

Studio Arts Courses

ARTS 502 - Design Teaching Methods

Hours: 3

Three semester hours Pedagogy Classroom. Understanding the classroom through teaching method exploration, role-play, and curriculum development. Prerequisites: ARTS 540, ARTS 541, ARTS 542.

ARTS 503 - Graduate Seminar

Hours: 3

Graduate Seminar primarily emphasizes research, readings, and writing as a means of understanding historical and contemporary trends in the visual arts and how a student's work fits within them. Continuing to learn about studio practices and the art profession, students will work to refine their own artist statement, continue to digitally document their work, and maintain updated websites. Note: Students may repeat this course, up to a maximum of twelve hours.

ARTS 506 - Design Teaching Environment

Hours: 3

Three semester hours Pedagogy Campus. This course will deal with job-seeking skills and the creation and application of Vita materials needed as well as tenure, grant writing, committees and academic life through lecture, discussion, mock interviews, and outside panel feedback. Prerequisites: ARTS 540, ARTS 541, ARTS 542.

ARTS 507 - History of Graphic Design

Hours: 3

This course focuses on the evolution of Graphic Design from the invention of writing and alphabets to the computer revolution. Topics include: Medieval manuscripts, the origins of printing and typography, the Arts and Crafts movement, Victorian & Art Nouveau Graphics, the influence of Modern Art on design and visual identity and conceptual imagery. Prerequisites: Admission into the graduate program leading to the MFA in Art with Emphasis in Visual Communication or permission of the instructor.

ARTS 508 - History of Advertising and Consumerism

Hours: 3

This course is designed to give a broad overview of the nature of a consumerist society and how it drives and is driven by advertising. Lectures will explore the types and causes of consumerism, commodities consumed by the public, and the promise of the "good life." Advertising's impact will be discussed from the aspect of target markets and positioning of goods and services, and the pros and cons of consumerism. Prerequisites: Admission into the graduate program leading to the MFA in Art with Emphasis in Visual Communication or permission of the instructor.

ARTS 511 - The History of American Typography

Hours: 3

This survey course will establish a foundation of typography's rich history. Historical global influences provide the basis for understanding the evolution of typography in America as the tool and underpinning of the graphic design industry. The examination will follow the birth of Modern Typography to present-day applications. Prerequisites: Admission into the graduate program leading to the MFA in Art with Emphasis in Visual Communication, or permission of the instructor.

ARTS 515 - Master of Fine Art Exhibition in Studio Art

Hours: 3-6

Upon the approval of the major advisor and admission to candidacy for the MFA degree, students will mount an exhibition that demonstrates a unified theme and is supported by a written statement and visual documentation. Permission of instructor required.

ARTS 518 - Thesis

Hours: 3-6

For students in the M.F.A. program: experimentation with a central, individually derived visual focus, culminating in an exhibition with accompanying written statement and slide documentation (five slides of works and the written statement to be submitted with the creative thesis). The M.F.A. Creative Thesis may be completed and presented only during a regular term of study. For students in the M.A. program: research on a selected art topic culminating in a written thesis.

ARTS 519 - First Year Studio Problems

Hours: 4

This course focuses on individual problems and experimentation in the selected area of studio emphasis. The student enrolled in this course will explore individual problems and experimentation in selected areas of study leading to either a body of work with a central focus or a varied body of work with a consistent high quality. Students may register for up to eight concurrent semester hours in a given term, with a maximum of twelve semester hours overall. Permission of Instructor required. Students enrolled in MA or MFA programs only.

ARTS 524 - 1st Year Studio Prob 2nd Area

Hours: 4

First Year Studio Problems Second Area - Four Semester Hours This course focuses on individual problems and experimentation in the student's second studio area. For students in MA or MFA program: topic or media may vary each term. Note Students may register for up to eight concurrent semester hours in a given term, with a maximum of twelve hours overall. Permission of instructor required.

ARTS 525 - Studio Hours I

Hours: 3-12

This course focuses on unique student-driven solutions to artistic problems. Normally taken after the successful completion of 18 semester hours of graduate study, Studio Hours I allows students to work independently, albeit under the supervision of an instructor or an advisory committee. Students enrolled in this course will be expected both to participate and exhibit in the Graduate Reviews. Topics, media and objectives may vary each term.

Note: Students may register for up to eight concurrent semester hours in a given term, with a maximum of twelve hours overall. Permission of instructor required.

ARTS 526 - Studio Hours II

Hours: 3-12

Normally taken after the completion of 30 semester hours of graduate work, this course allows students to pursue advanced projects under the broad supervision of an instructor or advisory committee. Students enrolled in this course will be expected both to participate and exhibit in the Graduate Reviews. Topics, media and objectives may vary each term. Note: Students may register for up to eight concurrent semester hours in a given term, with a maximum of twelve hours overall. Permission of instructor required.

ARTS 527 - Advanced Studio Problems

Hours: 4

Advanced Studio Problems - Four Semester Hours (6 Lab) This course focuses on individual problems and experimentation in the selected area of studio emphasis. The student enrolled in this course will explore individual problems and experimentation in selected areas of study leading to either a body of work with a central focus or a varied body of work with a consistent high quality. Students may register for up to eight concurrent semester hours in a given term, with a maximum of twelve semester hours overall. Permission of Instructor Required, Students enrolled in MA or MFA Programs only.

ARTS 528 - Studio Project

Hours: 3-4

This course functions to re-focus each student's independent studio practice, in order to demonstrate a deepening commitment and responsibility to creative expression, as linked to individual curiosity, self-organization, and contextual positioning. Students prepare presentations of works-in-progress, towards assembling and editing their work for the MFA capstone exhibition. Students share their methods and methodological findings—what they have learned in decoding the social, cultural, political, historic and psychological imprints and how they employ the subject matter, form, and content of their ongoing practice in relation to these contexts. Permission of instructor required.

ARTS 530 - Pedagogy in the Arts

Hours: 3-4

Students work with members of the graduate faculty to consider and implement various methods and approaches to teaching in the field of visual arts. In practice and theory, students will focus on teaching methods in their chosen area of concentration, but will also engage in broader examinations of pedagogical strategies. Assignments will include teaching by critiques, developing a teaching philosophy, and effective classroom and studio practices. Permission of instructor required.

ARTS 531 - History of Photography

Hours: 3

An examination of the scientific and aesthetic history of photography from its origins to the present. Emphasis is placed on early processes, the pioneers of photography, photography as a visual art and developments in modern photography. Media, trends, and the work of photographers are analyzed. This class will develop reading, writing, and appropriate analytic and critical thinking skills appropriate for graduate work. Crosslisted with: ART 333.

ARTS 532 - Gender, Art, and Popular Culture

Hours: 3

Through the careful study of artworks and popular culture, students will be engaged in an extended, historically-based examination of issues concerning gender. In this course, we will pay particular attention to societal constructions of gender, exploring the way that art, television, film, graphic novels and other media shape the way that we understand what it means to be "male" and "female." Students will read challenging, sophisticated and seminal texts while demonstrating their command of such texts in short responses and online discussions. At the end of the course, the student should not only have a better understanding of gender, but should be able to evaluate its place in society while gaining the tools to be able to better explain gender to others.

ARTS 533 - Public Art

Hours: 3

Through the careful study of artworks and art historical texts, students will be engaged in an extended, historically-based examination of the development of contemporary public art across the United States and abroad. Students will read seminal and important works that have shaped public art history and project the construction of a piece of public art on the campus of Texas A&M–Commerce. Students will also research public art organizations and spaces to consider various opportunities to pursue public projects. The course will culminate in each student's proposal for a public piece of art, following existing submission guidelines.

ARTS 534 - Exhibition Development

Hours: 3

Facilitated by the Gallery Director within the Art Department, this course offers students the opportunity to work first-hand in a gallery space, writing professional-quality exhibition proposals and catalog/wall text, as well as writing and designing public relations/promotional materials. Students will also gain insight into behind-the-scenes functions of an art museum/gallery, and how to best communicate with these professionals. Considering the specifics of the University Galleries and their degree requirements, students will refine their formal MFA capstone exhibition proposals, resolving any issues of preparation, installation, permissions. Students will submit their Candidacy Application during this course, requesting faculty approval for advancing toward the final exhibition. The exhibition schedule will also be arranged. Permission of instructor required.

ARTS 539 - History of Contemporary Art

Hours: 3

This course considers criticism, theory, styles, processes and other issues relevant to an understanding of art since 1960. Crosslisted with: ART 404.

ARTS 540 - Creative Methodology

Hours: 3

Experimenting with both proven and experimental creative methodologies in a team based environment. An overview of innovative collaborative creative thinking processes. Pushing beyond one's knowledge base through innovative role-play in self-problem solving techniques.

ARTS 541 - Design Education, Theory & Practice

Hours: 3

Research and analysis through group discussion of design education theory, philosophy and methods. Examination and creation of teaching tools, assignments, and evaluation rubrics. Pre-requisites: ARTS 540.

ARTS 542 - Design Writing

Hours: 3

Students will focus on design writing through reading, discussion and writing to develop an informed opinion on contemporary design issues. The class will read current and relevant articles, essays and books on design disciplines, design pedagogy and teaching today's design student. These readings will inform required written responses and discussions. Reading, researching, analyzing and writing will provide a deeper understanding of design topics and an awareness of how writing is used within the discipline of graphic design.

ARTS 543 - Cross-Cultural Communication

Hours: 3

This course teaches advanced oral and written presentation skills within the context of a multicultural audience. Students will examine the forces at work in today's global marketplace and fine-tune their ability to bridge the cultural divide in order to connect with audiences whose history, customs, and beliefs they do not share. Prerequisites: ARTS 540, ARTS 541, and ARTS 542.

ARTS 545 - Exhibition Topic

Hours: 3

Exploration and development of thesis topic pilots through research, abstracts, ideation, creative process and feasibility analysis. This course is designed to provide students with enlightenment, direction, feedback and focus as they embark on the thesis discovery process. This class will function primarily as a think-tank dedicated to defining, examining, discussing and furthering the ideas that you bring to the table—or wall. Each person will develop three viable, worthwhile abstracts to be reviewed by a outside guest panel resulting in feedback that will help validate your final thesis direction. Prerequisites: ARTS 540, ARTS 541, ARTS 542, and ARTS 543.

ARTS 546 - Design Studio Processes

Hours: 3

The Design Studio Processes class invites VisCom Graduate students to explore and create alternative visual language solutions within the context of design-centric problem solving. This course approaches problem solving from a hands-on making perspective. Students are challenged to utilize non-digital methods and techniques to boil down and encapsulate a design problems' essence and power in the form of call-to-action communications that address the basic point-of-difference premise of the issue.

ARTS 547 - Design Teaching Mentorship

Hours: 1-3

Pedagogy in-classroom undergraduate training experience. This course focuses on in-classroom observation and experience through shadowing faculty members and applying classroom assignments to gain knowledge in teaching higher-education. Prerequisites: ARTS 540, ARTS 541, ARTS 542.

ARTS 548 - Project Design & Implementation

Hours: 6

Study and development of a design-centric solution, which includes research development, presentation, testing, and implementation.

ARTS 549 - User-centered Design Experience

Hours: 3

An introduction to the understanding, development and implementation of user-centered design thinking and problem solving. Emphasis will be placed on user personas, ethnography and other observational approaches, along with rapid prototyping methods towards building insights into product and service development.

ARTS 550 - Ideation, Process and Product

Hours: 3

This 16 week course will be centered around innovation focused on creating value through ethnography, research, ideation and strategy in a marketing frameset. Students will explore radical ways of design thinking to create new business models or harness compelling value for products or services that do not currently exist in the marketplace. Projects will be collaborative and centered around the application of innovation through segmenting, brand positioning, target marketing, and the 4Ps (Product, Pricing, Promotion and Place).

ARTS 551 - Creative Promotion and Innovation

Hours: 3

This 16-week course will empower students to take their innovations and marketing plans to the next level and implement them into a viable and fundable enterprise. Students will create a prototype to be presented as a proof-of-concept with a compelling presentation to an angel investor. In addition students will be introduced to issues related to the patent process and angel investment process as it relates to their innovations.

ARTS 552 - Advanced Techniques for Design Centric Presentation

Hours: 3

Upon the approval of the Exhibition Topics Panel, students pursuing the MFA degree will mount a culminating exhibition that demonstrates the design-and-build phases of visual communication and includes design-centric strategy, design schematics, overall space planning, budget, invitation, marketing, presentation, and final construction. The exhibition will be supported by a research paper addressing the format of the exhibition and its underlying content.

ARTS 553 - Pedagogy Research

Hours: 3

Pedagogy Research will investigate new strategies for teaching to assist student learning. Discover new knowledge, experiences, and approaches to support the highest quality solutions for student-centered, enhanced learning experiences. How we find ways by which learning can be made more effective and attract and hold our student's attention. Prerequisites: ARTS 540, ARTS 595.

ARTS 585 - Research Methods & Procedures

Hours: 3

This course refines academic research methods and applications relating to the preparation of the proposal for the thesis exhibition. The creation of design-centric research narratives will be explored and implemented. Generally, this class will include individual student thesis committee meetings over the summer. Prerequisites: ARTS 595, ARTS 545.

ARTS 589 - Independent Study

Hours: 1-4

Independent Study - Hours: One to four Individualized instruction/research at an advanced level in a specialized content area under the direction of a faculty member. Prerequisites Consent of department head. Note May be repeated when the topic varies.

ARTS 595 - Research Literature & Techniques

Hours: 3

This class prepares the student for writing their exhibition statements and proposals, through a thorough examination of writing, research practices, and exposure to important theoretical issues and significant texts in the field. Permission of instructor required.

ARTS 597 - Special Topics

Hours: 1-4

Organized Class. Note: May be graded on a satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U) basis. May be repeated when topics vary.