

THE ART INSTITUTE OF TAMPA
A BRANCH OF MIAMI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ART & DESIGN

MISSION STATEMENT

Miami International University of Art & Design is a multi-campus, career-oriented institution that provides students with academic preparation and practical skills through programs in the applied arts and design industries. The institution prepares its undergraduate students for entry-level positions and its graduate students for advancement in their chosen fields. The University is dedicated to fostering a culture that encourages creativity, research, and learning-centered endeavors.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number: MAAA252
Course Title: BACKGROUND DESIGN & LAYOUT
Class Meetings: Wednesdays 1PM - 5PM Room 232
Session / Year: Summer 2017
Instructor Name: Krishna M. Sadasivam
Email Address: krishna.at.ait@gmail.com
Telephone: 813-393-5220 (Alex Buffalo)
Office Hours: posted on sivamstudios.com/ait

Course Title: Background Design & Layout
Course Description: This course focuses on the fundamentals of background layout with an emphasis on perspective, composition, design basics, staging, mood, texture and lighting. Students will utilize foreground, mid-ground, and background design elements.

Course Length: 11 weeks

Contact Hours: 44 hours

Credit Values: 3 credits

Estimated Homework: hours per week

Quarter Credit Hour Definition: A quarter hour of work is the equivalent of fifty (50) minutes of class time (often referred to as a "contact hour") of instruction per week over the entire term. The credit hour is the unit by which the university measures its course work. The number of credit hours assigned to a course quantitatively reflects the outcomes expected, the mode of instruction, the amount of time spent in class, and the amount of outside preparatory work expected for class. The working understanding is that for every hour a student spends in class, the student will be assigned two hours of work outside the class.

Prerequisite(s): FNDA135 *Image Manipulation*

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Apply principles of design to background creation

- Separate foreground, mid-ground and background elements
- Create spaces and objects that support a specified narrative
- Create thumbnail sketches and concepts
- Utilize effective composition
- Illustrate concepts with forms and colors
- Demonstrate proficiency in line art and drawing skill
- Exhibit proper use of perspective in creating environment concepts and sketches
- Demonstrate appropriate spatial relationships

Employ paint and image manipulation software to create images

- Utilize appropriate software in creation of background environments
- Prepare sufficient art assets in development of course projects
- Utilize layered assets for multi-plane production

Instructional Materials and Reference:

Textbook(s):

Drawing and Painting Fantasy Landscapes and Cityscapes. Rob Alexander, Publisher: Barron's Educational Series, ISBN-10: 0764132601

Technology Needed: Either Window computers running XP or Macintosh computers running MacOS10.x with an Internet connection, printers, software including image manipulation, digital painting, 3D, & virus utilities. Students should have removable hard or flash drive for personal file storage.

Instructional Methods: (Instructional methods include, but are not limited to simulations, case studies, discussion, group work, questioning, presentations, journals, individual projects, etc.)

Grading Scale:

All assignments must have clear criteria and objectives. All students shall be treated equitably. It will be every student's right to know his or her grade at any reasonable time he or she requests it. The criteria for determining a student's grade shall be based on a percentage of total points, as follows:

93 – 100%	= A
90 – 92%	= A-
87 – 89%	= B+
83 – 86%	= B
80 – 82%	= B-
77 – 79%	= C+
73 – 76%	= C
70 – 72%	= C-
65 – 69%	= D+
60 – 64%	= D
0 – 59%	= F

Student Evaluation / Grading Policies:

The following assignments, projects, and exams fulfill the learning objectives for this course:

Must list all graded course requirements (exams, quizzes, essays, projects, presentations) and the percentage of a student's grade that each requirement is worth.

Electronic Submission of Assignments:

Any assignments submitted to the instructor as electronic attachments to an email are the responsibility of the student. Instructor will acknowledge the receipt of the email to the student within 24 hours of receiving it. If the student does not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor, otherwise it is assumed that the assignment has not been sent.

