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

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## School of Art ARTZ106A, Section 01, Visual Language: 2-D Foundations, 3 Credits

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### *The Course*

As described in the UM catalog, 2D Foundations is “[a]n introduction to the formal elements and principles of design, color theory, and predominant western and non-western historical styles. We will focus on 2D design challenges pertinent to the contemporary world of art and design.

### *Materials*

The required text for this course is Launching the Imagination: A Comprehensive Guide to Basic Design by Mary Stewart. Any edition will serve you. Design Basics, Lauer & Pentak is also a useful resource. Your 2-D Kit (already paid for by your class fees) and additional supplies and materials noted on attached materials list are available in the UC Bookstore after September 9. In the meantime, we will be using b/w acrylic and/or drawing materials such as graphite.

### *Course Objectives and Format*

Art 106A introduces students to the basic principles involved in two-dimensional design. The learning process is analogous to learning a language. Students must develop a “design vocabulary” and articulate these terms orally, as well as apply them visually. Emphasis is placed on organizing visual elements in conjunction with developing the creative process in the context of the contemporary art world. We will explore design challenges through both isolated exercises and exercises that integrate real world applications. Design, like all artistic endeavors, requires a combination of an open mind, a willingness to experiment, and a critical eye. This course will provide a foundation for all your future explorations of the visual arts – whether it is architecture, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, or sculpture. Ideally, this course should provide you with a basic tool set – the technical and intellectual skills – required of a contemporary artist.

Our most recent curriculum development here at the School of Art is to introduce students to basic digital processes to facilitate project goals. **We will also explore design in the commercial realm and ideally produce a finished manufactured product through a local design firm.**

### *Attendance*

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Not showing up for class demonstrates a lack of seriousness. You are allowed 3 absences period. A 4<sup>th</sup> absence will then result in a letter grade drop. Seven absences result in an automatic failure for the course. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out from your classmates the details of that day’s class.

Come to class ready to work; students are not to leave class to purchase supplies. Demonstrations missed will not be repeated. If you have to miss class, it is your responsibility to pursue the information you have missed. You will be able to contact your classmates via email through Moodle. If you need clarification on

scheduled class meetings or assignments, contact your fellow students before contacting me.

### *Critiques*

Critiques are an important aspect of the learning process. You need to acquaint yourself with the vocabulary associated with the study of art. Each assignment will also stress particular terms and concepts that often build on the work of previous assignments. You will need to keep up with the terminology as the semester progresses.

It is essential to your success that you have work completed and ready to present at each of our critique sessions. Consider critiques your due dates for assignments. Failure to attend, present at, and participate in critique will adversely affect your final grade.

Please remember, critiques are valuable to artists at all stages of their career; you will learn a lot by evaluating the work of others and noting the response that your own work elicits. Your input is important not just to the dynamics of the dialogue during critiques, but also crucial to your own learning. A huge chunk of your participation grade will be my assessment of your ability to be engaged with the material, and to articulate your thoughts using specific terminology. Please participate with honest, constructive feedback as often as you can. While I will guide these discussions and offer my feedback, I ultimately expect the class to carry most of the discussion of each other's work. Please participate thoroughly, with frequent, honest, and constructive feedback.

### *Additionally on Critiques*

Please note that late work will not be accepted for full credit. However, if you present work at critique, you may give this work additional attention based on what you've gained from the critique and resubmit the work for an improved grade. **This offer stands only for work submitted on time at critique.**

That said, blatantly incomplete work will not be critiqued or graded (unless we are reviewing a mid-project critique). Not all work will receive the same amount of discussion time during a critique. Occasionally, we will focus on one concept that a particular project reveals, thus taking time away from other projects. Sometimes this means certain projects are not fully evaluated, though they may in fact deserve it. If you feel this is the case, come talk to me and I will try to give you the feedback you need for your work. If your project is not critiqued at all on critique day, we either have run out of time, or your project appears incomplete. If the former, the class will critique your work on our following meeting.

Failure to attend and participate in critique discussions will adversely affect your final grade.

### *Grading*

If you attend class, complete all projects on time, actively participate in critiques and discussions, ask questions, take notes, show care towards the studio and the artists working within it, and demonstrate motivation, technical growth and aesthetic development, you will succeed in 2D Foundations. Three factors will be considered in the determination of grades. Your projects will receive grades calculated on the classic A-F scale, with these in mind:

1. Quality of work~inventiveness, sensitivity to materials, technical understanding, compositional effectiveness, and idea development in relation to the assignment. **50%**
2. Quality of learning process~risks taken, range of ideas explored, contributions to class, attendance, effective use of time, enthusiasm, and amount of work done. **40%**
3. Professional demeanor in the studio~clean work habits, **proper treatment of equipment**, attention to studio space, and participation in final clean up. **10%**

**A**= Excellence in all assignments, highly motivated, innovative solutions to assignments

**B**= Above average in all work, demonstrates technical growth and ability

**C**= Technically sufficient completion of all projects, satisfactory class participation.

**D**= Incompletes on some projects, inadequate class participation

F= Incompletes on many projects, poor participation, several unexcused absences

Your Final Grade will be determined through the combination of individual grades for projects, participation in critiques, discussions and clean up sessions, and attendance.

