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# ARTZ 106A.02: Visual Language - 2D Foundations

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Fall 2013  
The University of Montana, School of Art  
**ARTZ106A, section 02, Visual Language: 2-D, 3 Credits**

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**Instructor:** Edgar Smith  
Office: TBA, edgar.smith@mso.umt.edu  
Office Hours: 2:00pm-4pm Tuesdays

**Class Meets:**  
Class 4:10 pm - 6:00 pm MW SCHOOL OF ART 102

**Required Texts and Materials:** **No required text: Please refer to design texts in resource center as necessary and readings from handouts. One such text is:** Launching the Imagination: A Comprehensive Guide to Basic Design, Mary Stewart, 3rd edition, New York: McGraw Hill, 2008.

2-D Kit (already paid for by your class fees) and additional supplies and materials noted on attached materials list; all are available in the UC Bookstore. Available after Sept. 9. In the mean time, we will be using b/w acrylic and or drawing materials such as graphite.

**Course Catalogue Description:** This course is an 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 problems pertinent to the contemporary world of art and design.

**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 problems through both isolated exercises and exercises that integrate real world applications as well. 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.**

**Or 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 ideal produce a finished manufactured product through a local design firm.**

**Work Ethic:** The school of art requires students to spend approximately 5-7 hours per week outside class time on projects and assignments related to this course. The studios are available for your use (when other classes are not in session) between 7 am-11 pm daily. Your time at school is precious. Use it wisely.

**Class Engagement and 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 that often build on the work of

previous assignments. You will need to keep up with the terminology as the semester progresses.

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. I will be there to facilitate and guide the dialogue, but the majority of the commentary should be student based.

**Other notes on Critiques:** 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 on your work. If your project is not critiqued at all that day, we either have run out of time, or your project appears or is obviously incomplete. Failure to show up to and participate in critique discussions will adversely affect your final grade.

**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 and a failure to show up will count heavily against your participation grade.

**Assessment:** Late work will not be accepted for full credit. Late work will result in a one letter grade deduction for every class day late. Final assignments may not be turned in late. 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. Work completed for other classes or prior to this course will not be accepted and if turned in will receive no credit.

Assessment Breakdown:

Assignments (Class work and Homework)	65%
Class Participation (Critiques, Discussion, Studio, Portfolio Reviews)	20%
Shorter Exercises as Assigned	15%
Vocabulary Quizzes	5%

Grading Criteria:

- Quality of work and evidence of sincere effort displayed in each assignment. In this course, organization and neatness are crucial. Presentation and craftsmanship weigh heavily in this course
- Work attitude and a willingness to participate in class discussions and class projects. We will be doing a few class projects that will involve group interaction. We will also be having critiques of each other's work at least every other week. You will be expected to understand and use new terms and vocabulary for critiques or class

- Improvement over the course of the semester.
- Attendance, punctuality, and effort to make deadlines for homework assignments.
- Late work will be lowered one grade per class meeting day.
- The work meets the objective(s) of the assignment
  
- The work reveals evidence of exploration or self-challenge
- Is your solution original, inventive, and creative?
- Your work demonstrates a continuum of the concepts and techniques that we have been working on throughout the project and from previous projects.  
(Good, strategic use of what you know thus far)

**Attendance:** Not showing up for class demonstrates a lack of seriousness. You are allowed 3 absences period. The 4<sup>th</sup> absence will result in a letter grade drop. 7 absences and you fail the course. If you miss class, you need to find out from a classmate the details from that day's class. Write down the contact information of 2 classmates to obtain that information. See below.

### **Studio Responsibilities and Protocol**

- 1. 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.
- 2. Class starts on time. Be here on time.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. This is why headphone are not permitted during class. Music on the studio stereo is allowed as background is 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 painting 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 big sigh from me.

### **Art Department/Fine Arts Building Information:**

**Building Hours and Use:** Building hours are 7:00 am – 11:00 pm daily. The use of Fine Art studio space requires current enrollment in a specific studio course, as course fees are used for purchase of supplies and studio maintenance. Those not currently enrolled will be asked to leave.

**Building Health and Safety Guidelines:** Food and open beverage containers are not allowed in Art Department facilities when art making is in progress. Animals and children are not allowed in studios during class time or open studio time. Spray fixative and other hazardous and fume producing materials may only be used outside or in the “hood” Room 401. When working with oil paint, Gamsol and Liquin are the only permissible solvents and media allowed in the Fine Art Building. Do not leave Gamsol containers open for any extended period of time. Students may only use the woodshop area and tools once they have completed a power tool orientation and do so voluntary.

**Events in the Art Department:** The Art Department encourages all students in art classes to attend arts-related events both on and off campus to complement their in-class education. Please visit <http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com> to view upcoming events on campus. There are about 6 galleries on campus to view and install work.

**End of Semester Information:**

Students are required to remove their materials from the studios and assist a final cleanup of studios. All artwork must be picked up prior to final exam day or they will be discarded. The Art Department cannot store work or materials for students between terms.

**Please note:** If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable program modification in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program modifications. If you are already working with Disability Services arrange to meet with me soon to discuss reasonable modifications that may be necessary. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://life.umt.edu/dss>.

**Civility Clause:** It is unacceptable to make derogatory, racist, sexist, intimidating or intentionally hurtful or abusive comments or take physical actions, whether they are directed toward the instructor, other class members, or persons outside the class. Any student acting inappropriately, disrespectfully, or disruptively 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 in private.

**Academic Misconduct and 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 <http://life.umt/VPSA/name/StudentConductCode>

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If you miss class, call or e-mail a fellow classmate before contacting me to find out what you missed, what you need to bring to next class, if there was an extension, etc.

Record below the contact info of 2 classmates:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_