AVT 324:001 Figure Drawing
Syllabus

M/W 10:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.
Department of AVT, Room 2047
Professor Pete Petrine
ppetrin1@gmu.edu
petepetrine@gmail.com
Office hours by appointment

***Please read all of the enclosed information regarding this course. You are responsible for understanding and following the guidelines provided, unless amended by me, the professor. I will give ample time to complete assignments/projects if changes are made to the syllabus. If you have any concerns, please contact me via email or in person.

Course Description and Objectives

AVT-324, Figure Drawing, is just that, the study of the human form through the fine arts discipline of drawing. Figuration has a long history in art. In this course, we will investigate this lineage and pull from it an understanding to better express how we see the body and choose to use it in the art making process. In, class, we will be drawing from a live model as much as possible. Homework will consist of weekly drawings that address different aspects and areas of the human form. There are 3 assigned, independent drawings that are the equivalent to tests called "projects" that will track your progress in the course. The final will also follow in this same personalized format, with the goal of showing what you have learned throughout the semester.

Attendance Policy:

"Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus." - GMU Catalog 2008-2009 Page 35.

This is a studio class and it is impossible to make up missed work. Therefore, attendance is critical to your success in this class! Students are required to attend all classes and responsible for personal attendance sign-in. However...

Students are permitted to have three excused and/or unexcused absences during the semester. However, you are still 100% responsible for all missed assignments.

Four classes missed (one beyond three excused absences) will result in a lowering of your final (attendance) grade by a full letter grade. Five classes missed will result in the final (attendance) grade being lowered by two full letter grades. Six absences (three beyond three excused absences) will result in a failing grade for the course. NO EXCEPTIONS.

If you are late to class or leave early, two late arrivals or early departures are equal to one absence in the course. Coming late to a class or critique and pinning your work up late counts as a late attendance and a late project.

All work missed must be made up on the student's own time. If a project is due on a day when the student must miss class, it is the student's responsibility to send the work with a classmate or deliver it early. Late work will be marked down!

If a student has an emergency or is ill, the instructor should be notified by telephone/e-mail that day before class.

Reading Assignments and Materials

Reading assignments and other teaching material I will provide. I will make specific arrangements to electronically get you that week's materials. There are multiple ways to address a drawing and/or a work of art. My goal of supplying you with PDF, video, links, etc., is to best support your individual process in this course and cut down the amount of lecture time in the studio so that we can concentrate on drawing. This is a huge undertaking on my part, but it supports my artistic philosophy that the answer lies within the individual. If you need something explained beyond the material provided or from my class explanation, then please talk or contact me.
Homework Evaluation/Grade

Homework will consist of light drawing, reading/viewing provided material, image collecting, and written responses. If you miss a class, you are responsible for any topic or work missed. I will be checking homework every Wednesday. It is the responsibility of you the student to make sure that your homework is checked for credit.

Homework will be evaluated in a point system ranging from 0-4 points.

0 points= No credit.
1 point= You did it.
2 points= You did it with expected effort
3 points= Wow! Great job!
4 points= Extra WOW and extra bonus point.

Homework grade is the percentage of points earned from the total of 30 points, which is 3 X’s the 10 times I check it. If you plan to miss a Wednesday, you can hand it in early, send me an image, or receive a lower value for homework effort.

Project Policies

Projects are drawings that are the equivalent of major tests. There will be three projects due this semester. (This does not include the Final.) I take these drawing very seriously and so should you. Projects are graded in four parts: process, concept, execution/presentation and professor evaluation. Projects are finished drawings and need to be presented the way you want them to be shown. Again, if you have a question anywhere in the Project process, please ask me questions in class or via email.

Grading for Projects

Grades for projects will be evaluated in four parts: process, concept, and execution/presentation and professor’s critique. By breaking up the grade into sections, hopefully the pressure to make mistakes will be lessened. Not every drawing is going to be successful. Often it is the mistakes that provide the most beneficial lessons in making a work of art.

Below is the explanation of all four grading criteria.

Process (1-25 points): Drawings are evaluated with consideration for one's reflection (including visual and oral presentation) on the drawing methods and ideas through sketching, preliminary studies and material trials and final presentation of a work.

Concept (1-25 points): The exploration of drawing, spatial concepts and imagination includes the content and/or ideas important to the problem. During the formation of ideas for a composition - how did the ideas develop and how were alternatives explored along the way - their meaning and purpose to the drawing (project) at hand and final presentation.

