

# SF186: Visual Language II

Mass. College of Art – Syllabus: Spring 2007 (revised 1/18/07)

Class sessions: Fridays 2:10am – 6:30pm

Room: S304

**Camilo Ramirez:** camilo.ramirez@massart.edu  
www.camramirez.com/teaching.htm

**Office Hours:** Fridays 6:30pm – 7:30 pm, or by appointment

## Course Description:

Visual Language II is a course devoted to a student's progress toward a more sustained and independent inquiry into topics of personal interest. The course will include three projects followed by an independent final project of your choosing. These projects will be written down, documented and developed in a learning contract. The class time will be divided between class critiques and individual meetings with the professor.

## Expectations:

You are expected to develop a professional attitude in all aspects of this course. This includes, not only fulfilling the course requirements, but also demonstrating respect, support and cooperative effort toward your fellow students during class discussions and critiques. You are expected to show respect to your workspace, materials and equipment and to communicate with me about any problems you are having with any aspect of this course.

When you are absent, you are accountable for the information given out in class the day you were absent. You will be responsible for getting this information from other students who attended the class that week. I will hand out a copy of fellow students' names, email addresses and telephone numbers [with the students' consent]. You are also expected to make regular backups of your work. Each student is responsible for having all supplies required of this course. Check the website and your email regularly. I will be emailing you any updates whenever they happen.

## Grading is based on the following:

Attendance: Class attendance is absolutely required. Three absences will result in automatic failure and no credit for the class. Punctuality counts. If you are over 10 min. late, you will be marked late. If you are over 30 min. late, you will be marked absent. Two lates equals an absence.

30% Participation

30% Three Projects

40% Final Independent Project

Your final grade for the course is based on the Pass, Fail or Honors system.

## Projects Overview:

- Source/Imagery
- Source/Book
- Source/Video
- Independent Project – Time-Based Multi-Media

## **Studio Assignments:**

Clarity of concept: Each project must not only reflect an understanding of the assignment but also show innovation in solving conceptual and creative problems.

Innovative Technical Execution: For most of you, this class will be an entirely new way of creating art. You must work outside your comfort zone and take chances while making your projects.

**Please note: Any assignment that fails to meet these expectations will not be accepted and will have to be re-done. (see below)**

## **Assignments:**

Deadlines: All work is due on the specified deadline. Late or incomplete work will not be accepted. If you are to miss a class, you may send in your work with a classmate for it to count as being on time. Expect to work at least one hour outside of class for each hour in class. All projects for critique in class are expected to be “presentation ready” BEFORE the start of class.

Insufficient Work: Work that is insufficient will be returned to you to be re-done. You should re-work your projects based on feedback from your in-class critique; therefore, it is a good idea to make notes on the feedback that you are getting from classmates. The deadline for re-do's is the next scheduled class meeting.

Writing assignments should be written in Microsoft Word, be sure to spell-check. Cheating will not be tolerated in any instance. MassArt's academic honesty guidelines will be upheld.

## **Readings:**

From “Launching the Imagination” by Mary Stewart (you will be given copies as needed)

## **Required Supplies:**

Firewire drive: There is an exclusive offer for Lacie drives for students of Massart. There are forms available that describe the offer and contact information for the vendor, E.P. Levines 617-951-1499

Mini-DV Tapes: You will need at least one 60 min tape, available at the Massart bookstore

Blank DVD-R's: Used for making backups of your work and final projects. Also at the bookstore.

Please bring these supplies to class each week.

**This syllabus is only a guideline for the course; I may make changes to it as the course progresses.**

## **Course Schedule:**

\*Please Note: The following schedule is subject to change at my discretion. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out from your classmates what, if any, changes to the schedule have been made. Unless you receive an exemption from me, you will be responsible upon returning to class for both the current weeks assignments, as well as the assignments for the week you missed.

### **Module I. Source/Imagery**

*January 19*

In Class: Introduction to Course

Assigned: Source/Imagery (choose 3 sources)

Show:

VL concepts: scope

*January 26*

Due: Source/Imagery (3 sources)

In Class: Choose 1 of 3 sources

Assigned: Source/Imagery (start collecting source imagery)

Show:

VL concepts: intensity

*February 2*

Due: Imagery first draft (10-15 images)

In Class: Imagery first draft crit

Assigned: Source Imagery final

Show:

VL concepts: setting

*February 09*

Due: Source Imagery final images

In Class: Source Imagery final images crit

Assigned: Source Imagery book (start sequencing images)

Show:

VL concepts: setting

### **Module II. Source/Book**

*February 16*

Due: Source Imagery book 1<sup>st</sup> draft

In Class: Source Imagery book 1<sup>st</sup> draft crit

Assigned: Source Imagery book first draft (collage using photoshop)

Show:

VL concepts: chronology, narrative

*February 23*

Due: Source Imagery book 2<sup>nd</sup> draft

In Class: Source Imagery book 2<sup>nd</sup> draft crit

Assigned: Source Imagery book final

Show:

VL concepts: storyboarding, transitions, intensity

*March 2*

Due: Source Imagery book final

In Class: Source Imagery book final crit

Assigned: Source Imagery video

### **Module III. Source/Video**

*March 9 (no class)*

*March 16 (no class)*

*March 23<sup>rd</sup>*

Due: Source Imagery video (rough video footage)

In Class: iMovie demo (capture & editing)

Assigned: Source Imagery video final (due 4/7)

Show:

VL concepts: duration, tempo, organization of clips, narrative and non narrative formats, relation between shots, transitions from shot to shot

*March 31*

In Class: Individual Meetings

*April 6*

Due: Source Imagery video final

In Class: Source Imagery final video crit

Assigned: Independent project

### **Module IV. Independent Project**

*April 13*

Due: Independent project 1<sup>st</sup> draft

In Class: Independent project 1<sup>st</sup> draft crit

Assigned: Independent project 2<sup>nd</sup> draft

Show:

*April 20*

Due: Independent project 2<sup>nd</sup> draft

In Class: Independent project 2<sup>nd</sup> draft crit

Assigned: Independent project final

Show:

*April 27*

Due: Independent project

In Class: Independent project final crit

*May 4*

In Class: Party! (+ any loose ends)

Show: