DEPARTMENT OF
THE VISUAL ARTS

Chair
• Jessica Stockholder, Professor

Professors
• Charles Cohen, Art History
• Theaster Gates
• Laura Letinsky, Cinema and Media Studies
• Jessica Stockholder

Associate Professors
• Matthew Jesse Jackson, Art History
• William Pope.L
• Jason Salavon, Computation Institute
• David Schutter
• Catherine Sullivan

Assistant Professors
• Carol Jackson, Harper Schmidt Fellow
Professor of Practice in the Arts
• Geof Oppenheimer

Lecturers
• Katherine Desjardins
• Amber Ginsburg
• Shane Huffman
• Scott Wolniak

Affiliates
• Seth Brodsky, Music
• Bill Brown, English
• Hillary Chute, English
• W. J. T. Mitchell, English, Art History
• D.N. Rodowick, Cinema and Media Studies

Associates
• Susanne Ghez

Emeritus Faculty
• Herbert George
• Elizabeth Helsinger, English, Art History
• Vera Klement
The Department of Visual Arts (DoVA), a department within the Humanities Division at the University of Chicago, and situated in The Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts (http://arts.uchicago.edu/content/logan-center), is proud to offer a Masters of Fine Arts.

This MFA program is distinguished in its focused attention on understanding how the pluralism of today’s art making practices relate to one another and creating conversations that bridge between DoVA and other areas of study at the University of Chicago. Our faculty are diverse in their interests, committed teachers who are engaged in a lively and sustained dialogue within the department, and deeply engaged with their own work.

Our students work in sculpture, photography, painting, installation, performance, video and new media. Students are admitted to the program based on the quality of the portfolio and the level of interest and capacity in engaging this interdisciplinary program within a university environment. The faculty focus on working with our students to develop their own work and enabling them to leave the University with the tools to support a lifetime of art making. As part of this process, the department encourages students to explore not only the artistic issues pertinent to their work, but also the theoretical, social and historical issues that intersect and bracket it.

The MFA is a two-year program (six quarters), comprised of 18 courses. Many of these course credits are earned through the development of individual work in conversation with the faculty.

First and second year students work together to articulate their work and to sharpen their skills of critical thinking and writing. Students come to the program with diverse intellectual, cultural and artistic backgrounds and different art making practices. We all work together to articulate a common language with which to discuss and make art in this critical and supportive community.

As part of the MFA program, DoVA hosts a lively visiting artist program under the auspices of the Open Practice Committee (http://dova.uchicago.edu/open-practice-committee) (OPC). In addition The University of Chicago provides an enormously rich intellectual environment full of engaging lectures and workshops in all areas of study. Our students are often interested in events hosted by the Center for Gender Studies, the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, the Mass Culture Studies Workshop, the Department of Cinema and Media Studies, and the Department of Art History. We also offer workshops that focus on professional and pedagogical issues, both in DoVA and in the Career and Placement Services Office, to assist students in preparing for a career in the arts.

Each year, DoVA supports a faculty led trip to visit museums and galleries outside of Chicago; past trips have included New York City and Beijing. Future trips may visit Los Angeles, New York, or Delhi. Information about one of our recent trips to Beijing can be found here (http://www.uchicago.cn/2012/10/uchicago-mfa-students-tour-beijing-with-laura-letinsky-and-geof-oppenheimer).
CURRICULUM

MFA students register for 300 credits (three courses at 100 credits each) per quarter. A total of 1800 credits, or eighteen courses, is required for the degree.

The basic requirements for the MFA are listed below:

1. **Graduate Studio Project (9 Courses / 900 Credit Hours)**
   Students receive course credit for time spent in their studio developing their work. As part of this requirement students will present work to faculty and students for critique regularly throughout the year. Students register for at least 100 credit hours of Graduate Studio Project (ARTV 40000) per quarter, and may register for up to 300 hours per quarter provided that they are on track for meeting their other course requirements (see Graduate Seminars and Electives).

2. **Graduate Seminars (3 Courses / 300 Credit Hours)**
   In order to provide a core of common intellectual experience, all students are required to take three quarters of the Graduate Seminar in Visual Arts (ARTV 39200) during their first year. The content of these seminars varies with instructors, but may focus on many different issues in contemporary theory and criticism.

3. **Electives (6 Courses / 600 Credit Hours)**
   Students are required to take six graduate-level electives. At least three of the six electives must either be academic (i.e. non-studio based) or originate in departments outside of DoVA.

4. **Thesis Presentation**
   In the fall quarter of the second year, each student will work with a committee of two faculty members who assist in the preparation of the thesis work. In the final quarter of the program each degree candidate presents studio work in an MFA exhibition. In addition to this exhibition, students will be expected to submit a short but focused written abstract of their work.

5. **Standards Of Performance**
   Each graduate student must maintain high standards of engagement and achievement in studio and academic performance, including evidence of substantial growth in their work.

For additional information, please email dova@uchicago.edu or visit our website. (http://dova.uchicago.edu)

HOW TO APPLY

The application process for admission and financial aid for all graduate programs in the Humanities is administered through the divisional Office of the Dean of Students. The Application for Admission and Financial Aid, with instructions, deadlines and department specific information is available online at: http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions.html. Additional information about financial aid and the admissions process can be found on the DoVA website (http://dova.uchicago.edu/graduate).
VISUAL ARTS COURSES

ARTV 31001. Figure Drawing: Trans/Figuration. 100 Units.
Figure drawing is an experience that engages us visually, physically, emotionally, and psychologically. This many-faceted relationship is examined through the use of a variety of traditional and experimental materials, set-ups, and drawing methods. Assignments and class critiques investigate different models of stylistic invention, ranging from realism to comic expression. This studio class includes readings, field trips, and class projects that address the human form as source for developing your own visual responses to related issues—such as identity, narrative, and social critique.
Instructor(s): K. Desjardins Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 21001

ARTV 31501. Introduction to Printmaking. 100 Units.
An introduction to basic printmaking techniques, including monoprint, intaglio (drypoint), planographic, and relief printing. Printmaking will be explored as a “bridge medium”: a conduit between drawing, painting, and sculpture. Emphasis will be placed upon investigating visual structures through “calculated spontaneity” and “controlled accidents,” as well as on the serial potential inherent in printmaking, as opposed to the strictly technical aspects of this medium.
Instructor(s): K. Desjardins Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 21501

ARTV 31901. Color: Theory and Experience. 100 Units.
This studio course proposes a hands-on investigation into the way we experience color in the world and in our own work. We will study a range of approaches to color, including: “haptic” color perception, Symbolic/Spiritual color theories, as well as more widely known theories of “optical color.” In the studio, you will be introduced to a unique series of exercises that elucidate the expressive, symbolic, scientific, and cultural aspects of color perception using both acrylic pigment and light. Lectures, field trips, and guest speakers will broaden our discussion of color. A final project in a medium of your choice will serve as a culminating experience for the course.
Instructor(s): K. Desjardins Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
ARTV 31902. Color: Theory and Experience. 100 Units.
This studio course proposes a hands-on investigation into the way we experience color in the world and in our own work. We will study a range of approaches to color, including: "haptic" color perception, Symbolic/Spiritual color theories, as well as more widely known theories of "optical color." In the studio, you will be introduced to a unique series of exercises that elucidate the expressive, symbolic, scientific, and cultural aspects of color perception using both acrylic pigment and light. Lectures, field trips, and guest speakers will broaden our discussion of color. A final project in a medium of your choice will serve as a culminating experience for the course.
Instructor(s): K. Desjardins Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 21902

ARTV 32000. Introduction to Sculpture. 100 Units.
This course introduces the technical fundamentals of sculptural practice. Using basic introductions to welding, basic woodworking and metal fabrication students will undertake assignments designed to deploy these new skills conceptually in their projects. Lectures and reading introduce the technical focus of the class in various historical, social and economic contexts. Discussions and gallery visits help engender an understanding of sculpture within a larger societal and historical context.
Instructor(s): G. Oppenheimer Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 28448, ARTV 22200

ARTV 32200-32202. Introduction to Painting I-II.
This studio course introduces students to the fundamental elements of painting (its language and methodologies) as they learn how to initiate and develop an individualized investigation into subject matter and meaning. This course emphasizes group critiques and discussion. Courses taught concurrently.

ARTV 32200. Introduction to Painting I. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): S. Wolniak Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22000

ARTV 32202. Introduction to Painting II. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): S. Wolniak Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22002

ARTV 32202. Introduction to Painting II. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): S. Wolniak Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22002
ARTV 32306. Hybridity and the Multiple: A Course on Moldmaking. 100 Units.
Hybridity is the commingling of two or more entities, the mash-up, the crossover, the mutation, and the reformulation. Thinking of objects as tools for collage, this course will begin with the art of casting. Once you have acquired the skill of multiple production, you will be free to reproduce, alter, and reformulate objects to create hybrid forms. Questioning the multiple, the serial, and the unique, this course will use the positive and negative space of object production as an experimental tool to explore material, installation, and production.
Instructor(s): A. Ginsburg Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22306

ARTV 32310. Art of Engagement. 100 Units.
A primer on social engage art, this studio course will examine how art in the last generation has claimed new territory. This territory, commonly described as the ‘expanded field,’ involves not only art viewing contexts but also encompasses spaces of daily life and practice, socio-political spheres, and draws regularly from non-art disciplines. The methods utilized in the production of this work are diverse and its successes are highly contested. In this studio-seminar course we will pack our proverbial bags and take a trip into this widely expanded field of socially engaged art and social practice, a practice emphasizing action, participation, and dialogue. We will familiarize ourselves with numerous works, projects and methodologies that have been developed or proposed over the past 50 to 60 years, we will plunge deeply into the diverse historical frameworks leading up to and situating this work inside or outside art history, and we will saturate our inquiries with the impassioned voices of this works’ supporters and skeptics through readings, blogs, interviews, field trips and visiting speakers. With rich historical and theoretical knowledge framing our practices, we will produce our own socially engaged work, both individually and collaboratively.
Instructor(s): A. Ginsburg Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22310

ARTV 32500. Digital Imaging. 100 Units.
This studio course introduces fundamental tools and concepts used in the production of computer-mediated artwork. Instruction includes a survey of standard digital imaging software and hardware (i.e., Photoshop, scanners, storage, printing, etc), as well as exposure to more sophisticated methods. We also view and discuss the historical precedents and current practice of media art. Using input and output hardware, students complete conceptually driven projects emphasizing personal direction while gaining core digital knowledge.
Instructor(s): J. Salavon Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22500, CMST 28801, CMST 38801
ARTV 32502. Data and Algorithm in Art. 100 Units.
An introduction to the use of data sources and algorithmic methods in visual art, this course explores the aesthetic and theoretical possibilities of computational art-making. Focusing on the diverse and ever expanding global data-feed, we will craft custom software processes to create works investigating the visual transformation of information. Additionally, software programming may be deployed independently, without a connection to source material. While placing an emphasis on creating new work, we will also survey the history of this type of art practice.
Instructor(s): J. Salavon Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Note(s): No prior experience with programming is necessary.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22502

ARTV 33801. Video. 100 Units.
This is a production course geared towards short experimental works and video within a studio art context.
Instructor(s): S. Wolniak Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 23801, CMST 28903

ARTV 33804. Experimental Animation. 100 Units.
Individually directed video shorts will be produced in this intensive studio course. Experimental and improvised approaches to stop-animation and motion picture art will combine digital production and post-production with analog and material methods of picture making. Early and experimental cinema, puppetry and contemporary low-tech animation strategies will be presented as formal and technical examples.
Instructor(s): S. Wolniak Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 23804

ARTV 33805. Minimalist Experiment in Film and Video. 100 Units.
This multilevel studio will investigate minimalist strategies in artists’ film and video from the late 1960s to the present day. Emphasis will be placed on works made with limited means and/or with “amateur” formats such as Super-8 and 16mm film, camcorders, Flip cameras, SLR video, and iPhone or iPad. Our aim is to imagine how to produce complex results from economical means. Important texts will be paired with in class discussion of works by artists such as Andy Warhol, Yoko Ono, Kurt Kren, Jack Goldstein, Larry Gottheim, Bruce Baillie, James Benning, John Baldessari, Morgan Fisher, Stan Douglas, Matthew Buckingham, Sam Taylor-Wood, and others.
Instructor(s): D.N. Rodowick Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 28006, CMST 38006, ARTV 23805
ARTV 33900. Drawing. 100 Units.
This intensive multilevel studio course is dedicated to investigations of genre, technique, and format in relation to subject matter and individual expression. Guided and self-directed experiments are used to develop visual work within conceptual and thematic frameworks. Art historical examples and contemporary strategies in two-dimensional art are presented as models. Students are expected to produce a body of work consisting of studies, sketches, and finished projects in a range of scales and materials. Classes are dedicated to studio work, lectures, critiques, and field trips.
Instructor(s): S. Wolniak Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 23900

ARTV 33904. Senior Creative Thesis Workshop. 100 Units.
This seminar will focus on how to craft a creative thesis in film or video. Works-in-progress will be screened each week, and technical and structural issues relating to the work will be explored. The workshop will also develop the written portion of the creative thesis. The class is limited to seniors from CMS and DOVA, and MAPH students working on a creative thesis.
Instructor(s): J. Hoffman Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): CMST 23930; CMST 23931; departmental approval of senior creative thesis project.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 23904, ARTV 23904

ARTV 33905. Creative Thesis Workshop. 100 Units.
This seminar will focus on how to craft a creative thesis in film or video. Works-in-progress will be screened each week, and technical and structural issues relating to the work will be explored. The workshop will also develop the written portion of the creative thesis. The class is limited to seniors from CMS and DOVA, and MAPH students working on a creative thesis.
Instructor(s): Judy Hoffman Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter
Prerequisite(s): CMST 23930; CMST 23931 or 27600; departmental approval of senior creative thesis project.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 33905, ARTV 23905
ARTV 33930. Documentary Production I. 100 Units.
This class is intended to develop skills in documentary production so that students may apply for Documentary Production II. Documentary Production I focuses on the making of independent documentary video. Examples of various styles of documentary will be screened and discussed. Issues embedded in the documentary genre, such as the ethics and politics of representation and the shifting lines between fact and fiction will be explored. Pre-production methodologies, production, and post-production techniques will be taught. Students will be expected to develop an idea for a documentary video, crews will be formed, and each crew will produce a five-minute documentary. Students will also be expected to purchase an external hard drive.
Instructor(s): J. Hoffman Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Prior or concurrent enrollment in CMST 10100 recommended
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 23930, CMST 33930, HMRT 25106, HMRT 35106

ARTV 33931. Documentary Production II. 100 Units.
This course focuses on the shaping and crafting of a nonfiction video. Students are expected to write a treatment detailing their project. Production techniques focus on the handheld camera versus tripod, interviewing and microphone placement, and lighting for the interview. Postproduction covers editing techniques and distribution strategies. Students then screen final projects in a public space.
Instructor(s): J. Hoffman Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): CMST 23930/ARTV 23930
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 23931, CMST 33931

ARTV 34000. Introduction to Black and White Film Photography. 100 Units.
Photography is a familiar medium due to its ubiquitous presence in our visual world, including popular culture and personal usage. In this class, students learn technical procedures and basic skills related to the 35mm camera, black and white film, and print development. They also begin to establish criteria for artistic expression. We investigate photography in relation to its historical and social context in order to more consciously engage the photograph’s communicative and expressive possibilities. Course work culminates in a portfolio of works exemplary of the student’s understanding of the medium. Field trips required.
Instructor(s): A. Clark Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Note(s): Camera and light meter required.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27600, CMST 37600, ARTV 24000
ARTV 34121. Adopted Strategies. 100 Units.
In this interdisciplinary course, students will investigate cultural codes and narratives of the past and present, and use them as templates for artmaking. Adopted models can originate from a range of histories, disciplines, and communities ranging from military tactics of the Mongols, restaurant work, homological algebra, joke telling, to a favorite film or film scene, etc. Independent selection and research of the chosen source(s), as well as individual and group critiques, will facilitate development of student’s ideas to a completed project. Central topics will include theories of imitation, how power exerts itself through narrative, and the work of art’s tendency to fold rather than transcend what might otherwise be perceived as linear, homogeneous time. Readings include Michael Taussig’s “Mimesis and Alterity,” Avital Ronell’s “Stupidity,” and Oswald Spengler’s “Decline of the West.” Sample artists: Pinar Yolacan, Yoshua Okon, Mickalene Thomas, Natalie Jeremijenko, and Lari Pittman, among others.
Instructor(s): C. Jackson Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24121

ARTV 34201. Collage. 100 Units.
This studio course explores collage as a means for developing content and examining complex cultural and material relationships. Projects and assigned texts outline the history of collage as a dynamic art form with a strong political dimension, as well as critically addressing how it is being used today.
Instructor(s): S. Wolniak Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24201

ARTV 34301. Writing for Performance. 100 Units.
This course is an exploration of select texts for performance written by performance artists primarily but not entirely operating within the context of art. Via historical context and literary technique, students read, discuss, and analyze texts by various authors spanning the history of performance art: Hugo Ball, John Cage, Richard Foreman, Carolee Schneeman, Joseph Beuys, Karen Finley, Nature Theater of Oklahoma, John Leguizamo, and create and perform their own writing. Field trips and attendance at first class are required.
Instructor(s): W. Pope.L Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24301, TAPS 28414

ARTV 34401. Photography I. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): L. Letinsky Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300; and 24000.
Note(s): Camera and light meter required. Courses taught concurrently and can be repeated as part of an ongoing, developing photographic project.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27602, CMST 37602, ARTV 24401
ARTV 34402. Photography II. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): L. Letinsky Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300; and 24000.
Note(s): Camera and light meter required. Courses taught concurrently and can be repeated as part of an ongoing, developing photographic project.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27702, CMST 37702, ARTV 24402

ARTV 34550. Shopcraft: Methods and Materials. 100 Units.
Designed as a complementary course to the DOVA sculpture sequence, Shopcraft explores the tools and techniques available to students in the wood shop. Topics covered include shop safety; the properties of woods; the planning and material selection process for sculpture, furniture, and other woodworking applications; the care and use of hand tools; and interpreting and creating scale drawings and conceptual plans. A series of small projects designed to challenge and expand students’ design, drafting, and woodworking skills are assigned. In addition, students are invited to incorporate projects from sculpture classes or their individual studio practice into the course.
Instructor(s): D. Wolf Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24550, TAPS 27900

ARTV 35401. Aesthetics of Media: Image, Music, Text. 100 Units.
Designed for advanced undergraduates and first year graduate students, this course will take up the image/sound/text complex as a foundational issue in aesthetics and media. Our aim will be to ask why this particular triangulation of media aesthetics has been so enduring, ranging all the way from Aristotle’s dramatic triad of opsis, melos, lexis, to Nelson Goodman’s semiotic distinctions between “score, script, and sketch,” to Friedrich Kittler’s reflections on technology in Gramaphone, Film, Typewriter. We will investigate a range of examples, from the Wagnerian notion of the Gesamtkunstwerk to the role of sound in cinema to the modernist impulse to “purify” the arts, or (conversely) to mix them in multi-media practices. The role of technology and technical innovation in the history of media will be considered, from the invention of writing and printing systems, musical and dance notation, “mechanical” processes such as photography/phonography, cinema, and video to the rise of electronic, digital media and network aesthetics. Students will be expected to give a performance or demonstration that reflects on the interplay of image, sound, and words, OR to write a short reference article on a key concept in media theory for the Glossary of Keywords in Media Theory. (See the graphic interface at http://csmt.uchicago.edu/glossary2004/navigation.htm). Visual artists, writers, and musicians are cordially welcome.
Instructor(s): W. J. T. Mitchell; J. Misurell-Mitchell Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Screening T 7-9:50 A term paper or project will also be required. Visual artists, writers, and musicians are cordially welcome. (H)
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27820, CMST 37820, AMER 12800, AMER 32800, ENGL 12810, ENGL 32810
ARTV 36202. Site, Strategies, Preoccupations, and Something Like Art. 100 Units.
Contemporary art practice always has the burden of site. History, context, and nostalgia all become co-conspirators as artists are developing their artistic chops. Over the course of 11 weeks this class will look at the complexity and the problem of place in relationship to objecthood. With readings, guest lecturers, site visits, and the creation of a temporary pedagogical order, we will all ask ourselves, Why are we here? Why do we make? What does it mean? And who cares? Leveraging my preoccupations with race, urban planning, jazz, art, and Black Mountain College, we will arrive at objects, performances, encounters, and sermons that know where they belong.
Instructor(s): T. Gates Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 26202

ARTV 36209. Contemporary Arab Representations. 100 Units.
Contemporary Arab Representations: Mapping the Regional and the Contemporary in the Twenty-First Century Arab World This course offers an overview of the vibrant artistic community in the Arab world, with a particular focus on the last fifteen years. It will unfold the artistic traditions, institutions, networks and ideas from the region, and will consider their context within the broader field of art and its history. We will examine local histories of the region and address ideas around faith, displacement and myth, exploring the work of key artists. You will engage in lively discussion and debate about the aesthetics of conflict and the contested space of art and politics, as well as learn about the context surrounding patronage and the cultural infrastructure of the region, including institutions, collections and biennales. The course broadens the discourse around territory and geography, by locating the artistic routes and connections between the Arab world and its neighbouring regions. Sessions will involve close analysis of artists and their works through lecture, screening and discussion. Key texts by post-colonial thinkers from Edward Said to Jean Fisher will also be discussed.
Instructor(s): O. Kholeif Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 36209, ARTH 26209
ARTV 36216. Comedy Central. 100 Units.
Comedy is a serious subject and art is no laughing matter, but levity displays a type of intelligence that is both profound and nimble and must be met on its own terms. Toward that end, this interdisciplinary seminar will investigate: the various modes through which comedy infects contemporary art, questions of form in the art of comedy, performative objects, the object of comedic performance, and the seriousness of play. A number of guest speakers from various backgrounds will lecture, lead discussions, and projects. Assignments include weekly readings, performative actions, and two short writing assignments, one on a key thinker on the subject of the comedic, the other a creative writing assignment. A final project of your choice can be a traditional research paper (10–12 pages) or a creative project with your choice of medium. Readings include selections from Friedrich Schiller’s "Letters upon the Æsthetic Education of Man," Henri Bergson’s "Laughter," Sigmund Freud’s "Joke and Its Relation to the Unconscious," Lewis Hyde’s "Trickster Makes This World," David Robbin’s "Concrete Comedy," and others. Note this is not a studio class, and while we will conduct a number of exercises in class, participants are expected to be working on their individual projects outside of class throughout the term in consultation with the instructor via office hours. Prior experience working with video is useful. An exhibition from the seminar in the form of a YouTube channel will go live at the end of the seminar. Comedy Central is produced in collaboration with the Open Practice Committee.
Instructor(s): L. Berlant, Z. Cahill Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Note(s): Field trips and screenings are required.

ARTV 36300. Introduction to Stage Design. 100 Units.
This course explores the application of the visual and aural arts to the varied forms of design for the stage (i.e., scenic, lighting, costume, sound). We pay particular attention to the development of a cogent and well-reasoned analysis of text and an articulate use of the elements of design through a set of guided practical projects.
Instructor(s): T. Burch Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Lab fee required. This course is offered in alternate years.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 26000

ARTV 36500. History of International Cinema I: Silent Era. 100 Units.
This course introduces what was singular about the art and craft of silent film. Its general outline is chronological. We also discuss main national schools and international trends of filmmaking.
Instructor(s): Y. Tsivian Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Prior or concurrent registration in CMST 10100 required. Required of students majoring in Cinema and Media Studies.
Note(s): This is the first part of a two-quarter course.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 28500, ARTH 38500, ARTV 26500, CMLT 22400, CMLT 32400, CMST 48500, ENGL 29300, ENGL 48700, MAPH 36000, CMST 28500
ARTV 37200. Painting. 100 Units.
Presuming fundamental considerations, this studio course emphasizes the purposeful and sustained development of a student’s visual investigation through painting, accentuating both invention and clarity of image. Requirements include group critiques and discussion.
Instructor(s): K. Desjardins Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300; and 22000 or 22002
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 27200

ARTV 37210. Intermediate/Advanced Painting. 100 Units.
The goal of this course is to literally expand your painting practice and your definition of painting. Through a series of studio projects, we will consider fundamental issues surrounding 21st-century painting such as: figuration/abstraction, the body, digital/analog, painting’s expanded relationship to itself and to other media. In the studio we will frequently subject painting to juxtaposition with other 2-D, 3-D, and 4-D media as we come to terms with the actual physical properties of paint. A final project serves as a culminating experience.
Instructor(s): K. Desjardins Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300 and 22000 or 22002 or consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 27210

ARTV 39200. Graduate Seminar: ARTV. 100 Units.
Only MFA students in the Department of Visual Arts may register for this class.
Instructor(s): D. Schutter, W. Pope.L Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter

ARTV 39901. 21st Century Art. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): M.J. Jackson Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 42911

ARTV 40000. Graduate Studio Project. var Units.
Only MFA students in the Department of Visual Arts may register for this class.
Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring

ARTV 40301. Modernism/Postmodernism/Everythingism. 100 Units.
The post–World War II era of decolonialization, the 1989 collapse of the Soviet Bloc, and the dawn of the globally networked 21st century could be described as marking three stages in the transition of the Euro-American art industry from a culture grounded in modernist notions of cultural experience toward the contemporary horizon of what might be called “everythingism”—with postmodernism serving as a placeholder somewhere in between. Or, at least, this is the narrative that our course will examine as we explore various aspects of visual art’s production and theorization over the past 50 years.
Instructor(s): M. Jackson Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 40301
ARTV 40333. Data Visualization: Aesthetics, Intent, and Practice. 100 Units.
This course investigates how data visualizations are made and used today. Addressing a lack of both critical attention and technical literacy in how our society engages with increasingly common and sophisticated data-driven representations, we will retrace some history of the form as well as investigate its production and consumption. From uses in the sciences to economics to the popular media, data visualization serves various purposes framed by divergent intentions. Through reading, discussion, and crucially, team-based production, we will examine these myriad forms. While the course will not dwell on the deep computational details of data processing and requires no special technical skills, we will introduce various methodologies for creation and distribution such as D3, Processing, and P5.js. Projects and critique resulting from these inquiries enable an understanding for how any data visualization is the result of countless subjective judgments, design decisions, and persuasive intentions.
Instructor(s): J. Salavon and G. Kindlmann Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CDIN 40333, CMSC 33950, CMST 38007

ARTV 44319. Writing Images/Picturing Words. 100 Units.
What is the relationship between reading and looking? To what extent are all texts images, and all images texts? What are the cognitive, phenomenological, social, and aesthetic consequences of foregrounding the pictorial aspect of alphabetical characters? How do textual and visual images compare to our mental visualizations? In this arts studio course, students will construct original works of literary and visual art that "picture language" in order to investigate the overlapping functions of text and image. Studying works by contemporary visual artists like Alison Knowles and Jenny Holzer, and practicing poets such as Susan Howe and Tan Lin, we will frame our artistic and literary practice within the ongoing conversation between word and image in modern culture. The course will feature visits to our studio by contemporary poets and visual artists, who will provide critiques of student work and discussion of their own ongoing projects. Faculty members working at the intersection of word and image will also visit the class to help us frame our creative practice within a critical, historical, and theoretical context. Students will submit a final project, which may be accompanied by a critical background essay, at the end of the term.
Instructor(s): S. Reddy and J. Stockholder Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor required. Interested students, please email faculty a paragraph about your background and interest in the material.
Equivalent Course(s): CDIN 44319, ENGL 44319, MAPH 44319, ARTV 24319, KNOW 47001

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