

Regarded as Hong Kong residents, art students are supposed to have sufficient art trainings in both Western and Chinese arts. However, Chinese art training has been in deficit in local educational system even after the handover of 1997. Thus this course is to provide relevant art trainings and cognitive knowledge for students to capture the Chinese cultural narratives through practising Chinese painting.

#### **V.A. 2710 Chinese Word as Image (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

The centrality of using Chinese words as the major element in artistic expressions is a unique and prominent phenomenon in both Chinese and global visual culture from past to present. Chinese words, as evolved from pictographic representation to non-representational character, is the fundamental medium for artistic expressions in the practices of a range of Chinese art forms including calligraphy, seal engraving and other craft arts. Whether brushed on paper or engraved in three-dimensional objects made of stone, bronze and any other penetrable material, the visual and artistic form of Chinese word interacts with the subtlety of the linguistic aspect of Chinese language to produce a richly interdisciplinary artistic experience.

This course consists of three parts: (1) the study of foundational knowledge and theories pertinent to the material, tools, and the linguistic skills involved in the practices of Chinese calligraphy and seal engraving; (2) the practical study of brush, engraving and carving techniques, the compositional strategies of the strokes of Chinese characters and other relevant basic skills; and (3) a simple hands-on studio art project.

The class will learn the skills of adopting different material, handling of tools and other basic techniques of Chinese calligraphy and seal engraving through demonstrations and guided practice. The course culminates in a small-scale yet rewarding creative project where by students will produce one piece of artwork based on the application of their acquired concepts, tools and skills.

Students need to acquire the foundational tools and skills of this course to nurture their understanding of Chinese cultural heritage. The foundational knowledge and experience offered by this course are intended to cultivate a synergy with all other courses of Chinese and Asian art history, visual culture, Chinese calligraphy, seal engraving, Chinese painting, typography, Chinese language, and some aspects of sculpture.

#### **V.A. 2720 Looking through the Lens (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

The world and its cultures are external before one looks deeply. As artists and as responsible citizens, ways of focused looking will help us to learn from, and benefit back to our society and the world.

This is a course on fundamental knowledge of lens-based media, including photography and moving image productions. The essential foundations provided in this course are not merely technical craft but ways of inquisitive looking. Looking is attentive and active while seeing is external and passive. Accordingly, supplementary to technical training, this course aims at broadening students' visual perceptions and sharpening their senses responding to the outside world. Students will explore and experiment how photographers, moving image artists understand, capture and represent actuality. Technical workshops on colours, optical theories, camera movements, framing and operations will be offered. Field work for practising skills of observation is an important part of the course. Class assignments will enhance students' ability to look into details both in aesthetic realm and in cultural contexts.

Students will be working on photography and video production that are essential craft for media artists in various fields and in a cross-disciplinary manner. This course serves as a foundation for works of photography and moving image, interactive media with moving and still content, spatial design, visual narrative, and video installation. Students will be both technically and intellectually ready to engage in further experimentations of lens-based media creations in advanced courses.

#### **V.A. 2730 Sculpture: Materials and Processes (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

We live in a built environment. This environment is defined by different structures and objects, and their spatial relationships. In an effort to interpret our environment and to create new places and forms, this course will explore through in and out of class projects how structures and forms are built through an additive process.

This course is designed to bring to light different ways of understanding how sculpture has been made, can be made and explore new methods for the continuance of the discipline into a contemporary context. This course not only looks at sculpture as an independent form but sculpture as an expanded discipline that reaches into many realms expanding our perception to three dimensional space and experience.

This course explores the tools and techniques of additive production and the capacities of the wood shop, metal shop and sculpture studio. A series of small projects designed to build students' skill base in carpentry, metalworking and general structural challenges will be considered and applied. In addition, students are invited to incorporate projects from other AVA courses or their individual studio practice into the course.

#### **V.A. 2740 Bodyscape (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

In most art forms, the artist is either moving away from the human form or closer to it. This fluctuation defines the need for further exploration of the body's ability to communicate and produce form that can further define artistic expression.

This course will explore the body as a landscape for appropriation. Students will look at the different techniques involved in using the human form as object and subject of their creative output. Students are to identify the human forms' innate ability to be abstracted and appropriated for self-expression. Students will explore the body in different mediums and processes from traditional to contemporary. There will be a focus on the connections that can be made between the generation of form, the creative process and the body as a performative object.

#### **V.A. 2750 Graphic Design and Visual Narratives (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

From postcard, to poster, to magazine, to comic, to book, to corporate design, to package design and all varieties of advertisement; almost every thing of two dimensional design can be understood as an interpretation of graphic design. Typography and illustration are core subjects in the field of graphic design. This course aims to serve as a first step for student to explore the area of graphic design by combining the expressive possibilities of typography and illustration. It therefore concentrates on story telling with typographic and illustrative methods for printed media and media published online, allowing students to find creative solutions in the field of visual communication as well as in visual narratives while at the same time developing new technical skills.

The course will start with an introduction to typography. Typography means selection, scaling and organizing letters on a blank page or screen. Typography is the tool to communicate any kind of content. Having a fundamental background knowledge and skill in typography will lead over to creative potentials in the field of graphic design. In the second phase the course will raise students' awareness of seeing themselves as storytellers. Selected art forms like typography, comics, picture book, sequential illustrations, posters and graphic design will be emphasized. Methods of juxtaposition, collage and creation of image sequences will be introduced in assignments encouraging the students to integrate different media in their creative process. Throughout the course basic theories in story construction and visual communications will help the students to build up a solid understanding of the message conveying process.

#### **V.A. 2760 Experimental Image Making (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

The course aims to provide an experimental test bed for students to explore various concepts and techniques to produce visual images.