Department of the Visual Arts

Chair
• Matthew Jesse Jackson

Professors
• Theaster Gates
• Laura Letinsky, Cinema and Media Studies
• William Pope.L
• Jessica Stockholder

Associate Professors
• Matthew Jesse Jackson, Art History
• Jason Salavon
• Catherine Sullivan

Assistant Professors
• Julia Phillips
• Heather Kai Smith, Harper Schmidt Fellow

Professor of Practice in the Arts
• Geof Oppenheimer

Visiting Professor
• David Schutter (visiting Winter 2023)

Lecturers
• Chris Bradley
• Bethany Collins
• Katherine Desjardins
• Amber Ginsburg
• Ellie Hogeman
• Frances Lee
• Nicole Mauser
• Scott Wolniak

Affiliates
• Dominique Bluher, Cinema and Media Studies
• Seth Brodsky, Music
• Bill Brown, English
• Darby English, Art History
• Judy Hoffman, Cinema and Media Studies
• W. J. T. Mitchell, English, Art History
• D.N. Rodowick, Cinema and Media Studies

Emeritus Faculty
• Charles Cohen, Art History
• Herbert George
• Elizabeth Helsinger, English, Art History
• Vera Klement
• Thomas Mapp
• Robert C. Peters

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 in creating conversations that bridge between DoVA and other areas of study at the University of Chicago. Our faculty are diverse in their interests, deeply engaged with their own work, and are committed teachers engaged in a lively and sustained dialogue within the department.

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 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 (https://dova.uchicago.edu/opc/) (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. The university also offers workshops that focus on professional and pedagogical issues to assist students in preparing for a career in the arts. Please see our website (https://dova.uchicago.edu) for more information.

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 (http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions/).

Questions pertaining to admissions and aid should be directed to humanitiesadmissions@uchicago.edu or (773) 702-1552.

International students must provide evidence of English proficiency by submitting scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). (Current minimum scores, etc., are provided with the application.) For more information, please see the Office of International Affairs website (https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/), or call them at (773) 702-7752.

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 30027. Site-Based Practice: Choreographing The Smart Museum. 100 Units.**
This course gives students the unique opportunity to create a collaborative, site-based work that culminates in a final performance at UChicago’s Smart Museum of Art. Using embodied research methods that respond to site through moving, sensing, and listening, we’ll explore the relationship between the ephemerality of movement and the materiality of bodies and place, and consider how the site-based contexts for dance shift how it is perceived, experienced, and valued. Our quarter-long creation process will begin with a tour of the Smart Museum, guided by curators and members of the Public Practice team, that will provide context to the museum’s exhibitions, programming, and its relationship to geography and community. Assigned readings, viewings, and conversations with guest artists will delve into the relationship between dance and the sites where it happens, including museums—from the material relationship between bodies, objects, and architecture to the digital flows of choreography online.
Instructor(s): J. Rhoads Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 20027, TAPS 26280, CHST 26280, TAPS 36280, ARCH 26280

**ARTV 30033. Iconology East and West. 100 Units.**
Iconology is the study of images across media and cultures. It is also associated with philosophical reflections on the nature of images and their relation to language—the interplay between the “icon” and the “logos.” A plausible translation of this compound word into Chinese would describe it as “Words in Pictures, Pictures in Words”: 诗诗诗诗诗诗诗诗. This seminar will explore the relations of word and image in poetics, semiotics, and aesthetics with a particular emphasis on how texts and pictures have been understood in the Anglo-European-American and Chinese theoretical traditions. The interplay of painting and poetry, speech and spectacle, audition and vision will be considered across a variety of media, particularly the textual and graphic arts. The aims of the course will be 1) to critique the simplistic oppositions between “East” and “West” that have bedevilled intercultural and intermedial comparative studies; 2) to identify common principles, zones of interaction and translation that make this a vital area of study. (Theory; 20th/21st)
Instructor(s): WJT Mitchell Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Enrollment in the course will be with the consent of instructor; it is open to students at all levels, but enrollment will be limited to 15. Students should send a one page statement of their interest to W. J. T. Mitchell (wjt@uchicago.edu)
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 20230, ARTV 20033, ARTH 30033, ENGL 20230, ARTH 20033, CMLT 30230, ENGL 30230

**ARTV 30140. Aesthetic Ecologies. 100 Units.**
What would an intellectual history of the environment look like when told from the perspective of the literature of art history? The geographer Friedrich Ratzel, who first began using the term “Umwelt” (“environment”) in a systematic way, claimed that, up to the end of the 19th century, the idea of environment had been primarily discussed not in scientific contexts but rather in aesthetic ones, by “artistically predisposed thinkers.” In this course, we will take Ratzel’s claim seriously and aim to recuperate the aesthetic side of theories of environment across diverse areas such as: notions of landscape (“the picturesque”); aesthetic and biological theories of milieu (Haecikel’s “ecology,” Taine’s “milieu,” Uexküll’s “Umweltlehre”); Warburg’s cultural history; the “sculpture of environment” (Boccioni); the “space-body” in modern dance (Laban); artworks-as-environments in spatial installations. This course is about artworks that continue beyond their material confines into the space environing them. We will focus on evocations of air as the material space surrounding an artwork in texts that thematize the continuity between artwork as image and material object. Additional materials include: J.W. v. Goethe, Jacob Burckhardt, Carl Justi, Adolf v. Hildebrand, Camillo Sitte, Alois Riegl, R.M. Rilke, M. Heidegger, and others.
Instructor(s): Margareta Ingrid Christian Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Open to all students. MAPH students welcome. Interested undergraduates please email instructor:michristian@uchicago.edu.
Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 35140

**ARTV 30353. Foodcultura and Art in Latino America:Creating an Imaginary Museum as a Multidisciplinary Experience. 100 Units.**
This experimental course is based on the model of Sabores y Lenguas, a project realized in eight Latin American metropoles between 1997 and 2007. At the beginning of the course, students will be guided to analyze materials from the vast documentary archive from Sabores y Lenguas (including photography, video, writing, and objects)
of locally specific foodways, foodlore, and food-related material culture. They will then transform the materials into conceptual and representational units of an imaginary museum as an interactive space organized around themes and questions that emerge from collective discussion and workshop practice. In a second phase, the course will engage students in concrete ethnographic research to document and develop critical interpretations of the cultures of food in Latin American Chicago: the taxonomies of cuisines, their distribution in urban space, the history and movement of recipes and ingredients, popular celebrations and ritual feasts, food language and music, food-related memories, and the politics of achieving a gustatory good life. In the final phase of the course, students will be asked to design the imaginary museum itself—not just its exhibits or the presentations in its auditorium, but its garden, meeting spaces, dining hall, and more. The goal is to collectively create an open-ended web-based resource that will accommodate further additions and revisions by students and/or community members long after the course has ended.

Instructor(s): Miralda, Antoni Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Reading knowledge of Spanish is recommended, but not required.
Equivalent Course(s): SPAN 36122, ANTH 25320, LACS 25127, ANTH 35320, CRES 25127, ARTV 20353, LACS 35127, SPAN 26122

ARTV 30700. Alternate Reality Games: Theory and Production. 100 Units.
Games are one of the most prominent and influential media of our time. This experimental course explores the emerging genre of “alternate reality” or “transmedia” gaming. Throughout the quarter, we will approach new media theory through the history, aesthetics, and design of transmedia games. These games build on the narrative strategies of novels, the performative role-playing of theater, the branching techniques of electronic literature, the procedural qualities of video games, and the team dynamics of sports. Beyond the subject matter, students will design modules of an Alternate Reality Game in small groups. Students need not have a background in media or technology, but a wide-ranging imagination, interest in new media culture, or arts practice will make for a more exciting quarter.
Instructor(s): Patrick Jagoda, Heidi Coleman Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Third- or fourth-year standing. Instructor consent required. To apply, submit writing through online form at https://www.franke.uchicago.edu/big-problems-courses; see course description. Once given consent, attendance on the first day is mandatory. Questions: mb31@uchicago.edu.
Note(s): Note(s): English majors: this course fulfills the Theory (H) distribution requirement.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 25954, TAPS 28466, MAAD 20700, ENGL 25970, BPRO 28700, ENGL 32314, CMST 35954, ARTV 20700

ARTV 30805. Framing, Re-framing, and Un-framing Cinema. 100 Units.
By cinema, we mean the art of the moving image, which is not limited to the material support of a flexible band called film. This art reaches back to early devices to trick the eye into seeing motion and looks forward to new media and new modes of presentation. With the technological possibility of breaking images into tiny pixels and reassembling them and of viewing them in new way that this computerized image allows, we now face the most radical transformation of the moving image since the very beginnings of cinema. A collaboration between the OpenEndedGroup (Marc Downie and Paul Kaiser), artists who have created new modes of the moving image for more than decade, and film scholar Tom Gunning, this course will use this moment of new technologies to explore and expand the moving image before it becomes too rigidly determined by the powerful industrial forces now propelling it forward. This course will be intensely experimental as we see how we might use new computer algorithms to take apart and re-experience classic films of the past. By using new tools, developed for and during this class, students will make new experiences inside virtual reality environments for watching, analyzing, and recombining films and that are unlike any other. These tools will enable students, regardless of previous programming experience, to participate in this crucial technological and cultural juncture.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27805, CMST 37805, ARTV 20805

ARTV 30941. Monochrome Multitudes. 100 Units.
This seminar traces modern monochrome art as a fundamental if surprisingly expansive artistic practice. Discussions will center on artworks in the eponymous fall 2022 exhibition at the David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art curated by the instructors. We will revisit classic North American Modernism—“essentialist” flatness, idealized form, and color theories-while opening monochrome art up to culturally resonant color, a range of media, and global influence. Student research will enrich and expand existing histories of “the monochrome” by articulating cultural, political, racial, or gendered meanings of monochrome art; emphasizing the significance of materials and media; and engaging North American art in a global dialogue. Students will have the opportunity to contribute their research and writing to the exhibition’s web-based audio app and to a research symposium and possible publication.
Instructor(s): O. Cacchione & C. Mehring Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): consent only
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 31325, ARTV 20941, ARTV 21325, KNOW 21325, KNOW 31325

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: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 21501

ARTV 31702. Drawing Concepts. 100 Units.
This course will focus on expanding the definition and practice of drawing. Studio work will engage traditional, spatial and process-oriented mark making in order to materialize thematically driven projects. Emphasis will be placed equally on the formal concerns of subject, material, and technique as well as the ability to effectively convey one’s concept. Projects will include weekly and longer-term assignments, in addition to critique. Participation in field trips is required.
Instructor(s): B. Collins Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 21702

ARTV 31703. Seeing Through Drawing. 100 Units.
This studio course will center on seeing through the act of drawing. Understanding the foundations of observation will allow students to focus on drawing as a practice of deep looking. Studio work and readings will engage with histories of bearing witness, the complexities of sight, and vision-centered practices. Drawing is not restricted to artists; it is used as a description, language, and form-building method. We will question what spending time with a subject is, as both a perceptual and political act. Sites of departure include courtroom sketches, architectural studies, life drawings, and devices as still lives. Beginning with traditional techniques focused on formal concerns, students will quickly progress to question these modes and innovate based on their own connections to the content. Issues of time, control, and repetition in our daily lives become fuel for studio investigations while maintaining a sketchbook throughout. Experimentation with materials and installation strategies will propel class discussions. We will work outside of the classroom whenever possible, and museum and site visits will augment live drawing sessions in class.
Instructor(s): H. Smith Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 21703

ARTV 31800. Studio Practice. 100 Units.
This course considers a variety of methods, processes and media to explore conceptual issues pertinent to a contemporary art practice. Through research, material investigation, experimentation and revision, students will develop their own approach to a daily self-directed practice. Projects will include weekly and longer-term assignments, individual and collaborative work. We will also look at the practices of established artists for possible models. Participation in several field trips is required.
Instructor(s): B. Collins Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 21800

ARTV 31900. Color Theory and Practice. 100 Units.
This course will introduce students to practical aspects of color mixing and the visual impacts of specific color combinations through a series of studio exercises and projects. Conceptual and theoretical investigations into optics, the science of color, and psychological and symbolic effects will contribute to an overall understanding of color in relation to visual culture and perception.
Instructor(s): S. Wolniak Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 21900

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): C. Bradley Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300.
Equivalent Course(s): 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.
This 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.
Instructor(s): K. Desjardins Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
ARTV 32202. Introduction to Painting II. 100 Units.
No description available
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22002

