VA 1030: DIGITAL FOUNDATIONS

UCCS, Fall 2019
M/W – 1:40-4:20pm @ Columbine Hall 209

Professor: Ben Kinsley
Email: bkinsley@uccs.edu
Office: Columbine Hall, 2005
Office Phone: 719-255-4973
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30am-1pm + by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

Introduction to digital media and the electronic art studio. Explores essential concepts of working digitally in 2D, 3D, and 4D. Emphasis is on technical fluency with a variety of digital platforms, software, and tools including digital photography, digital imaging, animation, and 3D modeling. Prerequisite to all 2000, 3000, and 4000 VA courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Develop a strong foundation of conceptual and technical understanding of digital media
- Give you hands on experience with digital imaging tools and techniques
- Provide opportunities for collaboration, experimentation, and group learning
- Help you see the value of experimental and non-traditional ways of creating digital art
- Introduce you to a plethora of works by historical and contemporary artists woking in the field
- Expand your notion of what art is and can be

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Come to every class prepared to learn, work, listen, watch, and participate.
- Complete all assignments on time. Students are always permitted, and encouraged, to consider re-doing assignments for which they did not receive a satisfactory grade. A re-do must be completed one week after the unsatisfactory grade. A re-do does not guarantee a higher grade, but it is impossible to receive a lower grade for such efforts.
- Participation in class, constructive response during group critiques, and discussion of relevant readings.
- Work hard + Experiment + Take risks + Have fun!

REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS

- 32-64 GB USB 3.0 Flash Drive (required if you don't have a hard drive)
- 50GB of space on an external hard drive. Mac formatted (Mac OS Extended) with USB 3.0
- Headphones
- *Digital Art* (3rd Edition) by Christiane Paul (ISBN: 978-0-500-20423-8)
  *on library hold for the semester

EQUIPMENT RESERVATIONS
http://www.uccs.edu/vrc/index/rental.html

CANVAS
https://canvas.uccs.edu/
- All assigned projects and readings will be assigned and discussed in class as well as posted (along with pertinent information, deliverables, and due dates) to Canvas.
- The class schedule will be posted to Canvas and subject to change. All changes to the posted schedule will be announced in class.
- Grades will be posted to the Canvas Grade Center.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS & ETIQUETTE

Please:
• Turn your cell phone off, or put it on silent before entering class.
• No food in the classroom.
• Come to class on time and don't leave early. Being in class is a valuable learning experience in itself.
• Be prepared to work in class and with your group during workdays.
• Participate in critiques and discussions.
• Read the given assignments and be prepared to discuss them.
• Respect the opinions of others.
• Let me know in advance by e-mail or a message on my office phone if you aren't able to attend class.
• Listening is a fundamental skill for learning and growing.
• Embrace challenges and engage in new ideas, even when they seem scary or go against your current belief systems. This is integral in the development of your intellectual, creative, compassionate, and cultural awareness and potential.
• Check your e-mail regularly for updates on project specs, due dates, and grades. It is also an excellent way to communicate with each other to discuss technical and conceptual problems and challenges.
• As a general rule of thumb: for every classroom hour you should spend an additional 2 hours outside of class each week (minimum).
• Remember being treated fairly does not mean being treated equally. Each student needs different kinds of criticism and encouragement to succeed.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
This is a studio class and much of the work done in this class is done during class time. Attendance is mandatory and crucial to your success. You can miss three classes during the semester, preferably with excused absences. After this, further absences with adversely affect your final grade. Your forth absence will lower your final grade by 1/3 letter grade. Every absence after that reduces your grade by another 1/3 letter. After 5 absences, the instructor reserves the right to fail you for the course. You are expected to be physically and mentally present and on time. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend a particular class, or that you will be late, please leave advance notice with your instructor to register an excused absence. Students are responsible for all missed material. The professor will not provide notes for students for missed classes. Tardy arrivals or early departures, unless authorized by the instructor, count as ½ an absence.

CANCELLATION POLICY
If it would become necessary to cancel a class due to weather or illness, I will post an announcement on Canvas as well as contact VAPA's Program Assistant, Jeremy Click, who will post a note on the door.

Students with Disabilities
If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to register with Disability Services and provide them with documentation of your disability. They will work with you to determine what accommodations are appropriate for your situation. To avoid any delay, you should contact Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and disability accommodations cannot be provided until a Faculty Accommodation Letter has been given to me. Please contact Disability Services for more information at Main Hall room 105, 719-255-3354 or dservice@uccs.edu.

Military students with the potential of being called to service/training during the semester, must let the instructor know no later than the second week of class to review the attendance policy. Please visit the Military Students website: www.uccs.edu/~military

Student Conduct Code students should be aware of their rights and responsibilities including standards on classroom conduct, plagiarism, etcetera. Please visit the Office of the Dean of Students website: www.uccs.edu/~dos/studentconduct/index.html

Starfish Early Alert
I will be using a student success initiative at UCCS called Starfish. If your success in this course is at risk, you may receive emails about your attendance, course grades, or overall performance. Please pay attention to these emails and take the recommended actions. They are sent to help you be successful!
Key facts about Starfish:
- The main goal of Starfish is to help you be successful during your time at UCCS.
- Alerts can be viewed only by you, the faculty member who raised the alert, and your advisors.
What to do if you receive an alert?
- Don't panic! Read the email thoroughly and take action. Follow the advice and directions provided in the email.
- Meet with your instructor or academic advisor as soon as possible.

Census Date
Last Day to Register (Full semester courses) is **September 12.**
Instructor and dean's signature required on adds after September 12.
- Withdrawals (complete schedule dropped) through this date receive a 100% adjustment
- Drops (partial schedule remaining) through this date will be refunded 100%
*Important Note: No refunds after this date

Drop/Withdraw
Last day to drop or withdraw without special permission from instructors and deans (Full semester courses) is **November 1.**

Course Evaluation (FCQ)

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts is committed to providing the best possible learning experience to every student. A key mechanism to provide ongoing excellence in teaching and learning is to gather your thoughts on each course and the effectiveness of our faculty. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing an online evaluation, typically during the last two weeks of the semester. Additional instructions will be provided via a notification sent to student UCCS email accounts later in the semester. Please know that student feedback is extremely valuable to your instructor, the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, and UCCS as a whole. In particular, constructive comments guide the enhancement of future versions of this course.

VACS: VISITING ARTISTS AND CRITICS SERIES

The UCCS Visiting Artists and Critics Series fosters understanding and appreciation of contemporary art through dialogue and critical conversations. Artists and scholars of national and international significance are invited to the University of Colorado Colorado Springs campus to present public lectures and meet with UCCS undergraduate students in classes and workshop settings. The Visiting Artists and Critics Series is a collaborative program of the UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art (GOCA), UCCS Visual Arts and Art History (VAPA).

FALL 2019 LECTURES

THURSDAY, SEPT. 5
Vadis Turner
6pm, Chapman Foundations Recital Hall, Ent Center for the Arts

THURSDAY, OCT. 5
Jodi Bieber
6pm, Chapman Foundations Recital Hall, Ent Center for the Arts

GENERAL GRADING CRITERIA

A   Student works in an independent manner. Willing to try new approaches while working on improving skills. Contributes to classroom critiques and discussions every day. Completes in-class work and brings outside assignments to class on time. Work displays understanding of formal, technical, and conceptual/expressive aspects of each project.

B   Works in class. Finishes work and turns in assignments on time. Good understanding of art concepts and good grasp of technical skills. Participates in classroom discussions.

C   Completes work with mixed results. Homework and in class projects not in on time. Struggles with technical skills. Rarely contributes to classroom discussions.

D   Work often incomplete or missing. Little understanding of art concepts and technical skills discussed in class. No significant contribution to class critiques. Problems with absences.

F   Student has missing and incomplete work, excess absenteeism, no class contribution.

PROJECT GRADING RUBRIC
Each assignment will be graded using the following rubric. You will be emailed the completed rubric, and the final grade (out of 100) will be entered into the Canvas Grading Center.

___ Followed the Parameter of the Assignment (10 pts)
___ Creativity, Ambition, Risk Taking (20 pts)
___ Formal Qualities: Craft, Attention to Detail (20 pts)
___ Technical Fluency (10 pts)
___ In Class Work (Material Preparation and Efficient Use of Time) (15 pts)
___ Time Management (Outside Class Work between workdays, including sketchbook) (15 pts)
___ Participation in Discussions and Critique (10 pts)

_____ TOTAL (100 pts)

SEMESTER GRADE BREAKDOWN
Grades will be added to the Canvas Grading Center throughout the semester and weighted according to the following rubric:

Projects
- 1: OverKill (100 Layers) (10%)
- 2: Manipulated Reality (15%)
- 3: The Loop (15%)
- 4: Instructo-Art (20%)
- 5: Verisimilitude (20%)
- 6: Dreamscape (20%)

ATTN: ALL VISUAL ART CONCENTRATIONS:
In order to graduate on time you must take the following courses during the terms listed:

Spring semester of your junior year:
-VA 3980: Seminar Studio Problems
-AH 3860: Contemporary Art
(these two classes are to be taken concurrently)

Spring semester of your SENIOR year:
-VA 4980: Senior Seminar (VA Capstone)

NOTE: these courses are ONLY offered during spring semester, so it is imperative that you enroll during the required terms.

Also: we HIGHLY recommend that AT LEAST ONCE early in your UCCS career you meet with a Visual Art Adviser. This meeting should be in addition to your university advising session(s). If you have not done so please contact one of the following advisers:

- Matt Barton: mbarton@uccs.edu
- Corey Drieth: cdrieth@uccs.edu
- Ben Kinsley: bkinsley@uccs.edu