**Incompletes** for the course will only be given in cases of extreme emergency. It is the responsibility of the student to keep the instructor fully informed of such situations.

### *Homework*

As per N.A.S.A.D. guidelines, expect to spend at least 10 hours per week outside of class working on assignments. The studios are available for your use (when other classes are not meeting) between 7 am-11 pm daily. Your time at school is precious. Use it wisely. Again, late projects will not be accepted for full credit. However, projects submitted on time may be reworked for an improved grade. If you know that you will be missing a class, turn in homework for that class before the missed class time. This includes critique assignments. Please note that since critiques are an essential part of the learning process, if you miss the project's critique, the highest grade you will be able to earn for that project will be 85 percent. The work you present in this course will reflect what you've learned in this course. Work completed for other projects or completed prior to this course will not be accepted and, if turned in, will receive no credit.

### *Assessment*

Mid-term and final grades will be posted on Moodle. Students may inquire about individual assignment grades during posted office hours. Due to laws regarding privacy, specific grades earned by a student for an assignment will not be written on assignments, posted, or otherwise discussed in public. Attendance and overall participation is crucial to your final grade. Work for this course must be completed during this semester and in specific response to the assignments associated with this course.

### *Midterm Reviews*

As we approach the midterm, I will schedule meetings with each of you to evaluate your overall trajectory in the course. It is a great time to discuss ideas and evaluate your strengths and weaknesses. It is also a great time to refocus, if necessary. Your review is important to your development. Failure to show up will count heavily against your participation grade.

### *Studio Responsibilities and Protocol*

- You need to come to class prepared with everything you need to work. Class time is precious and forgetting any materials demonstrates a lack of commitment.
- Class starts on time. Be here then.
- My style of teaching involves as much one on one as possible. I will walk around the room and address each of you when projects are in process.
- I encourage interaction and the studio environment should also be space where topical dialogue is possible. Engagement with your classmates will augment your learning experience.
- This is why headphones are not permitted during class. Music on a studio stereo, if available, is allowed as background during most studio sessions.
- Cell phones, pagers, video games or other electronic diversions not related to class work are prohibited during the entire scheduled class time.
- Do not wear your best clothes to this class. Even if *your* project materials are not messy, the studio often has hidden "media bombs" (paint, oily goo etc.) from other students, or previous classes that missed the clean up. Wear crappy clothes!
- Everyone is expected to **completely** cleanup their area at the end of each class, of course. Failure to do so will reflect on your grade, and induce a profound sigh of disappointment from me.

### *Health & Safety*

The studio, if neglected, can be a dangerous place. While most materials used in this course will be relatively harmless, other courses in this studio may use materials that can irritate one's skin, eyes, throat, and/or lungs, or materials that can cause surfaces to be slippery.

- **Always** clean up after yourself.
- Materials used should be those listed on your materials list. For your own safety, please seek instructor approval prior to using additional materials.
- The studio is not a safe place for creatures and children.
- Please do not consume food in the studio. Period.
- Courtesy phones are located on first and fourth floors of FA building.
- Campus Security is ext. 6131 and campus escort service is ext. 2777

If everyone does their part to work and clean up appropriately, we can avoid any problems.

The School of Art is not responsible for lost or stolen belongings, materials, or artworks. Lockers and shared storage space are to be used at the sole discretion of the student and no guarantee of safety of materials is made.

### *End of Semester Clean-up*

The studio clean-up at the end of the semester will take place during our scheduled class time after final critique. This is a **required** part of your course work! An automatic 10 percent of your *total* grade will automatically be docked for missing this clean-up. Students are required to pick up all materials and artworks from lockers and studios by no later than noon on the Friday after our final class meeting. All pieces remaining after this time will be considered abandoned and discarded.

### *UM Art events*

Events may be found at <http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com/>. If you find events worth your fellow students' attention, please feel free to share at the beginning of class.

### *Access/Special Needs/Disabilities*

Students with disabilities or special needs should see the instructor in the beginning of the semester. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

### *Civility Clause*

It is unacceptable to make derogatory, racist, sexist, intimidating, or intentionally hurtful or abusive comments, or threaten physical action, whether directed toward other class members, the instructor, or persons outside the class. Any student acting inappropriately, disrespectfully, or disruptively, or threateningly will be asked to leave the classroom and will be marked absent. If you have any concerns about the class or a fellow student, please do not hesitate to discuss it with me.

### *Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code*

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321).