

Semester: Spring 2025
Class Meeting Time: M & W 8:30 am –
11:30 am
Classroom: FAD 105
3 Credits

Instructor: Ebenezer Nketsiah Mensah
Instructor Contact: mensah.enketsiah@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Fridays 10:00 am – 12 noon



perceptual studio

Art 2825C

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

PERCEPTUAL STUDIO will question and expand your understanding of seeing and how it is informed by physical, psychological, and ideological systems. The course emphasizes experimentation and research focused on contemporary art and design practices to explore visual organizational methods. Students will explore visual dynamics through hand, lens and digital processes.

METHOD:

Collaborative and individualized studio practices will be informed by a provocative mix of artworks, readings, lectures, video/film screenings, web-based research, museum visits, and discussions. Critiques and exhibitions will engage students in analyzing and synthesizing their own perceptual investigations and understanding about what is involved in seeing.

MAJOR TOPICS:

The course is divided into four basic units with corresponding investigations through studio practice, reading, discussions, and in-class exercises.

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO SEEING AND LOOKING

Topics: What is Art? Tools of looking, understanding of seeing, factors that affect visual perception

UNIT 2: VISUAL ORGANIZATION: SHAPE, LINE, VALUE

Topics: Pictorial Structures, impact of Cultural Context, translating the 3D World Into 2 Dimensions

UNIT 3: COLOR THEORY & PRACTICE

Topics: Biology of Seeing, Impact of The Machine, Technology, Roles of Psychology, Ideology, History

Unit 4: SEEING AND MEANING

Topics: Exploring perception as a physiological process, constructing and interpreting visual meaning

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TEXTS: Course reading materials are available on E-Learning

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

By participating in this class, the student will be able to:

- Effectively use media, composition, and materials to fulfil unit objectives
- Understand the way media, composition and materials can be intentionally used to create meaning in a work of art.
- Recognize that a willingness to take risks that may result in failure is as an important part of the creative process.
- Understand how the presentation and craft of a work shapes its meaning and reception.
- Describe and analyze the forms and content of creative work, articulating ideas, theory and questions associated with contemporary art practice.
- Analyze, challenge and expand your practice through engagement with aesthetic and conceptual ideas.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how history, culture, and social values effect the way we see.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the principles and elements of design and color theory to enhance the meaning of visual works of art.
- Utilize research strategies and link them to production of visual forms.
- Productively engage in the process of critique by communicating a reasoned analysis of work to peers respectfully, both orally and in writing.

The work from Perceptual Studio will be graded on their success in the following areas: concept development, excellent design decisions, craftsmanship, risk-taking, experimentation, ambition, and meeting in process deadlines. A sketch book is required for recording notes, ideas, research, and process, and all work must be finished within the specified deadlines.

EVALUATION

The course grade for each student will be evaluated based on:

- The completion and success of a series of exercises and projects.
- Completion of readings, writings, and discussions.
- Attendance at all assigned field trips and lectures.
- Research - the conceptual tools you employ to inform your practice.
- Technical competence, craft, and inventive use of materials.
- Presentation – all work should be presented in critique in a finished and professional manner.
- Effort, hard work, and a diligent, consistent effort toward excellence.

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- Active participation and discussion.

COURSE GRADES

80%	Unit Projects and Exercises
	Unit projects presented for critique and exercises turned in with the Unit Portfolio
10%	Sketchbook
	Sketch book work includes in class exercises, recording notes, ideas, research, and process. A minimum of 4 pages per week is expected. The sketchbook will be turned in with each Unit Portfolio, total of 76 full pages.
10%	Participation
	Participation includes student group reading presentations, arriving at studio ready to work on time, with materials, respectful behavior, studio clean up, following Health and Safety guidelines, and participation in critiques and class discussions.

GRADING

Letter Grade and Corresponding Grade Points are as follows

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0	0	0	0	0

Project grades in this course are considered in the following way:

A 4.0 Exceptional work, all criteria of assignment have been surpassed in a distinguished manner and solutions to problems presented exhibit a depth of understanding. In addition, student is engaged in exceptional studio practice, which includes active research, looking up artists recommended, asking relevant questions about other artists' works or ideas, and being thoroughly engaged in the course content.

A- 3.67 Well-presented, superior work: all criteria of assignment were surpassed in a distinguished manner (including exceptional studio practice highlighted above). Minimal improvements could be made to the project overall.

B+ 3.33 Very good work: all criteria of assignment were surpassed, minor changes could be considered and executed to bring piece together and studio practice was exceptional.

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- B** **3.0** Very good work: above average solutions and clear potential. Most criteria of assignment were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Execution was well done. Studio practice during the project was commendable.
- B-** **2.67** Good work: most criteria of assignment were met. Work showed promise with a few significant improvements to be made. Studio practice was adequate.
- C+** **2.33** Slightly above average: work, most of the criteria of the assignment were met. The work is not yet a unified whole or cohesive statement, yet effort was made. Studio practice was adequate but could be more reflective and thoughtful.
- C** **2.0** Average work: the assignment directions were followed, and the requirements were met in a relatively routine way. Slippage in levels of craft, originality and presentation- studio practice was adequate, but could be more reflective and thoughtful.
- C-** **2.67** Slightly below average work: the assignment directions were followed, and the requirements were minimally met, but there is much room for developing assignment's concepts further. The level of craft and breadth and depth of idea development needs to be improved. There is some evidence of studio practice, but the quality and quantity are lacking.
- D+** **1.33** Below average work: an attempt to solve the problem was made, but there is much room for improving skills and developing your concepts further. The criteria of the assignment are barely met. Basic craftsmanship skills have been neglected and there is a lack of breadth and depth of idea development. There is minimal evidence of studio practice, but the quality and quantity is lacking.
- D** **1.0** Inadequate, below average work: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard. There is little or no evidence of studio practice.
- D-** **.67** Unacceptable work and effort: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard. There is little or no evidence of studio practice.
- E** **0** Unacceptable work and effort: the work submitted is inadequate; the requirements of the problem are not addressed. The piece represents careless and/ or incomplete effort. No evidence of studio practice. Work is substandard. Or, assignment was not submitted.

For more information: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>
Students must earn a grade higher than C- to earn credit toward their major.

Bibliography

Harlan, Calvin. 1986, *Vision and Invention: An Introduction to Art Fundamentals*
Ocvirk, O. G. 2013, *Art Fundamentals: Theory and Practice*

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De Saumarez, Maurice 1983, *Basic Design: The Dynamics of Visual Form*

OVERVIEW

This course will include artwork and ideas that may be controversial. Our lectures and sections are designed to be places for discourse, not avoidance where we will think critically before reacting impulsively. Maturity and professionalism is expected from all students. Digital devices may be used for notetaking, research, and artmaking when appropriate, but off-topic browsing is not allowed.

ATTENDANCE

As a studio course your attendance and active participation is required. Students are expected to attend all classes. You are required to work/participate the duration of the scheduled class period. Full participation by showing completed work during all scheduled critiques is required along with active participation through shared ideas and commentary.

Unexcused absences will be cause for a lowered grade. Your fourth absence will result in ONE full letter grade drop. Absences will be counted from the first class meeting onward. University Policy. it is the student's responsibility to make up all work. Students should check with the instructor or another student outside of class time when they miss a class (prior to missing the class if possible), as in- and out-of-class exercises are spontaneously assigned. Students should bring a doctor's note for any class from which they expect to be excused. Please address any concerns, problems, and questions regarding this class to the instructor as they arise. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

TARDINESS: Arrival to class after start of class will be noted and three such incidences will count as one absence. Leaving early from class will also be considered as tardiness and will be counted as such.

Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Students who do not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of a course in which they are registered, and who have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, may be dropped from the course. The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors may prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

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LATE WORK

All projects, reading responses, and research projects must be completed on time for full credit. Specific due dates are stated on each project sheet and are announced in class. Failure to complete any project on time will result in a drop of one full letter grade, and failure to complete any other assignment, in-class exercises, or other class work, on time will result in a drop of ½ letter grade for each studio day it is late.

- If the timeline states that a project is due at the beginning of class, turning it in at the end or after class is considered late.
- You must have work finished before the start of class on critique days or your work will not be critiqued, and your project grade will be lowered.
- It is the student's responsibility to turn in all work on time.
- Full participation by showing completed work during all critiques is required along with active participation through shared ideas and commentary.

CLASS COMMUNICATIONS

Students must check their school email accounts regularly and the E-Learning course site. Students are responsible for any information, deadlines, and updates emailed to their UF e-mail accounts.

LOCKERS/STORAGE

The SA+AH is not responsible for items in lockers. Each student must share a locker with two students. You are responsible for keeping the locker form attached AT ALL TIMES. Lockers will be cleaned out at the end of each semester. When storing materials, write your name on everything with a black marker, the course you are in and the instructors name. The SA+AH is not responsible for items left in classrooms.

UNIVERSITY POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The Board of Regents and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays: Students, upon prior notification of their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from because of religious observances. Further, a student who is to be excused from class for a religious holy day is not required to provide a second party certification of the reasons for the absence.

UNIVERSITY ILLNESS POLICY

Students who are absent from classes or examinations because of illness should contact their professors. If you're unable to attend class due to illness, please email the teacher prior to class meeting time. Please state your name, class, as well as the reason you will not be attending class.

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GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SERVICES

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Disability Office — <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES

352-392-1575 <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>

University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal counseling.

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center provides counseling and consultation services to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students and their spouses/partners. The Center offers brief counseling and therapy to help students confront personal, academic, and career concerns. The primary goal of counseling is to help students develop the personal awareness and skills necessary to overcome problems and to grow and develop in ways that will allow them to take advantage of the educational opportunities at the university.

- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392- 1161, sexual assault counseling.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

HEALTHCARE

Student healthcare center <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>

For medical emergencies call 911.

For urgent after-hours care, call 352-392-1161.

For after-hours mental health assistance, call 352-392-1171

SAFETY AND SECURITY

In an emergency call 911.

University Police Department — <http://police.ufl.edu/> — 352-392-1111

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STUDENT NIGHTTIME AUXILIARY PATROL (SNAP)

SNAP provides nightly escorts anywhere on campus to persons on request. The service is staffed by students, equipped and supervised by the university police department. Escorts are routed on foot and driven trips. A person requesting an escort may contact SNAP via telephone at 392SNAP (92-7627). The requester provides their first name, location of pick-up and destination to the dispatcher who determines the best method of meeting the requester's need. A walking or driving escort is dispatched to their location.

GENERAL SAFETY

- Common sense and your best judgement are required at all times
- Closed toed shoes are recommended in studios and required in many labs
- Do not eat in any areas where art supplies are being used
- Avoid significant and prolonged skin contact with paint. Be especially careful with cadmium paints.
- Label paint water clearly
- Be careful, alert, and sober in the studios
- Wear clothes you can afford to get paint on. Some of our materials—ink in particular—are very staining.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SATELLITE ACCUMULATION

Please make yourself familiar with the SAAH Health and Safety Program at: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety> during the first week of class. Refer especially to the H&S Rules by Area sections pertaining to Drawing and Painting. Each student will be asked to complete a H&S student waiver form (which will be given and signed during studio).

SA+AH facilities have an area designated for art materials/hazardous waste pickup. This area should NOT be used for art making and bins and storage containers utilized in this area should NEVER be moved or used for any other purpose. When in doubt about the safety or disposal of your art materials, please speak with faculty. A Handbook of Hazardous Wastes Disposal, Health and Safety will be posted at the studio for consultation as well.

DRUG-FREE SCHOOL & WORKPLACE & CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT

The School of Art and Art History is committed to upholding the policies set forth by the University of Florida in regard to drug and alcohol use and smoking in educational facilities. Possession and use of drugs or alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the classroom or outdoor areas. In addition, The Florida Clean Indoor Air Act of 1992 prohibits smoking in educational facilities, including vaping. Violation of university policies and applicable laws is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges.