Execution/Presentation (1-25 points): The execution of materials (and tools) employed during the development of a project: This includes how materials and tools are utilized in a creative and exploratory fashion leading to the final crafting of a work for presentation. The verbal presentation of one's work includes awareness of the project goals and the drawing elements, vocabulary, and the principles of their application. It also includes a broader view of the application of the problem to various art and design precedents, history of art, the environment (natural and man-made), and society. Participation in critiques of fellow students' presentations with objective, rational and purposeful commentary, advice and constructive criticism is an important part of class participation.

Professor Critique (1-25 points): This is where I evaluate your project. I am constantly watching your artistic progress. I grade everyone individually.

Submission Policies

All work is due at the beginning of class, on time and presented the way you want the work to be shown.
Drawing projects submitted beyond the due date/time will be automatically reduced one letter grade for each class period late beyond the due date. Work, that is not ready for presentation (before the beginning of class), will be graded accordingly.

Approval for a late project must be documented in an acceptable written form such as a letter from a doctor, lawyer, police or psychiatrist and must be verifiable.

**Project Dates**

**Project 1:** (Due 9-30-15)
**Project 2:** (Due 10-28-15)
**Project 3:** (Due 11-18-15)

**Final:** (Due 12-9-15)

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework/Journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 100%

Attendance, completion of homework/journal assignments, participation in the studio, personal progress, and project grades (process, concept, execution/presentation and professor's critique). Each student is expected to fully participate in written and oral critiques and in studio activities.

The grade of "A" 90 - 100% signifies that the student has achieved competence and performed at a superior level across all elements of the course experience. "B" 80% 89% is above average competence. "C" 70% - 79% is average competence. "C" 60% - 69% is poor and "F" 0% - 59% is failing. A full range of grades will be used. The instructor reserves the right to subjectively and professionally judge your work and performance in this course.

**Schedule of Class Material**

**Week 2.**
- Slide lecture
- Graphite/Charcoal review
- Work with skeleton, identifying the inside structure to better represent outside features.
- Techniques of getting proportions correct
- Sighting
- From contour to structuring form, and vice versa.
- Overview of what to expect when working from a model.

**Week 3.**
- Models
- Gesture
- Contour
- Importance of lighting
- Creating volume
- Foreshortening/ Perspective
- Layout Process
- Weight
- Value
- Proportions
• Homework= Feet, hands

Week 4.
• Thinking about your approach to making art using the body
• Composition (How does it influence how you and the viewer see the body?)
• Positive/Negative Space
• Understanding shape to push conceptual ideas
• Scale
• Understanding medium and how it influences art making process.
• Homework= Legs

Week 5.
• Project 1 (September 30)
• Model
• Color pencil experiment
• Play
• Dramatic Composition
• Cropping (before or after?)

Week 6.
• Model
• Long Pose
• Design (Before starting, pre sketching)
• Possible use of multiple mediums
• Plan Development
• Intro into Content
• Background
• Homework= Arms

Week 7.
• Model
• Gesture as expression
• Abstraction
• Line Expression
• Play
• Homework; Torso

Week 8.
• Geometric
• Pattern
• Cubism? Capturing movement.
• Cartoon
• Speed
• Visual Noise
• Homework; Work on Project 2

Week 9.
• Project 2 (October 28)
• Models
• Expressive possibilities
• Imagination
• Mixing Styles
• Meaning
• Collage
• Relationships
• Repetition  Irony
• Point of View
• Range of Marks

Week 10.
• Models
• Personal Expression
• Using  wet media (Gesso, Gauche)
• Focus
• Making choices for personal expression/purpose
• Homework= Portrait /Head

Week 11.
• Models
• Continue personal investigation in style and concept
• Homework= Work on Project 3

Week 12.
• Project 3 (November 18)
• Models
• Thinking about final drawing

Week 13.
• Long pose
• Model
• Think about Final
• Thanksgiving Break

Week 14.
• In class work on the Final

Week 15
• In class work on Final
• Final (May 5)

Professor’s Notes:
I personally embrace innovation more in my approach to teaching. The figure will be the platform from which we will build upon. Be open! Watch what is going on around you. Your classmates, homework and lecture images will provide examples for possible approaches in dealing with making art that deals with the body. I will guide you if you need to be guided. Ask Questions! This is how I can address your personal inquiries.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consortium Registration Deadline</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date</td>
<td>August 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day, university closed</td>
<td>September 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due</td>
<td>September 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop with no tuition penalty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty</td>
<td>September 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Dates</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)</td>
<td>October 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via <a href="https://patriotweb.gmu.edu">Patriot Web</a></td>
<td>September 28 – October 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)</td>
<td>October 5 – October 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbus Day recess (Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet this week)</td>
<td>October 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incomplete work from spring/summer 2015 due to instructor</td>
<td>October 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incomplete grade changes from spring/summer 2015 due to Registrar</td>
<td>November 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving recess</td>
<td>November 25 – 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of classes/ FINAL</td>
<td>December 12</td>
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**University and School of Art Policies**

In accordance with George Mason University policy, turn off all cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at the start of class. The instructor of the class will keep his/her cell phone active to assure receipt of any Mason Alerts in a timely fashion; or in the event that the instructor does not have a cell phone, he/she will designate one student to keep a cell phone active to receive such alerts.

**Commitment to Diversity**

This class will be conducted as an intentionally inclusive community that celebrates diversity and welcomes the participation in the life of the university of faculty, staff and students who reflect the diversity of our plural society. All may feel free to speak and to be heard without fear that the content of the opinions they express will bias the evaluation of their academic performance or hinder their opportunities for participation in class activities. In turn, all are expected to be respectful of each other without regard to race, class, linguistic background, religion, political beliefs, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, veteran’s status, or physical ability.

**Statement on Ethics in Teaching and Practicing Art and Design**

As professionals responsible for the education of undergraduate and graduate art and design students, the faculty of the School of Art adheres to the ethical standards and practices incorporated in the professional Code of Ethics of our national accreditation organization, The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

**Open Studio Hours**

SOA teaching studios are open to students for extended periods of time mornings, evenings and weekends whenever classes are not in progress. Policies, procedures and schedules for studio use are established by the SOA studio faculty and are posted outside the studios.

**School of Art Print Studio**

School of Art Print Studio (SOAP) is located in the School of Art Building on the Fairfax Campus. As a non-profit studio, SOAP offers a variety of services including printing and production services to students, faculty and staff. All jobs are processed with high quality materials on state-of-the-art equipment, specifically for graphic design portfolios, mixed-media paintings and reproductions, posters, handmade books, student assignments and proof sheets. More information can be found at soaprint.gmu.edu or 703-993-7203.

**ArtsBus Dates and Credit**

- Fall 2015
- September 26th
- October 24th
- November 21st
Each student must have up to 5 AVT 300/Artsbus credits before graduation. For credit to appear on your transcript you must enroll in AVT 300. This also applies to anyone who intends to travel to New York independently, or do the DC Alternate Assignment.

If you plan/need to go on multiple ArtsBus trips during a semester and need them towards your total requirement, you must enroll in multiple sections of AVT 300. Please go to the ArtsBus website: http://artsbus.gmu.edu "Student Information" for additional, very important information regarding ArtsBus policy.

Non-AVT majors taking art classes do not need Artsbus credit BUT may need to go on the Artsbus for a class assignment. You can either sign up for AVT 300 or buy a ticket for the bus trip at the Center of the Arts. Alternate trips must be approved by the instructor of the course that is requiring an ArtsBus trip.

Visual Voices Lecture Series Fall 2015
Visual Voices is a year-long series of lectures by artists, art historians and others about contemporary art and art practice. Visual Voices lectures are held on Thursday evenings from 7:20- 9:00 p.m. in Harris Theater.

September 3rd  Jon Rubin     “Art in Public Life”
September 10th Helen Zughaib “Arab Song – Arab Spring”
September 24th  Catherine Kehoe “It’s Not What You Think”
October 1st   SOA Grads    “Loading Content”
October 8th   Steve Badanes + Linda Beaumont “Speak of the Devil”

Important Deadlines
Last Day to Add - Tuesday, September 8
Last Day to Drop (No Tuition Penalty) - Tuesday, September 8
Final Drop (67% Tuition Penalty) – October 2
Selective Withdrawal Period – October 5 - October 23
Incomplete work from Spring/Summer 2015 due to instructor - October 30

Once the add and drop deadlines have passed, instructors do not have the authority to approve requests from students to add or drop/withdraw late. Requests for late adds (up until the last day of classes) must be made by the student in the SOA office (or the office of the department offering the course), and generally are only approved in the case of a documented university error (such as a problem with financial aid being processed), LATE ADD fee will apply. Requests for non-selective withdrawals and retroactive adds (adds after the last day of classes) must be approved by the academic dean of the college in which the student's major is located. For AVT majors, that is the CVPA Office of Academic Affairs, College Hall C211.

