

PERCEPTUAL STUDIO – ART 2825c, 3cr

Instructor:	Julia Morrisroe
Office Location + Hours	FAD 233 – M/W 8:00-8:30, 2:45-3:15
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Semester	Spring 2026
Class Meeting Time + Location	M/W 8:30-11:45, FAD 105

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Questions and expands an understanding of seeing and how seeing is informed by physical, psychological, and ideological systems. Emphasizes experimentation and research focused on contemporary art and 2D design practices and theories to strengthen visual organization through hand, lens, and digital processes.

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

UNIT 1	INTRODUCTION TO SEEING AND LOOKING Weeks 1-2
UNIT 2	VISUAL ORGANIZATION Weeks 3-8
UNIT 3	COLOR THEORY & PRACTICE Weeks 9 – 12
UNIT 4	SEEING AND MEANING Weeks 12-15

PERCEPTUAL STUDIO COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Effectively use media, composition and materials to fulfill 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.
- Ability to describe and analyze the forms and content of creative work, articulating ideas, theory and questions associated with contemporary art practice.
- Ability to 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.

PERCEPTUAL STUDIO STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

STRUCTURE

UNITS/ EXPERIMENT /PROJECTS

This course is divided into 3 units which engage with specific technical skills in 2-D image making and critical methods of perception as related to surface and to our society at large.

EXPERIMENTS

Each unit will commence with a lecture, discussion, and a series of experiments and demonstrations designed to teach technical skills, take risks, and to test out new ideas and concepts without the pressure of a formal critique. Experiments will often be evaluated at critique but will be graded based on participation + commitment to the prompts.

STUDIO PROJECTS

After engaging in discussion and completing the experiments for each module, students will embark on a studio module that applies newly learned technique and research to a broader project that will be self-directed, ambitious, and complex

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

Each project will be informed by readings, demos, in class experiences and exercises, lectures, and other outside research. All Project handouts will be posted on E-LEARNING and will outline specific project expectations and related grading criteria.

CRITIQUES

A core objective of this course is practicing the art of critique. Critiques will provide an opportunity to work through research, explain experimentation, and understand how your work is received by a public. Ultimately, you will learn how to offer articulate explanations for your choices. Equally important in critique is your ability to give constructive responses to your peers' work. It is a requirement of this course that you participate fully in these group conversations. As a member of the art community, you have an obligation to speak candidly, honestly, and without unnecessary "prompting" so that your unique ideas can enrich the class. Because of the collective aspect of the critique, it is mandatory that you are present. A portion of your grade will come from your contributions in critique and everyone is expected to talk during critique.

FIELD TRIPS

Students will be encouraged to attend several visiting artist lectures and local presentations and exhibitions. Other field trips may be arranged when appropriate.

SKETCH/RESEARCH BOOK

You are required to keep a sketch/research book for this class as a record of your thoughts and visual thinking for the various exercises and projects throughout the semester. Sketchbooks should include all compositional, color, material explorations, proposals, propositions, notes from lectures, discussions and critiques. For each unit you will receive a grade for your process work and research.

PARTICIPATION

Your energy, initiative, attitude, productivity, informed and considered opinions are all vital components of the classroom environment. Your engagement and the depth of your contributions in class, discussion, critique all factor into your participation grade.

ATTENDANCE

Be on time, prepared to work, with the proper materials and research needed for class, there will be no deviations from this policy. Studio courses require intensive work and diligence., therefore, your attendance is required.

- Unprepared for class equals an absence.
- Three late arrivals equal one absence.
- Three or more absences will result in the lowering of the final grade by one letter.
- Six absences will result in a failing grade.

***An absence does not constitute an extension of an assignment.**

Please refer to the [University attendance policy](#) for further information

COURSE GRADE

Projects	50%
Exercises	30%
Sketch/Research book	10%
Participation	10%

LATE WORK POLICY

All projects, reading responses, and research projects must be completed on time for full credit. Due dates are stated on each project sheet and are announced in class. Late work will drop one full letter grade for each day late, and failure to complete any other assignment, in-class exercises, or other class work, on time drop 1/2 letter grade for each studio day it is late. Work 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.

UF POLICIES and SUPPORT:

University Policies: Accommodations, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, etc. are located here <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

GRADING SCALE

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

Students must earn a grade higher than C- to earn credit toward their major.

CLASS COMMUNICATIONS: Students must check their school email accounts regularly. Students are responsible for any information, deadlines, and updates emailed to their university email accounts and Canvas.

SA+AH HEALTH AND SAFETY SHARED STUDIO POLICIES

HAZARDOUS WASTE SATELLITE ACCUMULATION: Please make yourself familiar with the SA+AH Health and Safety Program. 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 to you and signed during studio).

Each studio has a designated area 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.

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 or class. Place all work in progress on the storage shelves. Leave the worktables, easels, drawing and painting boards clear and clean. This is a shared studio, and we all need to work together to keep it a clean and productive environment.

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 instructor's name. The SA+AH is not responsible for items left in classrooms.

GENERAL SAFETY

- Common sense and your best judgement are always required
- 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.
- Label paint water clearly
- Be careful, alert, and sober in the studios
- Wear clothes you can afford to get paint on. Studios have many materials—ink in particular—that are very staining.