ARTV 32314. Ceramics: Adaptive Practices. 100 Units.
Ceramics has accompanied the adaptive dance of human survival for at least 30,000 years. Sitting in proximity to food, architecture, death rights and more, this course will think forward with the material. What forms of adaptivity are currently required? This is a course in speculative fiction with the material of clay in all its forms, fix and unfixed, working through wet, dry, fired, and glazed.
Instructor(s): A. Ginsburg Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22002

ARTV 32317. Intuitive Form. 100 Units.
Taking the Rorschach Test as a point of departure, students will learn how to associate based on the "intuitive forms" they create serving as the "ambiguous stimulus". Learning perspective is to produce quickly and intuitively in two "immediate" materials: unfired clay and drawing. The making will take place in class as exercises, and most materials will be recycled to underline the focus on process instead of product. There will be short lectures throughout the quarter to discuss methods of association and interpretation, and to give an introduction to the Rorschach Test as a method of Psychoanalytic "Free Association". There will be written assignments and I am planning to invite a guest visitor from the Psychoanalytic Institute of Chicago.
Instructor(s): J. Phillips Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22314

ARTV 32318. Nine Exigent Times. 100 Units.
This discussion-based seminar will engage deeply with the form and context of nine works of art spanning the timeframe of 1810 to our contemporary moment. With this broad horizon line, the class will take up questions the question of how artists across time and space have responded to situations of emergency in culture. Seminar format open to DoVA majors and minors, DoVA MFAs, and MA students in MAPH. This class can be counted as a studio class toward the DoVA major or minor with consent of instructor.
Instructor(s): G. Oppenheimer Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22318

ARTV 32322. Sensing the Anthropocene. 100 Units.
In this co-taught 3-week and in-person course between the departments of English (Jennifer Scappettone) and Visual Arts (Amber Ginsburg), we will deploy those senses most overlooked in academic discourse surrounding aesthetics and urbanism-hearing, taste, touch, and smell—to explore the history and actuality of Chicago as a site of anthropogenic changes. Holding our classes entirely out of doors, we will move through the city seeking out and documenting traces of the city’s foundations in phenomena such as the colonization of the ancestral homelands of the Three Fires Confederacy and trade routes of many other indigenous groups; the filling in of swamp; the redirection of the river; and the creation of transportation and industrial infrastructure—all with uneven effects on human and nonhuman inhabitants. Coursework will combine readings in history and theory of the Anthropocene together with examples of how artists and activists have made the Anthropocene visible and audible, providing forums for experimental documentation and annotations as we draw, score, map, narrate, sing, curate and collate our sensory experience of the Anthropocene.
Instructor(s): A. Ginsburg, J. Scappettone Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Third or fourth-year standing
Note(s): This intensive three-week course meets out of doors from September 27 through October 17. Graduate registration by Consent Only.
Equivalent Course(s): ARCH 22322, ENGL 47700, ARTV 22322, BPRO 27200, ENST 27700, CHST 27200, ENGL 27700

ARTV 32325. Porcelain: a stroll between the mundane and the wondrous. 100 Units.
The story of porcelain begins about 2000 years ago in China where a robust ceramics technology was flourishing and where kaolin, the substance integral to porcelain’s translucency and strength was readily available, along with convenient transportation systems that availed these wares first across Asia, and then in the 17th century, made its way to Europe where it was considered white gold. Students will explore various strategies for making objects that range from the vernacular to the extraordinary. While dinnerware and small decorative objects are porcelain’s primary usage, using this raw material, and glazes, we will experiment within and beyond these forms.
Instructor(s): L. Letinsky Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22325
ARTV 32501. Art & Machine Intelligence. 100 Units.
Artists have long used autonomous processes to aid in the creation of their work. From 18th century parlor games to contemporary visual culture, creators have applied stochastic methods, automation, and simulation to generate music, text, and imagery. In the last five years, as machine learning has matured into broadly applicable artificial intelligence, artists have turned towards neural networks as a new frontier for creative practice. This studio course will explore the history and uses of autonomous creative tools and focus, more specifically, on leading edge artistic applications of AI. Students will receive exposure to a breadth of methods in this domain and produce multiple projects engaged with these topics. Software development experience is not required, though it may be useful.
Instructor(s): J. Salavon Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 22501, MAAD 25201

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, MAAD 23801

ARTV 33804. Experimental Animation: Exploring Manual Techniques. 100 Units.
Individually directed video shorts will be produced in this intensive studio course. Experimental and improvised approaches to animation and motion picture art will focus on analog and material techniques, with basic digital post-production also being introduced. Early and experimental cinema, puppetry and contemporary low-tech animation 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, MAAD 23804

ARTV 33808. Introduction to 16mm Filmmaking. 100 Units.
The goal of this intensive laboratory course is to give its students a working knowledge of film production using the 16mm gauge. The course will emphasize how students can use 16mm technology towards successful cinematography and image design (for use in both analog and digital postproduction scenarios) and how to develop their ideas towards constructing meaning through moving pictures. Through a series of group exercises, students will put their hands on equipment and solve technical and aesthetic problems, learning to operate and care for the 16mm Bolex film camera; prime lenses; Sekonic light meter; Schiltler tripod; and Arri light kit and accessories. For a final project, students will plan and produce footage for an individual or small group short film. The first half the class will be highly structured, with demonstrations, in-class shoots and lectures. As the semester continues, class time will open up to more of a workshop format to address the specific concerns and issues that arise in the production of the final projects. This course is made possible by the Charles Roven Fund for Cinema and Media Studies.
Instructor(s): Thomas Comerford Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Students will need written permission to enroll in the course. To bid for entry into the class, please email tcomerford@uchicago.edu with your name, major and year -- and please list any other media production or photography experience. Enrollment priority will be given to graduate and undergraduate CMS students, beginning with seniors, then to DoVA graduates and undergraduates, then to students in other departments.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 23808, MAAD 23808, CMST 28921, CMST 38921

ARTV 33920. Drawing II: Exploded Drawing. 100 Units.
This intensive studio course will explore wide-ranging strategies in drawing and two-dimensional composition. Interrogating conventions of representation and pictorial space, students will develop new formal and conceptual possibilities that relate to the complexities and changing perspectives of contemporary life. Drawing will be addressed as an expansive, open-ended outlet for thought and action. Emphasis will be on innovation within the fundamental structures of the medium, including its history, materials, and techniques.
Instructor(s): S. Wolniak Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 23920

ARTV 33930. Documentary Production I. 100 Units.
Documentary Video Production focuses on the making of independent documentary video. Examples of various modes of documentary production will be screened and discussed. Issues embedded in the genre, such as the ethics, the politics of representation, and the shifting lines between "the real" and "fiction" will be explored. Story development, pre-production strategies, and production techniques will be our focus, in particular-research, relationships, the camera, interviews and sound recording, shooting in available light, working in crews, and post-production editing. Students will work in crews and be expected to purchase a portable hard drive. A five-minute string-out/rough-cut will be screened at the end of the quarter. Students are strongly encouraged to take Doc Production 2 to complete their work.
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Prior or concurrent enrollment in CMST 10100 recommended for undergraduate students.
ARTV 33931. Documentary Production II. 100 Units.
Documentary Video Production II focuses on the shaping and crafting of a non-Fiction video. Enrollment will be limited to those students who have taken Documentary Production I. The class will discuss issues of ethics, power, and representation in this most philosophical and problematic of genres. Students will be expected to write a treatment outline detailing their project and learn about granting agencies and budgeting. Production techniques will concentrate on the language of handheld camera versus tripod, interview methodologies, microphone placement including working with wireless systems and mixers, and lighting for the interview. Post-production will cover editing techniques including color correction and audio sweetening, how to prepare for exhibition, and distribution strategies.
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 33930, ARTV 33930, CMST 23930, HMRT 35106, MAAD 23930, CHST 23930

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 course, 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): E. Hogeman Terms Offered: Autumn Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300.
Note(s): Students need their own 35mm film camera. Some film and paper are provided, but students need to purchase additional supplies. More details will be provided on the first day of class and on Canvas.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24000

ARTV 34004. Introduction to Color Photography. 100 Units.
Photography is a familiar medium due to its ubiquitous presence in our visual world, including popular culture and personal usage. We all have photographic habits and ample experience taking and consuming images. In this course, we will use photography as a means toward developing an aesthetic and theoretical language for creating art. Through readings, slideshows, and discussions, we will investigate color photography in relation to its historical and social context in order to more consciously engage the contemporary photograph’s communicative and expressive possibilities. Students will be given constraint-driven assignments to help them unpack their habits and develop an understanding of the principles of photography and color editing workflows. Students are recommended to have their own DSLR camera with manual settings, but all camera formats are welcome.
Instructor(s): E. Hogeman Terms Offered: Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24004

ARTV 34112. Advanced Problems in Sculpture. 100 Units.
This course is open to all manifestations of sculptural practice broadly defined, including performance and film/video. A particular focus of the course will be considering issues of presence/the index, material histories, economic determination, and societal legibility. Readings on sculptural history from the 19th through the 21st century will be used to illuminate contemporary concerns and issues.
Instructor(s): G. Oppenheimer Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300 and ARTV 22200 or consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24112

ARTV 34122. Diasporic Practices in Contemporary Art. 100 Units.
The class will examine various phenomena of “Diasporic Practices in Contemporary Art”, such as fragmented histories, the question of origin(ality), the limits of translation, social belonging and “the chosen family”, and (over)-representation of origin. In class we will discuss readings by (a.o.) Grada Kilomba, Adrian Piper, Eduard Glissant, Langston Hughes, Trinh T. Minh-ha, and Hito Steyerl. Students will be asked to present on contemporary artists highlighting their diasporic strategies, while also producing creative works through assignments that employ diasporic strategies and that will be discussed in class.
Instructor(s): J. Phillips Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Note(s): Please email Julia Phillips juliajphillips@uchicago.edu with a brief description of how your work relates to a diasporic experience and/or your personal investment in the subject (150-300 words).
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 24122, GNSE 28122, ARTV 24122, CRES 24122, GNSE 38122

ARTV 34124. STU. 100.00 Units.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24124
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: Autumn
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): Pope.L Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24301, TAPS 28414

ARTV 34403. Advanced Photography. 100 Units.
The goal of this course is to develop students' investigations and explorations in photography, building on beginning level experience and basic facility with this medium. Students pursue a line of artistic inquiry by participating in a process that involves experimentation, reading, gallery visits, critiques, and discussions, but mostly by producing images. Primary emphasis is placed upon the visual articulation of the ideas of students through their work, as well as the verbal expression of their ideas in class discussions, critiques, and artist's statements. As a vital component of articulating ideas and inquiry, students will refine their skills, e.g., black and white or color printing, medium or large format camera usage, or experimenting with light-sensitive materials.
Instructor(s): L. Letinsky Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300; and 24000.
Note(s): Camera and light meter required.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24403

ARTV 34703. Mixed-Media Drawing: From Object to Concept. 100 Units.
An object of your choice will serve as a departure point for this process-oriented studio course that takes you through a sequenced exploration of a variety of mixed media drawing materials, methods, and approaches: from observation to abstraction-to the purely conceptual. Readings, critical writing, and discussion are intended to reinforce fluidity between theory, your ideas, and your art practice. This course is augmented by an image bank and gallery visits. Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300 Note(s): Open to all levels of experience.
Instructor(s): K. Desjardins Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Note(s): Open to all levels of experience.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24703

ARTV 34706. Drawing Through the World: Relational Ways of Seeing. 100 Units.
This studio drawing course proposes an examination of the relationship between drawing and seeing, knowing, and revealing connections in our experience of the world. Our departure point is the human figure. Rather than moving inward (anatomy), we move outward from the figure in to space, drawing diagrammatically through the visual field, intent on expanding our ability to make visual and conceptual connections as we sharpen our observational drawing skills. A wide range of ideas--including Klee, Piaget, and Bourriaud--will be considered alongside our efforts in class. Guest speakers, field trips, and seminar discussions augment this studio drawing course. No prior drawing experience required. Students from across disciplines/working with any art media welcome.
Instructor(s): K. Desjardins Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200 or 10300
Note(s): This is a 3-week intensive class that meets the first three weeks of the quarter.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24706

ARTV 34709. Experimental Drawing. 100 Units.
This course takes an expansive view of drawing. We will begin with traditional techniques and materials, while moving beyond observational frameworks to examine the relationship between drawing and other disciplines, including performance and sculpture. Our focus will be non-objective drawing, non-traditional materials, and process-based works. Lectures, slide presentations, readings and dedicated studio time will familiarize students with contemporary drawing practices through less traditional means and a wide variety of drawing media. Critiques will follow each of the four longer-duration projects.
Instructor(s): B. Collins Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24709