Students with Disabilities and Learning Differences
If you have a diagnosed disability or learning difference and you need academic accommodations, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and contact the Disabilities Resource Center (SUB I room 234, 703-993-2474). You must provide me with a faculty contact sheet from that office outlining the accommodations needed for your disability or learning difference. All academic accommodations must be arranged in advance through the DRC.

Official Communications via GMU E-Mail
Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.
Attendance Policies

Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Class participation may be a factor in grading, therefore instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor’s grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.

Honor Code

Students in this class are bound by the Honor Code, as stated in the George Mason University Catalog. The honor code requires that the work you do as an individual be the product of your own individual synthesis or integration of ideas. (This does not prohibit collaborative work when it is approved by your instructor.) As a faculty member, I have an obligation to refer the names of students who may have violated the Honor Code to the Student Honor Council, which treats such cases very seriously.

No grade is important enough to justify cheating, for which there are serious consequences that will follow you for the rest of your life. If you feel unusual pressure about your grade in this or any other course, please talk to me or to a member of the GMU Counseling Center staff.

Using someone else’s words or ideas without giving them credit is plagiarism, a very serious Honor Code offense. It is very important to understand how to prevent committing plagiarism when using material from a source. If you wish to quote verbatim, you must use the exact words and punctuation just as the passage appears in the original and must use quotation marks and page numbers in your citation. If you want to paraphrase or summarize ideas from a source, you must put the ideas into your own words, and you must cite the source, using the APA or MLA format. (For assistance with documentation, I recommend Diana Hacker, A Writer’s Reference.) The exception to this rule is information termed general knowledge—information that is widely known and stated in a number of sources. Determining what is general knowledge can be complicated, so the wise course is, “When in doubt, cite.”

Be especially careful when using the Internet for research. Not all Internet sources are equally reliable; some are just plain wrong. Also, since you can download text, it becomes very easy to inadvertently plagiarize. If you use an Internet source, you must cite the exact URL in your paper and include with it the last date that you successfully accessed the site.

Writing Center

Students who are in need of intensive help with grammar, structure or mechanics in their writing should make use of the services of Writing Center, located in Robinson A116 (703-993-1200). The services of the Writing Center are available by appointment, online and, occasionally, on a walk-in basis.
**Materials:**

*This is an upper level course. I will guide those who need to be guided but want you, the student, to push themselves in the creative process. The materials listed are the basics, so if there is a medium you want to investigate in class or in a project, PLEASE do so! Talk to me....*

- Newsprint pad (18” x 24”)
- Drawing paper pad (18” x 24”)
- Drawing board with clips (19” x19”)
- 4 jumbo vine charcoal sticks (soft or extra soft)
- 4 compressed charcoal sticks (Char-kole squares soft or extra soft)
- 4 charcoal pencils (soft or medium)
- 2 Kneaded erasers
- 1 pink pearl eraser
- 2 Pencil tip erasers
- 1 Artist’s chamois or cotton rags (an old tee-shirt)
- 2 stomps -cardboard shading sticks (large and small)
- Utility knife with new blades
- Sketchbook (8.5” x11” or larger) 100 pages or more
- Graphite pencil set (2H, B, 2B, 4B, 6B, Ebony and more)
- Color Pencil set
- Watercolor pencil set
- Pencil Sharpener
- Paint Brushes
- Gesso
- Gouache
- Oil sticks
- Pastels
- Conte’
- Ink
- Pens
- Glue stick
- Masking tape
- Pencil Extenders
- Workable fixative
- Portfolio Envelope -large enough to carry paper (2 pieces of cardboard tapped together is fine)
- Art Bin (or container to carry drawing supplies)

**Art Supply Stores:**

- Blick: 1250 I St., NW, WDC, 202-898-0555
- Plaza: 3045 Nutley St., Fairfax: 703-288-4500
- AC Moore: 9650 Main St., Fairfax: 703-764-2004