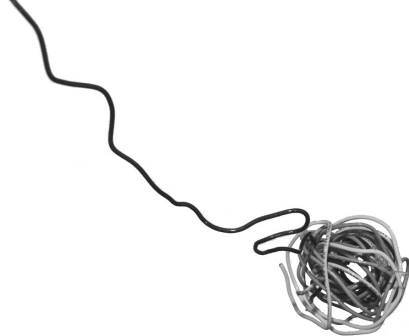


MIT Visual Arts Program
Fall 2009



Visual Arts Program Course Offerings Fall 2009

Under the aegis of the School of Architecture and Planning, the Visual Arts Program focuses on the development of critical visionary strategies in artistic practice within the context of the advanced technological community of MIT. Students in the Program include undergraduate and graduate students majoring in a variety of fields from engineering to media studies as well as a small select group who make up the Visual Arts Graduate Program. Students from all disciplines are welcome.

Limited enrollment. Sign up now!

<http://visualarts.mit.edu>
vap@mit.edu
617-253-5229
265 Massachusetts Avenue, N51-328
Cambridge, MA 02139

4.301 Introduction to the Visual Arts

Lecturers Wendy Jacob, Joe Zane
Meets: TR 9:30–12:30 AM
Room N52-342 and N51-348
Units: 2-4-6 Level: U, HASS-D

An introduction to artistic practice and aesthetic analysis. Course sections will take up various themes each semester. Students communicate their ideas and experiences through various media such as sculpture, installation, performance, video and computer imaging. Three assigned projects evolve through stages of conceptual and material development to final presentation and critical discussion. Lectures, visiting artist presentations, field trips, and readings supplement studio practice, providing an index to the historical, cultural and environmental forces that affect both the development of artistic vision and the reception of the work of art. The course meets twice a week for 3 hrs each session for a total of 12 units of credit. A minimum of six hours per week outside class work is expected. There will be 3 studio projects that must be completed for the course. Lab fee \$65.

4.313/4.312 Advanced Studio on the Production of Space: Participatory Design for Rethinking Education

Associate Professor Gediminas Urbonas
Meets: WF 2:00–5:00 PM, Room N52-342
Units: 3-3-6, Level: U/H

Educational space forms us as social and political subjects. This course introduces spatial concepts within a cultural and historical context. How do these spatial concepts relate to artistic process and production? And what is their connection to the production of alternative forms of education? The rise of net-enabled free universities and the renewed currency of theories of autonomous education have converged to place the idea of the participatory at the center of a discussion about the social role of art. Guest speakers from various disciplines, readings and in-class presentations support the development of individual and collective projects. Additional work required of students taking the graduate version. Enrollment limited. Lab fee \$65.

4.314/4.315 The City as Stage, The City as Process: Advanced Workshop in Artistic Practice and Transdisciplinary Research

Associate Professor Ute Meta Bauer
Meets: M 2:00–5:00 PM, Room N51-315
Recitation M 7:00–9:00 PM, N51-337
Units: 3-3-6 Level: U/G

This seminar/workshop will focus on the city and the ways in which artists can interact with the various forces and interests that comprise it. We will examine examples of artistic practice, including film and performance, which use the city as a stage. We will look at art as a form of investigation and knowledge production that addresses the city as an ongoing process and field of negotiation. This class evaluates past and current artistic experimentation with the urban fabric and supports the development of individual and collective research projects that may collaborate with other disciplines at MIT. The class meets Monday afternoons. In addition, students expected to attend Monday Nights @ VAP Lecture Series, a series of lectures, screenings and debates that are open to the public. Home readings will also be expected. Additional shop / lab time is required of students taking the graduate version. Enrollment limited. Lab Fee \$65.

4.330/331 Introduction to Networked Cultures and Participatory Media: Brain, Body, Network

Lecturer Amber Frid-Jimenez
Meets: M 10:30 AM–1:30 PM, Room N51-315
Recitation M 7:00–9:00 PM, Room N51-337
Units: 3-3-6 Level: U/G, HASS-CI

We examine the ethical, aesthetic and architectural challenges of engaging the dynamic information that defines our networked lives. Open source innovation empowers the individual as the technology that drives social media develops. At the same time, advances in robotics, informatics and remote sensing create situations where individual social interactions become remote, and disembodied: wars are fought by drones controlled from video consoles thousands of miles away. In this hands-on, project-based studio course, we use design exercises to develop a new design language for embodied information and the architectural bodywear or structures to facilitate it. The ideological framing will draw from theories and practice in new media, cybernetics, information design, film, art, and fashion. Students will also attend the Monday Nights @VAP Lecture Series. HASS-CI class: undergraduates expected to complete 20 pages of writing assignments. Lab fee \$65.

4.341 Intro to Photography and Related Media

Lecturer Andrea Frank
Meets: TR 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Room N51-315
Units: 3-3-6 Level: U, HASS

This course provides practical instruction in fundamentals of analog and digital SLR and medium/large format camera operation, film exposure and development, black and white darkroom techniques, digital imaging, and studio lighting. Individual projects are developed conceptually and technically throughout the semester and provide opportunities to develop technical skills and for personal artistic exploration. Work in progress is continuously presented and discussed in a critical forum. Lectures, readings, visiting professionals, group discussions, and site visits encourage a critical exploration of different aspects of photography, aesthetic appreciation of the medium, as well as a critical awareness of how images in our culture are produced and constructed. Production time outside class essential. Limited Enrollment. Lab Fee \$110.

4.343 Photography and Related Media

Lecturer Andrea Frank
Meets: W 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Room N51-315
Units: 3-1-5 Level: G

Course is centered around a student-initiated term project, developed conceptually and technically throughout the semester. Explore the photographic process as a medium for artistic expression. Final projects presented in an exhibition format. Practical instruction in fundamentals of analog and digital SLR and medium/large format camera operation, film exposure and development, black and white darkroom techniques, digital imaging, and studio lighting. Work-in-progress presented and discussed continuously in a critical forum. Lectures, readings, visiting professionals, group discussions, and a field trip to New York encourage aesthetic appreciation of the medium, and critical awareness of how images in our culture are produced and constructed. Production time outside class essential. Beginning and advanced students welcome. Limited enrollment. Lab Fee \$110.

4.352/4.353 Advanced Video

Lecturer Joe Gibbons
Meets: TR 7:00–10:00 PM, Room N51-315
Units: 2-4-6 Level: U/H, HASS

Introduction to advanced strategies of image/sound manipulation, both technical and

conceptual. Includes pre-production planning (development of storyboards, scripting), refinement of digital editing techniques, visual effects such as chroma-keying, and post-production and audio are covered. Context is provided by regular viewings of contemporary video artworks and other audio-visual formats in comparison. Limited enrollment. Lab fee \$50.

4.370/4.371 Interrogative Design Workshop - Design for Survival

Professor Krzysztof Wodiczko
Meets: M 2:00–5:00 PM, Room N52-342
Recitation tba
Units: 3-3-6 Level: U/H, HASS

Design for survival, for an unacceptable world, for discontent. Addresses design media and technology as both ethical and aesthetic practice. Development of projects finalized as working tools, instruments, implements, and equipment is supported by relevant theoretical study, presentations and informed discussion. Design as a research proposal and implementation can be called interrogative when it takes a risk, explores, articulates, and responds to the questionable conditions of life in today's world. Interrogative design questions the very world of needs of which it is born. This workshop poses new questions, exposes hidden issues, and creates inspirational and experimental situations for designers and artists as cultural agents. Lab fee \$65.

4.390 Visual Arts Independent Studio

Associate Professor Gediminas Urbonas
Meets: W 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Room N52-342
Units: 4-1-7 Level: H

Inquiry and debate about art, culture, and society relating the independent study project to the general direction of students' work and course of study. Additional regular consultations with faculty/thesis advisors required. Supplemented by external guest studio visits and periodic presentations to visual arts faculty and guest reviewers. The course will also help students learn how to organize portfolios, formulate grant applications, and acquire the skills to explain and promote their work. Restricted to SMVisS program students.

4.396/4.366 Special Problems in Visual Arts — Autism Studio

Lecturer Wendy Jacob
Meets: M 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Room N52-342
Units: 3-3-6 Level: U/H

In the United States, the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders has risen to one in every 150 children. The Autism Studio will explore imaginative responses to the autistic experience. It will encourage open-ended exploration and research of the development, sociology and psychology of autism. The class is organized around a series of studio exercises designed to challenge dominant neurotypical conventions of how spaces, objects and situations are ordered, and culminates in a final, self-directed project. Projects don't have to be solely practical, but can also be motivated by imaginative inventions. Instruction will be provided in various fabrication processes. Students of varied backgrounds and experience are encouraged to apply. Course limited to 15 students. Lab fee \$65.

[Level U courses for graduate credit by petition.](#)

Monday Nights @ VAP Lecture Series

A transdisciplinary lecture series at the crossroads of art, culture, science, and technology. Meets in the Joan Jonas Performance Hall, N51-337. Schedule to be announced. Free and open to the public.

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