ARTV 34711. In the Service of Ideas: Conceptual Art. 100 Units.
What constitutes a “good idea” for an artwork, and how are ideas brought into material existence? How does the form of artwork communicate meaning? Can an idea be heavier and longer lasting than a block
of stone? Questions of medium and form persist in conversations about and approaches to visual art. In this multidisciplinary studio class, students will be challenged to develop projects from conceptual origins-manifesting works from the ether of thought, and locating the best possible medium for a given idea. Traditional visual art principles such as observation, composition, process, representation and visual language will be considered through the prism of concept. A wide variety of mediums including drawing, sculpture, installation, and video will be introduced as possible outcomes for student work, with the expectation that new forms, hybrid “intermedia” and entirely non-material outcomes may also result. Art historical models such as text art, land art, site-specific installation, video, social practice and institutional critique will be presented in support of studio assignments and projects.

Instructor(s): S. Wolniak Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 24711

ARTV 36215. Comedy Central 2: The Body’s Genres. 100 Units.
The story of comedy from the classics on focuses on the comedic as a weapon, as play that disrupts communication, and as a source of moral revelation. This course will take up those relations, but begins with the body. We will focus on the plastic, corporeal, affective, and psychodramatic dynamics of the comedic. So much so, in fact, that we’re calling it a studio seminar: it will involve actively participating in exercises adapted from the somatic arts, contemporary dance, music, theatre and contemporary comedy and developing new ones. Recognizing that bodies are as much created by movement as engendering it, and recognizing that the comedic is a register for translating the impact of other bodies including the world’s body, the course will partition “the body” into focal themes such as: scale/gesture, the vocal grotesque/irony, movement/interruption, trauma/repair, slapstick/satire, ritual/convention, spontaneity/improvisation; cognitive laughter/belly laughter. Readings will include texts by Linda Williams, Erving Goffman, J.L. Moreno, Elias Canetti, Moshe Feldenkrais, Steve Paxton, Mikhail Bakhtin, Mae West, Jerry Lewis and Fred Moten. Students will contribute their own choices to an exploration of individual performances by Buster Keaton, Louise Lasser, Eleo Pomare, Phyllis Diller, Jackie “Moms” Mabley, and Jerrod Carmichael.

Instructor(s): L. Berlant, C. Sullivan Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 36407, TAPS 36215

ARTV 37205. Life Painting. 100 Units.
This course will introduce students to painting the human figure. Nude models will be featured in each class and painted from observation. Historical and contemporary methods of oil painting will be part of the curriculum, as well as an introduction to human anatomy.

Instructor(s): D. Schutter Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 27205

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 37920. Virtual Reality Production. 100 Units.
Focusing on experimental moving-image approaches at a crucial moment in the emerging medium of virtual reality, this class will explore and interrogate each stage of production for VR. By hacking their way around the barriers and conventions of current software and hardware to create new optical experiences, students will design, construct and deploy new ways of capturing the world with cameras and develop new strategies and interactive logics for placing images into virtual spaces. Underpinning these explorations will be a careful discussion, dissection and reconstruction of techniques found in the emerging VR “canon” that spans new modes of journalism and documentary, computer games, and narrative “VR cinema.” Film production and computer programming experience is welcome but not a prerequisite for the course. Students will be expected to develop short “sketches” of approaches in VR towards a final short VR experience.

Instructor(s): Marc Downie Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Film production and computer programming experience is welcome but not a prerequisite for the course. Students will be expected to complete short “sketches” of approaches in VR towards a final short VR experience.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 37920, CMST 27920, MAAD 24920, ARTV 27920

ARTV 37921. Augmented Reality Production. 100 Units.
Focusing on experimental moving-image approaches at a crucial moment in the emerging medium of augmented reality, this class will explore and interrogate each stage of production of AR works. Students in this production-based class will examine the techniques and opportunities of this new kind of moving image. During this class we’ll study the construction of examples across a gamut from locative media, journalism, and gameplay-based
works to museum installations. Students will complete a series of critical essays and sketches towards a final augmented reality project using a custom set of software tools developed in and for the class.

