

Visual and Environmental Studies

VISU S-167. Adventure, Fantasy, and Visual Representation of Alternate Topography (CRN: 31119)

John R. Stilgoe PhD, Robert and Lois Orchard Professor in the History of Landscape Development, Harvard University

This lecture/slide/film/video course focuses on the visual constituents of high adventure and fantasy engagements (beginning with the tradition of Parrish, Rackham, and Pyle) emphasizing castles and wandering woods, rogues, tomboys, and superheroes; polar exploration and cryptocartography; post-1930s comic book illustration; fantasy film after 1955; martial arts and animal sensibility; urban fear; wilderness-challenge courses; and computer-generated and video-adventure simulations. It analyzes the place of such private-policy enterprises as corporate image-making, interprets them against corporate Gothic and romantic imagery, and extrapolates their importance into the immediate visual future.

VISU S-160. Crucial Issues in Landscape Creation and Perception (CRN: 30352)

John R. Stilgoe PhD, Robert and Lois Orchard Professor in the History of Landscape Development, Harvard University

This is a lecture/slide/video course emphasizing the chief forces now shaping American understanding of everyday form, such as the manipulation of aesthetic standards by advertising and Hollywood imagery; the perfecting of powered flight and the aerial view; the importance of snapshot photography in relation to home video; the post-1960s fascination with outdoor privacy; contemporary and potential spatial disorientation resulting from computer-aided electronic media; the post-1920 retreat of well-educated people into wilderness; the shaping of gender roles and self-image through clothing design and fashion shifts; and the long-term impact of national advertising campaigns on American notions of quality, uniqueness, proportion, and pleasure as reflected in ordinary visual realms.

VISU S-140b. Documentary Photography (CRN: 31635)

Edward Grazda BFA, Photographer

Students will work on a documentary photography project of their own choosing from accessible environs. The aim is to assemble and sequence a body of work that reveals something about the subject and about the photographer. Classes will evaluate students' work as well as examine the history of documentary photography through lectures and films. Students should have a clear idea for a project on the first day of class.

VISU S-21. Drawing Into Painting (CRN: 31363)

James Albert Yarborough MFA, Instructor, Fine Arts, Colby-Sawyer College

This course will engage in exploring and integrating relationships between drawing and painting, and painting and drawing. Students begin by working from natural forms and found objects, searching for a vocabulary of marks, surfaces, textures, shapes, and colors. With reference to various sources, oil paint will be used to make images that reflect the discovery of personal directions and insights.

VISU S-12. Exploring the Nature of Drawing (CRN: 31364)

James Albert Yarborough MFA, Instructor, Fine Arts, Colby-Sawyer College

Using a wide range of graphic media, this course will explore a variety of techniques, processes, and directions in the making of drawings. Natural forms, found objects, and the human figure will be the subject matter for expressive and observational drawing. Students will explore how drawing carries meaning and how it can become a vehicle for self-expression.

VISU S-40. Introduction to Still Photography (CRN: 30603)

Edward Grazda BFA, Photographer

Individual and group exercises will introduce still photography as a descriptive and interpretive medium. Goals of the course are familiarity with the history and aesthetics of photography, proficiency in the technical aspects of camera operation and darkroom work, and development of a personal approach to the medium. There will be lectures, seminars, photo lab sessions, and regular critiques of students' work. All equipment and materials will be provided.

VISU S-60. Mixed Media (CRN: 31377)

Annette Lemieux BFA, Professor of the Practice in Studio Arts, Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University

The class introduces contemporary art through slide and video presentations and assigned readings. Students create two- and three-dimensional works for critique using materials that reflect the practices and concerns of contemporary art.

VISU S-112a. Principles of Graphic Design (CRN: 30577)

Toshihiro Katayama Professor of the Practice of Graphic Design, Emeritus, Harvard University

This course will focus on graphic design as an entity distinct from graphic art. Students will be introduced to the interrelationship of visual and verbal communication through typographic symbols, posters, and book cover designs. Projects will be rooted in traditional design methods and tools. A working knowledge of the Macintosh computer is helpful but not necessary. At the instructor's discretion, students who prove that they are qualified for more advanced work may be allowed to transfer into VISU-112b during the first week of the term.

VISU S-112b. Principles of Graphic Design Using Computer Technology (CRN: 31315)

Toshihiro Katayama Professor of the Practice of Graphic Design, Emeritus, Harvard University

This course covers the same topics as VISU S-112a but at a more advanced level. It is designed for students who are versed in the use of mainstream electronic media, and feel comfortable composing in programs such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe PageMaker, and Adobe Illustrator. These students preferably have previous experience in some aspect of design, be it traditional cut-and-paste layout techniques, digital media authoring (internet design), or logo and identity design. Knowledge of and enthusiasm for using computers as a design tool are key.