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“To be creative is to lose one’s fear of being wrong...” Joseph Chilton Pearce

ART 1: ART BASICS

Course Description: Every art form, whether graphic design, painting, photography, video, or sculpture, relies on the **ELEMENTS** and **PRINCIPLES** of design for its visual potency. **Art Basics** provides a basic understanding of the structure of art and design through exploration and application of its various components: **line, value, shape volume, and texture (ELEMENTS)**; and **contrast, balance, pattern, rhythm, movement, emphasis, and unity (PRINCIPLES)**. The **ELEMENTS** are “**nouns**,” or tools used by the artist to create the **PRINCIPLES**, or “**verbs**,” which visually activate works of art. How well an artist understands and manipulates his or her formal language (**ELEMENTS** and **PRINCIPLES**) determines the overall success of the finished work.

Course Objectives: In this class, you will be introduced to the basic elements and processes, which comprise visual communication and perception. Course concentration will focus on understanding the creative process as well as generating and organizing visual information into coherent, communicative ideas. Class will consist of lectures, introduction to the projects, critiques, and working on assigned projects. You will work with a variety of media and subject matter. In addition to class work, you will have to finish your assignments, write a short paper and complete readings as assigned. If you want extra credit, you may redo any assignment you wish and resubmit it along with the original effort by the last day of regular class.

Prerequisites: This is a foundation class. No art prerequisites are required.

Academic Accommodation: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ASA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible. In addition, it is your responsibility to contact the Disable Student Services Office at extension 3332 to request Academic Accommodation.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to arrive on time and leave only when the class is dismissed. Any unexcused absences in excess of four for the entire semester will result in a lowered final grade. Three late arrivals to class will equal one unexcused absence. Three early departures from class will equal one unexcused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to get assignments and class materials after an absence. Information given in class will not be repeated on an individual basis. It is the student’s responsibility to get each assignment and turn it in a timely manner. It is Board Policy that students who miss two or more weeks of class meetings before the 9th week of class can be dropped.

Personal Electronics Policy: Cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, MP3 players, headphones, and other similar electronic devices will be turned off and stored out of sight during class. Laptop computers with the sound turned off may be used for taking notes.

Grading Policy: You will be graded on how successfully you work in class, complete assignments, and contribute to group discussions/critiques.

- 40% Assignments
- 20% Gallery/Museum Report
- 30% Midterm and final examinations
- 10% Class participation, effort, improvement

Regular attendance, completion of all assignments, and other course requirements does not guarantee a passing grade. Completion of course work in a manner that is average will earn a “C” grade. Completion of course work in a manner that is above average will earn a “B” grade. Exceptional effort or work will equal an “A” grade. Late assignments will receive a lowered letter grade. Incomplete assignments will reduce your final grade.

Requirements:

- Class attendance: Your design skills and visual literacy will only improve with practice.
- Timely completion of assignments.
- Become familiar with design terms since they will be used in class.

- Bring required materials to each class.
- Maintain a portfolio: store your assignments in a clean and archival manner.
- Practice safe and responsible handling of materials and supplies.
- Attendance at critiques is mandatory.
- Active participation in critiques and discussions.
- Enthusiasm and effort.

Recommended: Visits to museums and galleries to view original works of art. Extra credit will be given for a 1 page typed gallery report. Extra credit does not replace missed assignments but can make a difference between letter grades. Please see me for writing guidelines.

Required Reading:

- *Ways of Seeing* by John Berger, Penguin Books Ltd., 1972, London, England.
- *History of Modern Design* by David Ratzman, Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004, New Jersey.

Safety Information: Some of the materials used in this class may be harmful or fatal with repeated or prolonged overexposure. Care must be taken to avoid misuse.

- Eating in class is not allowed as chemicals and paints from some media can be transferred to your food by messy hands.
- Read product warnings and follow safe-handling instructions. No toxic solvents or thinners will be used in this class.
- Wipe-up spills immediately. Do not assume that everyone is aware of the spill.
- Inform the instructor immediately of any safety hazards or accidents.

Materials List: The bookstore sells many, if not all, of these items.

- Several sheet of black construction paper*
- Glue: rubber cement or glue stick*
- Bristol paper tablet, 14"x17"*
- X-acto knife or scissors*
- Sketch pad, 18"x24"
- A color wheel with gray scale
- Acrylic paint: titanium white, ivory or mars black, cadmium red medium, cadmium yellow light, cobalt blue, dioxazine purple, cadmium orange, permanent green light or emerald green**
- Brushes: 3/4" flat, small round (#8 or so)
- Paint supplies: palette, water jar, paper towels
- Various drawing supplies: pencils, pens, erasers, rulers, colored pencils, markers, etc.
- Access to a photocopier
- 2 scantron test forms
- 2 blue books for essays

*Materials needed for the first assignment.

**Purchase larger tubes of black and white as you will use more of these paints.

BRING YOUR ART SUPPLIES TO EVERY CLASS MEETING UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE!

Every Monday (or the first class meeting of the week), you will receive a packet outlining the learning goals and objectives for the week. This packet will include lecture topics, assignments, and other handouts as needed.

Each assignment will proceed with the same problem-solving methods:

- Lecture and demonstration on assignment by instructor. Take notes.
- Research. This will be done outside regular class hours.
- Initial idea generation through rough sketches. Bring these to class to discuss with the instructor.
- Application of assignment. This will be done both in class and continued out of class.
- Completion of assignment.

Drop Deadline Date: Student may withdraw from this course without a letter grade until the **ninth week** of the semester. After **Friday, September 16, 2005**, everyone in the class will receive a letter grade. Students who miss more than four class sessions prior to this date may be dropped from the course.

The MID-TERM EXAM will be given on Friday, October 14.

The FINAL EXAM will be given on Wednesday, December 14 at 8:00 am.

Artwork can be picked up on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, in ART 159. Artwork not picked up by WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2006, will be disposed of in a most unceremonious manner.