Instructor(s): Marc Downie
Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): MAAD 22911, CMST 27911, CMST 37911, ARTV 27921

ARTV 37923. Experimental Captures. 100 Units.
This production-based class will explore the possibilities and limits of capturing the world with imaging approaches that go beyond the conventional camera. What new and experimental image-based artworks can be created with technologies such as laser scanning, structured light projection, time of flight cameras, photogrammetry, stereography, motion capture, sensor augmented cameras or light field photography? This hands-on course welcomes students with production experience while being designed to keep established tools and commercial practices off-kilter and constantly in question.

Instructor(s): M. Downie
Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 37011, MAAD 21011, ARTV 27923, CMST 27011

ARTV 38100. Art/World in Practice. 100 Units.
As an attempt to experience art making as a profession and as a practice, we will spend 3 consecutive weeks as an intensive course off campus. As a class we will visit exhibitions, meet people behind the scenes (curators / artists / gallerists / fabricators), if the health condition allows visit a screening / lecture, and allow for informal time together to give space to questions that arise from our shared experiences. Participants will be asked to prepare reports of our various planned activities. There will also be a tight selection of readings that will be in relation to our activities. Participants should be prepared to gather in various places throughout the city of Chicago and for class time to end with a bit of flexibility towards the end.

Instructor(s): J. Phillips
Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): ARTV 10100, 10200, or 10300
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 28100

ARTV 39700. Independent Study in Visual Arts. 100-300 Units.
Students in this course should have already done fundamental course work and be ready to explore a particular area of interest much more closely.

Instructor(s): Staff
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

ARTV 39901. 21st Century Art. 100 Units.
This course will consider the practice and theory of visual art in the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will read a variety of crucial contemporary texts, including those of Thierry De Duve, Boris Groys, Sianne Ngai, and Hito Steyerl, among others. Students should be prepared to produce a research paper at the conclusion of the seminar. Our first reading will be De Duve’s Kant After Duchamp, which should be completed before our first day of class.

Instructor(s): M.J. Jackson
Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Instructor’s consent is required.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 42911

ARTV 40000. Graduate Studio Project. 100-300 Units.
Only MFA students in the Department of Visual Arts may register for this class.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

ARTV 40100. Mexico: Near and Far, a la distancia y para dentro. 100 Units.
This travel seminar is only open to MFA students in the Department of Visual Arts.

Instructor(s): L. Letinsky
Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): This travel seminar is only open to MFA students in the Department of Visual Arts.

ARTV 40310. Technology and Aesthetics. 100 Units.
New technologies regularly enable new mediums, styles, genres, and narrative forms as they offer us new ways to record the world, express ourselves, and tell stories. But the advent of each new artistic and literary form raises anew fundamental theoretical questions: what is the difference between an objective record of the world and an artistic rendition of it? Is what makes something art the creator’s intent or the viewer’s perception of it as art? That is, can something be experienced as art if it is not intended as such? What, even, is a narrative, given our minds’ tendency to resolve any random pattern into a coherent series of cause and effect? And, finally, as new technologies offer endless new creative possibilities, how can we continuously recalibrate how we define art and engage with it? This class will span the 19th through the 21st centuries to explore how technological innovation has produced new literary and aesthetic forms while addressing the above questions. Its aim is two-fold: to offer a deeper understanding of literary and artistic movements and (often-canonical) texts by relating them to technoscientific concerns and contexts, and to strengthen students’ foundation in literary and aesthetic theory. Thus, we will read key works of fiction that represent new aesthetic paradigms alongside scholarship that puts them into context and theoretical texts, including those of Walter Benjamin, Michael Saler, Catherine Gallagher, and Henry Jenkins.

Instructor(s): Anastasia Klimchynskaya
Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): KNOW 40310, ARTH 40311, CHSS 40410
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 39700. Independent Study in Visual Arts. 100-300 Units.
Students in this course should have already done fundamental course work and be ready to explore a particular area of interest much more closely.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

ARTV 39901. 21st Century Art. 100 Units.
This course will consider the practice and theory of visual art in the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will read a variety of crucial contemporary texts, including those of Thierry De Duve, Boris Groys, Sianne Ngai, and Hito Steyerl, among others. Students should be prepared to produce a research paper at the conclusion of the seminar. Our first reading will be De Duve’s Kant After Duchamp, which should be completed before our first day of class.
Instructor(s): M.J. Jackson Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Instructor’s consent is required.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 42911

ARTV 40000. Graduate Studio Project. 100-300 Units.
Only MFA students in the Department of Visual Arts may register for this class.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter