VISUAL ARTS - STUDIO (VAST)

VAST 101 — Fundamentals of Drawing Course count: 1
An exciting introduction to studio art through an exploration of drawing media. Class critiques and discussions, insure the beginning student of a solid introduction to the creative process. Students work with charcoal, ink, graphite, watercolor pencils and other drawing materials. The course includes intensive sketchbook work as well as larger drawings based on observation. In addition, students acquire skill in figure drawing by working from the model. Taught by the studio staff and a prerequisite for many intermediate courses.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Arts
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

VAST 102 — 3-Dimensional Fundamentals Course count: 1
For students who are interested in an introduction to the physical world of sculptural art. Students explore the basic tools, processes and approaches to 3-Dimensional art through wood, clay wire, cloth and found objects.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Arts
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

VAST 105 — Digital Art Studio 1 Course count: 1
A hands-on introduction to digital art making processes on Macintosh computers. Generate and manipulate images and files within an artistic context. Think creatively, work digitally and examine the potential of digital art making as a new form of art. In addition to class projects and critiques in the media lab, students discuss contemporary artists who use the computer in their work.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Arts
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 130 — Photography 1 Course count: 1
For students with a serious interest in the creative use of black and white photography. Teaches exposure controls, camera operation, and rudimentary film developing and printing. Continuous work and advancement is achieved through creative photography assignments and criticism.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Arts
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

VAST 140 — Digital Filmmaking Course count: 1
This course focuses on the techniques and theory of video production. Through a series of assignments, students will learn the basic technical elements of still and moving image productions. A variety of production formats will be discussed; focusing primarily on creative, lens-based documentary-style productions. Class time will be divided between equipment demonstrations, discussions, and critique. Topics include proper camera use, sound recording, editing, and presentation. Through critical readings and selected screenings, students will gain familiarity with the historical and contemporary trends in visual storytelling through moving images. Students will develop a set of production skills that will culminate in a collaborative group project.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Arts
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

VAST 150 — Drawing on Site Course count: 1
A sketchbook is invaluable for experimentation with drawing, recording memories, practicing instinct and observation and connecting art with the everyday world and experience. This course will explore both studio work as well as Worcester and Holy Cross sites each week and use these sites to build upon fundamental drawing concepts in order to create unique and personal artist sketchbooks. Line, value, shape, form, perspective, measurement, composition and other elements are included using direct observation. A variety of methods and materials of drawing will be investigated and used to explore both contemporary and historical perspectives to make on-site drawings within the parameters of the sketchbook. The course will also investigate the various formats and concepts of both contemporary and historical sketchbooks.

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Arts
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

VAST 200 — Painting 1 Course count: 1
An introduction to the principles, methods, and materials of oil painting in both historical and contemporary contexts. Emphasis placed on developing an understanding of form and space in pictorial compositions, strengthening perceptual abilities, and increasing knowledge of the use of color as it pertains to painting. Supplemental readings and field trips provide further connection and investigations of the history and process of Painting.

Prerequisite: One previous studio art course

GPA units: 1

VAST 201 — Painting 2 Course count: 1
A continuation and expansion of the skills acquired in Painting 1. Students are introduced to a wider range of experimental painting methods using oil based media, and will be working in large as well as small scale formats. The context of painting in contemporary art will be heavily emphasized in this course.

Prerequisite: VAST 200 or by permission

GPA units: 1
Common Area: Arts
Typically Offered: Annually
VAST 203 — Fundamentals of Color  
Course count: 1  
Color is the most dynamic and complex of all the visual elements. In this course students explore color theory as it applies to a variety of media, including painting, collage, digital media and installation. Discussion of color and its relationships to composition through harmony and contrast is emphasized. In addition students explore applications of color that are symbolic as well as cultural. Students working in all media will benefit greatly from a solid understanding of color relationships, and will gain the skills to apply their knowledge to any chosen medium.  
Prerequisite: VAST 105, VAST 199 (Digital Art Design) or VAST 199 (Studio Digital Art).  
GPA units: 1  
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 204 — Digital Art Studio 2  
Course count: 1  
An explanatory approach to the next level of using digital processes as a fine art medium. Building upon the skills learned in Digital Art Studio 1, students will examine the impact of digital processes on art and artists, research the work of artists who use digital process to produce art, and create computer-based artworks in formats ranging from large format digital prints to web-based art and digital objects.  
Prerequisite: VAST 105 or VAST 130.  
GPA units: 1  
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 205 — New Media  
Course count: 1  
New Media radically explores diverse and contemporary methods of digital production and output (including but not limited to computer graphics, computer animation, Internet art, and interactive technologies, on platforms ranging from computer monitors to projections, video game consoles to portable electronic devices), raising issues regarding the nature of the physical art object, the expanding role of emerging digital processes in artistic production, and the role new media art plays in the production and dissemination of contemporary artistic practice.  
Prerequisite: VAST 105 or VAST 130 or VAST 140.  
GPA units: 1  
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 206 — Drawn to Nature  
Course count: 1  
GPA units: 1