Students with Disabilities:

The University provides accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. The Student Affairs office assists qualified students with disabilities in acquiring reasonable and appropriate accommodations and in supporting equal access to services, programs and activities at the University.

Students who seek reasonable accommodations should notify the Dean of Student Affairs of their specific limitations and, if known, their specific requested accommodations. Students will be asked to supply medical documentation of the need for accommodation. Classroom accommodations are not retroactive, but are effective only upon the student sharing approved accommodations with the instructor. Therefore, students are encouraged to request accommodations as early as feasible with the Dean of Student Services to allow for time to gather necessary documentation. If you have a concern or complaint in this regard, please contact the Dean of Student Affairs in Room. Complaints will be handled in accordance with the school's Internal Grievance Procedure for Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment.

Attendance Policy:

- The Art Institute of Campus is committed to learning-centered, hands-on instruction, which can only be accomplished when students attend class. There are no excused absences. The satisfactory explanation of an absence does not relieve the student from responsibility for the course work assigned and/or due during his/her absences. A student who does not attend class during the first week of school or starts late is still held responsible for his/her absences.
- A student who is absent for *three cumulative weeks** will be withdrawn from the course and will receive a Withdrawal (W) grade during weeks 1 through 9 of an 11 week term and a Withdrawal/Fail (W/F) grade after week 9 of an 11 week term for that course (after week 4 of a 5.5 week Mid-quarter ground term) unless the student submits an appeal to remain in class that is accepted by the instructor and department director/dean. A student is allowed only one appeal per class. In other words, if a student submits an appeal and it is approved, the next absence will initiate a non-appealable withdrawal from the course. The Attendance Appeal Request Form may be found in the Registrar's Office.

- It is your responsibility to stay in communication with your instructor about absences in order to stay current with assignments. **You are expected to spend the entire amount of scheduled class time in the classroom.** If you are dropped from the class and you have a documented mitigating circumstance, you may have the opportunity to appeal. It is your responsibility to ensure that your attendance in class is brought to the faculty member's attention if you arrive late.

- Students who are not marked present in any of their scheduled classes for fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days before the end of the ninth week of the 11 week term (week 4 of a 5.5 week Mid-quarter ground term), will be withdrawn from the Institute and will receive W's (withdrawals, with no grade penalty), or if the withdrawal occurs after the end of the ninth week of an 11 week term (after week 4 of a 5.5 week Mid-quarter ground term) students will be withdrawn from the Institute and will receive WF's (Failures due to late withdrawal). Calendar days include days that the student does not have any scheduled class. All calendar days that the school is not in session (e.g., school closings and holidays) do not count in the fourteen (14) calendar days as well during the active term. Students who have been withdrawn due to violation of the consecutive absence policy, but are still in good academic standing, if otherwise eligible, will be able to return the following term through the normal readmissions process. Students who have been withdrawn and the withdrawal results in a violation of the satisfactory academic progress policy (SAPP) must follow the procedure for appealing the academic dismissal.

- Students are encouraged to make all schedule changes early in the first week of the quarter to minimize absences. Failure to sit in all classes during the first two weeks of school will result in termination from school for the quarter. Detailed information about scheduled adjustment periods can be found on the back of your official schedule or in the local Ai campus catalog.

- If you are going to miss class, regardless of the reason, you should notify your instructor. You are responsible for gathering any information from the missed class period in a timely manner.

Ai Unearned F (UF) Grade Definition

Unearned F Grade: students who failed the course AND did not complete the final assignments in the course. Final assignment include, but is not limited to a final exam, final project, final paper, portfolio presentation, capstone project or any other assignment due in the last week of the course. If a student completed some or all of the other requirements in the course but did not complete the final assignment of the course and failed the course, the F grade will be considered unearned. An unearned F

grade will be reflected as a “UF” grade on the transcript. The course’s instructor will award this grade when appropriate.

Academic Honesty:

The University does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, copying or academic dishonesty in any form. Academic integrity policies apply to both the giver and receiver of information. Students who witness any act of academic dishonesty should report the incident to a faculty member, their Chair, or to another member of the University staff or administration immediately.

Saving Work:

It is the student’s responsibility to save his or her work. The student should save and verify multiple copies prior to leaving the classroom. The teacher is in no way responsible for work saved on the hard drives, nor is he or she required to give an extension on work improperly saved. Local and network drives at the University, including all computers in the labs, will be purged regularly and should never be used by students for long-term storage. These drives are available for student use during class and lab sessions, but all data will be deleted on a daily basis. Students are expected to backup all work. Loss, theft, and computer failure are not acceptable excuses for not saving work.

Reminders:

Students wishing to withdraw from a course must do so before week nine. Students wishing to drop a course without penalty must do so the first week of class.

Library:

The Libraries on each campus are one of the most important resources available to students while attending the University. The Library supports learning and encourages intellectual curiosity among students and faculty. The Library staff works in cooperation with faculty to help students develop the ability to find, evaluate, and use information in order to become lifelong learners. To fulfill this mission, the Library develops and maintains a quality collection of books, periodicals, audiovisual materials, and online databases. The Library provides access to remote resources through Internet access and cooperative agreements with other libraries.

WEEKLY CLASS TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1

Overview:	Introduction to class and course overview
Weekly Objective:	<p>Basic painting technique, perspective and compositional concepts will be explored. General background design and layout principles. Review of terminology, abbreviations, camera angles, software interface, perspective: ground plane 1 point and 2 point grid. Basic design concepts: Emphasis, Balance, Unity, Rhythm; Exploration of design through the thumbnail process. Examples of interior layouts</p> <p>Review / principles of design / 1, 2 and 3 point perspective</p> <p>Exploration of design through the thumbnail process.</p> <p>Examples of interior layouts</p> <p>Collecting and Analyzing References</p> <p>Composition layout guidelines</p> <p> Rule of Thirds</p> <p> Golden Mean</p> <p>Exploring Narrative through Environment</p> <p>The Importance of Thumbnails</p> <p>Working with digital sketching tools (Sketchbook Pro) for creating thumbnails</p> <p>Customizing penciling brushes in Sketchbook Pro</p> <p>Sketching Techniques to create thumbnails</p>
Reading Assignment and/or Homework:	<p>Collect and organize references on Pinterest and develop a series of thumbnail sketches of your assigned background scene that incorporates contrast, a focal point and volumetric shapes.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: All course assignments are located at:</p> <p>http://www.sivamstudios.com/ait/maaa252.html</p>

WEEK 2

Overview:	Elements of effective background painting: color, establishing setting, lighting, acquiring reference material: tips on conducting effective research. Using Opacity adjustment to create gouache, oil and acrylic paint effects. Creating custom brushes using sliders. Brush and
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importing tool presets. Color models. Color theory refresher: Hue(temperature), Value and saturation to create depth, form and planes. Speed painting

Weekly Objective:

Review of references / thumbnails in class

Using thumbnail sketches to create the framework for the final composition

Focal point and leading the eye around the composition

Working with values: Incorporating light and shadow to set mood.

Tightening a pencil sketch and the importance of utilizing references.

Making digital adjustments (through transforms)

Grayscale and setting contrast.

Reading Assignment and/or Homework:

Based on class feedback, select the top three thumbnail images and develop them further. Pencil renderings for these background scenes are due next week.

WEEK 3

Overview:

Creating the illusion of depth: the exploration of atmospheric perspective, dynamic perspectives, panoramic views etc. Methods: Channels, Paths, Quick Mask and Extract. Gradation. Using Markers to establish depth through tone

Weekly Objective:

Review pencil renderings / Class critique

Adding details to your scene

Working with color to imply mood and tone

Color flats - what they are and why they are important

Working with the lasso tool for blocking out colors

Layer organization and structure

Reading Assignment and/or Homework:

Revised, tightened pencil rendering with color flats incorporated, based on the most effective composition you've created (determined in class critique).

WEEK 4

Overview: Developing well-composed paintings demonstrating specific elements in perspective, with depth, mood, space, form and lighting, from compositionally based abstract elements. Compositional strategies

Weekly Objective:

Class critique of tightened pencil renderings and color flats

Working with depth of field

The power of texture brushes - and how to import them

Making custom texture brushes

Working with texture files

Layer effects and color unifiers

Day and Night - the use of color to imply mood

Working with print and color - tradeoffs and gotchas!

Reading Assignment

and/or Homework: Revise color flats as needed and start painting details into your compositions

WEEK 5 (MIDTERM)

Overview: Developing well-composed paintings demonstrating specific elements in perspective, with depth, mood, space, form and lighting, from compositionally based abstract elements. Compositional strategies

Weekly Objective:

One on one feedback on work that was due for today.

What is a Process Presentation?

Typography 101: Adding context to your presentation

Visual Hierarchy

Studio time / Questions & Answers

**Reading Assignment
and/or Homework:**

**PREPARE YOUR PROCESS PRESENTATION (DUE NEXT WEEK!).
PRINT AND FRAME your finalized compositions!**

WEEK 6

Overview: Camera Moves, Animation Layout and background concepts,
terminology and techniques: Multi-plane, Parallax, Pan, Truck, etc

Weekly Objective:

Process presentations TODAY!

2nd project assigned!

Cell shading techniques

Inking techniques

Making a custom ink brush

**Reading Assignment
and/or Homework:**

Project 2 assigned: References, research and thumbnails due.

WEEK 7

Overview: Working with unusual perspective/camera angles to create dynamic and
interesting compositions

Weekly Objective:

Critique: References and Thumbnails

Organizing layers for a multi-plane background

After Effects and the 3D Camera.

Panning in After Effects.

Zooming in After Effects.

Multi-plane demo using After Effects.

Parallax demo using After Effects.

**Reading Assignment
and/or Homework:**

Revise thumbnails as needed. Tightened Pencil Renderings due.
Organize assets into layers!

WEEK 8

Overview:

Stylizing and expression. Prop design. Exploring story-telling potential through stylization of design elements.

Weekly Objective:

Adding Mattes in After Effects.

Working with Adjustment layers in After Effects.

Evoking mood and drama with the camera.

Studio Time to work on project / 1 on 1 help

**Reading Assignment
and/or Homework:**

Color flats Due.

WEEK 9

Overview:

Story-Telling /Narrative potential in design elements. Props; designing creating, painting

Weekly Objective:

Review of multi-plane steps

Studio Time to work on project / 1 on 1 help

**Reading Assignment
and/or Homework:**

Multi-Plane work in progress due.

WEEK 10

Overview: Final review of principles

Weekly Objective:

Critique: Multi-Plane work in progress

Studio Time to work on project / 1 on 1 help

**Reading Assignment
and/or Homework:**

Multi-plane background and process presentation due.

WEEK 11

Overview: FINAL CRITIQUE

Weekly Objective:

Process Presentations TODAY!

**Reading Assignment
and/or Homework:**

Review, Study, Practice!

STUDENT / INSTRUCTOR CONTRACT

(DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON WEEK 2)

I, _____, affirm that I have received the syllabus MAAA252 for **Summer Quarter 2017**. Furthermore, I have read the content of this document and understand that I will be held accountable for the assignments and other required work for this class.

I confirm that I have received the following documents:

- MAAA252 syllabus
- Class attendance policy
- Grading criteria
- Statement of Project dues dates and/or deadlines.
- Purchase requirements
- Overview of assignments and class schedule
- The website for the course assignments (<http://www.sivamstudios.com/ait>) and the instructor's contact information (krishna.at.ait@gmail.com)
- I understand that late work (posted 10 minutes AFTER class has started) will not be graded and will result in a ZERO.*

Signature

Date