
Course Descriptions

Department Studio Foundation

SF100 Marks On Paper

Akin to an artist's handwriting, a 'mark' constitutes the expressive notation of an idea. This class will focus on marks made on paper, using a variety of methods: pigment, thread (machine-and hand-sewn), inks, dyes, graphite sticks, watercolors, and bees wax. The class will also study paper as a ground for the marks and for its own content as a unique structure with extraordinary qualities.

Students will make papers, restructure paper, and manipulate those surfaces with marks, dyes, graphite, threads and water based pigments. Demonstrations and lectures will show samples of works on paper. A series of quality Marks on Paper works will be required and reviewed in critiques mid semester and again for the final grade. A variety of materials and sketch books will be required.

Prerequisites:

hybrid studio/critique(5hrs)
departmental elective

SF181 Drawing Studio I

The drawing experience and its usefulness across disciplines. Drawing is seen as a vehicle for thinking, seeing, and communicating. Formal elements of line, value, shape, texture and space are worked individually and in common. Includes drawing from direct observation and invented images. Studies include illusions of space and shape via figure and form analysis. Through the use of thumbnail sketches, students analyze and improve composition techniques and methods. Constant reference to historical and contemporary drawing practice from many traditions.

Prerequisites: None

hybrid studio/critique(5hrs)
departmental required

SF182 Visual Language I

From the complexities of art and design, Visual Language I will isolate a series of topics for examination, discussion and development. These topics are fundamental to all of the disciplines within the field of art and design. The topics in this course include: learning about terms and concepts common to all of the visual arts (for example, composition, space content, color); exploring material, media and presentation skills (traditional and digital technologies included); initiating an historical and contemporary context for art and culture (issues surrounding the history and the institutionalization of art, and issues in contemporary art making); and, furthering a student's own sense of direction in the arts. Through proscribed projects students will progressively define and articulate their subjective interests, expressive ideas, and visual affinities.

Prerequisites: None

hybrid studio/critique(5hrs)
departmental required

SF183 Form Study

An Introduction to the central tenets of three-dimensional art and design. Understanding 3D form is essential for all majors including sculptors, architects, and industrial designers, and is necessary for successful 2D images. Through design and construction of assigned projects, students explore the conceptual and technical fundamentals of form study: scale, volume, mass, and space. Using a wide range of materials in conjunction with varied building techniques, students creatively investigate the 3D form and its position in space.

Prerequisites: Drawing I

hybrid studio/critique(5hrs)
departmental required

SF184 Studio Foundation Electives

A wide variety of electives offered by assorted departments within the College. (See Studio Foundation Elective list for titles and cross-listed course number for description.)

Prerequisites:

hybrid studio/critique(5 hrs)

SF184-37 Pulp: Paper and Book

Pulp made into beautiful sheets of paper will be used for artists books and journals filled with imagery. Students will explore Western papermaking techniques with Thai Kozo and Abaca fibers. Japanese book binding, the accordion, simple side-bound books and journals for personal mark making will be emphasized. Students will be drawing and painting with water-based pigments, hand and machine sewing, graphite inks etc. In this class drawing skills, perception, and expression will be motivated by the extraordinary qualities of paper and the book as art for visual narrative.

Prerequisites:

hybrid studio/critique(5 hrs)

SF184-38 Color Studio

Color, in its many nuances, is a constant learning process, a progression of exploration and critical observation for visual artists and designers. This class will focus on using color, its vocabulary, theories and on its formal, cultural, expressive, and pictorial qualities. The class will begin with a hands-on study of subtractive color and light as we mix paint and apply colors. Focus will be on the nature of color, its impact on composition, color relationships, and perception. Understanding hue, value, and saturation will assist students in learning how to mix, apply and use color effectively. In addition additive color will be introduced and we will study the integral nature of it as seen in the context of technology used in digital imaging.

Prerequisites:

hybrid studio/critique(5hrs)
all college elective

SF185 Drawing Studio II

This is the second semester of the drawing experience and its usefulness across disciplines. Drawing is seen as a vehicle for thinking, seeing, and communicating. Formal elements of line, value, shape, texture and space are worked individually and in common. This course includes a number of options across the different disciplines of the college. See Drawing II Menu Options list for titles of the sections and check cross-listed course numbers for more specific descriptions.

Prerequisites: Drawing Studio I
hybrid studio/critique(5hrs)
departmental required

SF185-1 Drawing II: Drawing with Color

Drawing With Color builds on the lesson of Drawing I, taking line, form and space into the realm of color. Issues such as mark making, movement, composition, conditions of light, content, and self expression will be explored in regard to how they define and are defined by color.

Prerequisites: Drawing I
hybrid studio/critique(5hrs)
departmental required

SF185-10 Drawing II: Large Scale Drawing

Building on concepts from Drawing I, students will further develop drawing and conceptual skills. Using current issues and concern, students will continue elements of line, value, space and composition. By exploring current issues and concerns students will personalize their imagery. This personalization of imagery will give individual meaning to the work while exploring and developing 2D skills of visual thinking and problem solving.

Prerequisites: Drawing I
hybrid studio/critique(5hrs)
departmental required

SF185-10 Drawing II: Large Scale Drawing

Prerequisites:

SF185-11 Drawing II: Conceptual Art: Global Concerns

Prerequisites:

SF185-12 Drawing II: Drawing Propositions

Prerequisites:

SF185-13 Drawing II: Large Scale Drawing

Prerequisites:

SF185-14 Drawing II: Oil and Water

Prerequisites:

SF185-15 Drawing II: From Description to Expression

Degas made a distinction between "depicting" (drawing based entirely on observational and descriptive skills) and "drawing" ("marks...that can be felt"). After a review of the methods and seeing-skills that enable an artist to create images that convey knowledge and understanding, we will focus our efforts on the more personal aspects of drawing where interpretation and expression become central to the impact of our image.

Prerequisites: Drawing I
hybrid studio/critique(5hrs)
departmental required

SF185-16 Drawing II: The Human Body Inside/Out 2D-3D

Prerequisites:

SF185-17 Drawing II: The Human Body Inside/Out 2D-3D

Prerequisites:

SF185-19 Drawing II: From Description to Expression

Prerequisites:

SF185-3 Conceptual Art: Global Concerns Thematic Drawing

In "Conceptual art: Global Concerns: students will have the opportunity to examine the relationship between visual and conceptual expression, which includes personal, social and political ideas and themes.

Emphasizing large scale drawing, the class will work with mixed media, light and collage. We will research current international events and issues, evaluating our understanding and the impact of these current events or issues. Through this thinking/working process, students will examine the expressive potential of conceptual Drawing. Using imagery as the expressive vehicle, the art works created will visually express our global, personal, social and political concerns and interest. The class will read, write, and visit art exhibits and museums. Weekly, we will discuss international, personal, social and political events and how these issues structure our visual concepts.

Prerequisites:

SF185-4 Drawing II: Drawing with Color

Prerequisites:

SF185-5 Drawing II: Drawing Propositions

Prerequisites:

SF185-6 Drawing II: Oil and Water

Prerequisites:

SF185-8 Drawing II: Drawing with Color

Prerequisites:

SF186 Visual Language II

In this second semester of Visual Language, students are progressing towards a more sustained and independent inquiry into a topic of personal interest. This course emphasizes development and acquisition of the conceptual and material processes necessary in the successful realization of a project in any discipline. In Visual language II students develop a major independent project. The objectives and outcomes of this project will be described through a learning contract to be developed in consultation with either instructor. Students will be expected to integrate and extend processes and media that were introduced in Visual Language I.

Prerequisites: Visual Language I

hybrid studio/critique(5hrs)

departmental required

SF200X A Studio in Mexico - Puebla and Cholula

This drawing and mixed media studio course will bring students to south central Mexico. Students will visit many remarkable sites, including colonial palaces and homes, cathedrals and basilicas, museums and art galleries, artisan ateliers and markets to name a few. They will have opportunities to meet and work with local artists and artisans. Puebla and Cholula have long inspired artists. Talavera ceramics, native to Puebla and covered with polychrome drawings and intricate patterns, introduces our journey. Pre-Hispanic tombs and pyramids with intricate stone carved drawings, dozens of religious cathedrals and basilicas built by the Spaniards and unique interior as well as exterior paintings and patterned adornments, artisan markets with indigenous groups identified by traditionally patterned garments all provide a lush environment for art students and an opportunity for immersion in a culture very different than our own and very close.

Built as a drawing and mixed media course this program would have great appeal to students interested in design as well as fine arts and across disciplines in these areas. This would include at least students interested in photography, architecture, pattern, surface design, ceramics, drawing and illustration, painting, sketchbooks, art history, cultural studies.

Course considers the breadth of drawing rather than an academic drawing focus. We will work with drawing as a thinking device, a means of observing and visual note-taking, of exploring multiple media.

Participants will develop extensive, eclectic sketchbook(s) during travel segment. Each will be required to develop a 7 part series begun during the travel segment and finished after return. Completed series will be presented in final critique late April at MassArt. NOTE: This is a 3-credit elective course that includes an international group travel component in addition to regular class meetings and assignments. There is a separate application and registration process. For more information contact the Office of International Education Programs: gloaleducation@massart.edu; 617-879-7702

Prerequisites:

travel

all college elective

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Prerequisites:

- travel
 - all college elective
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