VAST 207 — Life Drawing  
Course count: 1  
Students work from the nude model each session. Emphasis is on a structural understanding of the figure and on expressive approach to drawing. Work in a range of media including charcoal, pencil and wash. In addition to class work, work on independent projects in drawing.  
Prerequisite: VAST 101 or with permission of instructor.  
GPA units: 1  
Common Area: Arts  
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 208 — Cutting Edge: Beyond Collage  
Course count: 1  
This course begins with collaging on a 2-dimensional plane and moves into making sculptural assemblages. Collage is a method for interweaving complex shapes and images. Visual fragments from flat fibers and images are combined to create interlocking forms of both actual and perceived shapes. Assemblage is the process of joining found objects together into a sculptural object. The course will place an emphasis on how edges join in both a physical and illusory way. Students will learn to consider the most sophisticated way to join parts, whether it is gluing, wrapping, weaving, sewing, or using hardware etc. Assemblage and Collage refer not only to the technique of combining objects and or images in a new way but also to new attitudes and ideas about how the world is perceived and re-contextualized. As a primary medium of the 20th century, the processes of Assemblage and Collage reflect the modern age of technology and culture. The students will be introduced to the major artists using these techniques from the 18th century to the modern age. Issues of copyright will be discussed also.  
GPA units: 1  
Common Area: Arts

VAST 210 — Printmaking 1  
Course count: 1  
Printmaking is closely linked to drawing, but with a different range of marks, textures, and line quality. This course introduces the process of printmaking, including layering, improvisation and working with multiples. The class focuses on screen printing, intaglio printing, or making images on copper plates. Students learn to use the materials and techniques of printmaking to communicate their individual ideas in a contemporary context. This course can be taken in addition to Print Projects.  
Prerequisite: One previous drawing course or with permission of Instructor.  
GPA units: 1  
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 211 — Mixed Media  
Course count: 1  
Mixed Media is an intermediate studio art course in which students will explore a variety of experimental and mixed media painting and drawing techniques through the use of collage, found objects, digital media and image transfer. We will be using acrylic paints and mediums predominately in this course, and some assignments may call for the student to obtain additional “non-art” materials from home. This course will encourage improvisation and experimentation in student’s work, and introduce them to a wide variety of options beyond traditional applications of painting and drawing, and will lay the groundwork to developing independent and self-directed works. Formal elements such as form, color, paint application, and composition will be emphasized throughout each assignment, as will content and thematic exploration.  
Prerequisite: VAST 210  
GPA units: 1
VAST 213 — Book Projects Course count: 1
Explores the tradition of handmade artists' books and more recent experimental book forms. How do images work together in a sequence? What kind of narrative can be created by blinding images and text into a book form? What are the possible physical forms for the book? In addition to making conventional and experimental books in the print studio, students make a digital book in the Millard Media Lab. Through readings and discussions, this course examines the emergence of the "artists' book" in the 1960's and the work of contemporary artists.

Prerequisite: One previous studio art course
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

VAST 220 — Sculpture 1 Course count: 1
Sculpture 1 explores the elements of 3-Dimensional expression in projects of varied media. Students are exposed to sculptural issues via slide presentations on past and present works in sculpture. Class critiques allow students to refine both concepts and expression to create a personal synthesis.

Prerequisite: VAST 102
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 222 — Intermediate Drawing Course count: 1
This course continues to build basic drawing skills and fosters the development of an individual drawing style. The content of Drawing I includes drawing from models, drawing in color, and other drawing forms such as collage and sequential drawing. Students are encouraged to explore new content in their work. Course includes readings, sketchbook work, and a visit to an exhibition. This course was previously known as VAST 121 - Drawing 1.

Prerequisite: VAST 101
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 230 — Photography 2 Course count: 1
This is an advanced course on the fundamentals of creative photography. Class time will be devoted to lab demonstrations as well as critical discussions of student work. Through regular lectures and discussion, students will become familiar with aesthetic movements and notable practitioners, with a focus on contemporary trends in the medium. An emphasis will be placed on the development of the students' own ideas about photography as demonstrated through a multi-week project culminating in a final printed portfolio. Students will be expected to acquire an intermediate level of technical skill within a digital workflow by refining their image editing skills utilizing Adobe Creative Cloud applications to create inkjet prints. Additional topics will include darkroom processing and large format printing. Students are required to supply their own digital camera with manual controls (DSLR or equivalent), although specialty equipment (such as film-based cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment) will be available for student use.

Prerequisite: VAST 130
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 300 — Studio Concentration Seminar 1 Course count: 1
Focuses on developing a "subject" or idea that can serve as the basis for a concise body of artwork reflecting the studio major's individual viewpoint and distinct aesthetic voice. In creating this body of work, students are challenged to take risks and experience both the discovery and failure that is the basis of the creative process. Each student has an individual space in Millard Art Center for intensive work. Students may work in any combination of media that serves their ideas. Critiques, trips, readings and discussion address the process of developing a body of work as well as issues of professionalism as an artist. Student work is evaluated at the end of fall semester for admission into the Studio Concentration Seminar II.

GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 301 — Studio Concentration Seminar 2 Course count: 1
The second semester of the Studio Concentration Seminar focuses on completing a cohesive body of work for the Senior Exhibition in the Cantor Art Gallery. In addition to producing and selecting work for the exhibition, students develop their artists' statements. Involvement in all aspects of mounting a professional exhibition including presentation of work, publicity, installation of the show and presentation of work to the College community.

Prerequisite: VAST 300. Enrollment limited to 4th year VAST Majors.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

VAST 330 — Tutorial Course count: 1
Tutorials relate to all areas covered by Visual Arts Studio 200 courses.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

VAST 430 — Tutorial Course count: 1
Tutorials relate to all areas covered by Visual Arts Studio 200 courses.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring