming to class with seriousness and preparedness
5. Participation in discussions and critiques

### Specific Questions to ask yourself in regards to assignments

1. Did you understand the point of the assignment and worked towards exploring all aspects of it?
2. Does your work represent a significant amount of effort, thought and time on your part? Although a simple solution is sometimes the most effective, it is easy to tell if your work was well considered or just quickly created.
3. Did you push yourself to find an original, unique or surprising solution or were you satisfied with something more predictable and obvious?
4. Is your final product neat and carefully presented free of unwanted folds and smudges. When you turn in a piece for review, you are asking us to consider everything you put before us. If an unintentional fingerprint is on your work I will consider it part of what you wish to convey. I am by nature a messy person, and sympathize with others of a similar disposition. If I can create work that is neat and professional, so can you.
5. Does your work consider all applicable design concepts explored so far? Keep in mind all that we explore during the term and try to use what you know to help strengthen the impact of your designs

**Late and Unfinished Work:** Any late work will have one letter grade deducted for each class period that it is late. Work will be accepted for less than full credit for one week after the due date. Extra credit is not available for this course. There is a fine line between late and unfinished work, find a balance and know that unfinished work that is turned in for a grade will not receive higher than a C-. I am more sympathetic about work that is turned in late that is exceptionally well done than work that is turned in on time that is unfinished.

### Grading Breakdown: 200 total possible points

Class Discussions and Participation	60 points
Weekly assignments	40 points (5 points each)
Projects	90 points total (30 points each)
Art event Responses	10 points

**Participation:** 30% of your total grade is based on participation. The participation grade is based on attendance, attitude, effort both in class and on your homework, critiques, and preparedness. As long as you come to every class period, maintain a positive attitude and put forth a full effort to improve upon skills, and take instructor and student

feedback seriously you will succeed in this class. Cleaning up the studio and taking care of facilities is also a major part of participation.

**Notes on Class Discussions:** We will have a critique upon the completion of each drawing project. I will start the dialogue by giving the class a prompt or set of questions which must be answered about each drawing. It is very important to give constructive feedback through articulate comments. Your ideas and criticism should be based in an understanding of the terms and vocabulary that we have discussed in class. Failure to actively participate or bring in work that is less than 50% complete is unacceptable and will result in a loss of participation points for the critique. Remember, these critiques are designed to help you and your classmates. Overtly negative comments/behavior will not be tolerated.

**Weekly Assignments:** During the 1st class period of each week, students will be assigned a weekly assignment. This Assignment will be a continuation of the techniques and processes that are being focused on in class. These projects should take on average 4-6 hours over the weekend in addition to spending class time on Thursday on the assignment. These assignments must be completed on 8.5x11 white cardstock and organized in a binder in clear sheet protectors according to the design principle.

**Projects:** A major component of the course is the successful completion of projects which pertain to techniques and concepts we focus on in class. Our first major project will be assigned near mid-term once all fundamental concepts have been covered. Medium and format of these projects will vary according to assignment.

**Note on Projects and Grades:** I am overly interested in student's individual progress throughout the semester. Know that an unquestionably finished project can still be improved. You have the opportunity to improve a project based on instructor and student feedback following the critique, I am more than happy to consider these changes for an improvement on the grade.

**Art events:** You must attend a minimum of 5 Art events. This may include visiting artist lectures, gallery openings, First Friday, etc. After attending each even write one to two paragraphs detailing your experience. These write ups are due two weeks before the end of the semester. Sporadically throughout the semester, we will visit art shows as a class.

For comprehensive updates follow Griz Art on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/griz.art.9?fref=ts>

#### **Miscellaneous art happenings:**

- Second Floor: Student Artist Collective Bulletin Board
- Second Floor: Resource Lab
- Fourth Floor: Emergency phone at the East end of the hallway
- Third Floor: Light Shaft

#### **Semester Calendar**

Monday, January 25	First Day of Classes
Monday, February 15	President's Day, No Classes
Mon- Fri, April 4-8	Spring Break
Friday, May 6	Last Day of Regular Classes
Monday- Friday May 9-13	Final Exams*

**\*All artwork must be out of the studio by 12:00pm on Wednesday of Finals week. Items left will be behind will be thrown away.**