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SHARED STUDIO

Please leave the studio clean. Regardless of the condition you find it in, we request that you leave it clean for the next person. Remember to place all work in progress on the storage shelves. Leave the worktables clear and clean. This is a shared studio, and we all need to work together to keep it a clean and productive environment.

STUDIO PRACTICE

The instructor and the School of Art and Art History are not responsible for student work left in workspaces, installation spaces, the critique space, the shops, or the classrooms. Projects/materials are not to be stored in the group working space. Each student is responsible for ensuring that his/her projects and materials are safely stored, displayed, installed, and removed from the classroom and critique space. Projects must be set up and removed from the critique space at the times and spaces designated for each project.

SAFE STUDIO PRACTICE

- Wipe up as much paint as possible and dilute anything that goes down the drain
- Acrylic paint will dry quickly and cure permanently; be sure to wipe and wash your brushes regularly
- Be spatially aware; paint on your hands will transfer to anything you touch.
- Dust, dirt, oils, hair, and bugs manage to find their way into paint. General cleanliness and tidiness will keep your work in better shape.

POLICIES REGARDING BEHAVIOR IN LECTURES, CLASSROOMS, STUDIOS, & OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES

Please make every effort to maintain the facilities and grounds of the WARPhaus, the School of Art and Art History, the College of Fine Arts and the University of Florida. Specifically, we ask that you follow these guidelines:

1. Do not mark, paint, or deface any interior or exterior of the school or college facilities. Take care to always use protective tarps, drop cloths or masking material when working with paint media or similar materials to protect the floors in public spaces such as hallways and classrooms. This also applies to the sidewalks, walls, and grounds.
2. If a special project requires temporary modification to a wall surface or to the grounds you must obtain specific permission from your instructor prior to undertaking the project. The site must be returned to its original condition immediately following the project unless prior written permission has been obtained from the School of Art and Art History.
3. No art project may interfere with or impede access to classrooms, hallways, public spaces.
4. All site-specific art projects must be installed & engineered with the safety of the public in mind.

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5. Grades will not be issued for the project, or the class, until the project has been completely removed, and the site has been restored to its original condition
6. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action, withholding of grades, the possible lowering of a grade, or failure

Proper care should be taken to assure all property in the surrounding area is respected and well maintained, and projects should be executed with public health and safety in mind. Vandalism of any kind will not be tolerated. As on campus, students doing site-specific work off-campus will be legally and financially accountable for any illegal or destructive actions. In addition, projects involving the greater community should be carefully considered and faculty must be consulted throughout. All public projects must be cleared by faculty and permission granted. The School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida retains the power to require a more appropriate solution to any project that may violate any of the guidelines outlined above.

Please do not litter or leave materials out in the area. Respect property, surrounding businesses and the rights of individuals in the community. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action, withholding of grades, the possible lowering of a grade, or failure of the course.

Guidelines for Conduct

Student Conduct Code; Violations, Penalties and Procedures for Adjudication can be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4016.htm>

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UF PHILOSOPHY

The University of Florida is an institution that encourages the intellectual and personal growth of its students as scholars and citizens. As an educational institution, the University recognizes that the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, and the development of individuals require the free exchange of ideas, self-expression, and the challenging of beliefs and customs. In order to maintain an environment where these goals can be achieved safely and equitably, the University promotes civility, respect and integrity among all members of the community. As stated in the Standard of Ethical Conduct, students are expected to exhibit high standards of behavior and concern for others.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic endeavors and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action to and including expulsion from the University." Detailed Academic Honesty Guidelines may be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm>

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Faculty, students, Administrative and Professional staff members, and other employees who intentionally act to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the mission, purposes, order, operations, processes, and functions of the University shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by University authorities for misconduct, as set forth in the applicable rules of the Board of Regents and the University and state law governing such actions. A detailed list of disruptive conduct may be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/1008.html>. Be advised that you can and will be dismissed from class if you engage in disruptive behavior.