

VERMONT GOVERNOR'S INSTITUTE ON THE ARTS
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2007 GIA COURSE LISTINGS

Please note that some morning and afternoon times may be switched, and class changes may occur. It does happen from time to time. Any changes will be announced at Student Orientation on Sunday evening. See you then!

FINE ARTS AND GRAPHICS

Course: Revising Reality
Instructor: Matt Moreau
Time: Morning

Viewing the world we live in as the ultimate work in progress, we will experiment with the most positive potential of revisionism. Our primary tools will be digital cameras and the programs, Adobe Photoshop & Flash. We will start small, photographing and re-envisioning small scenes from our daily life to alter their aesthetic beauty, color, composition and/or change their meaning. (Why settle for one flower growing through a crack in the cement when you can have a whole bouquet?) We will build virtual sculptures throughout campus, tearing down buildings or putting up new ones to suit our designs. By limiting ourselves to the digital realm for a short time, we will free ourselves to remix fashion, architecture and biology without the limits of materials, cost or gravity. After building a body of work, we will spend time presenting our images/ideas to the rest of the world via web sites, print galleries and/or zines. We may also use our digital/visual talent to collaborate with other classes in designing an online home for their work. Beginners at digital art are welcome. Students with digital cameras are encouraged to bring them.

Course: The Body Conceptual
Instructor: Samuel Rowlett
Time: Morning

There is perhaps no image in the history of art so universal as the human form. For at least 25,000 years now we humans have been obsessed with our bodies. From primitive stone idols to today's "American Idol" phenomenon, body image plays a significant role in our collective social identity.

In this course we explore how artists use the body to illustrate the human condition. From spiritual vessel to political tool, from the social ideal to the personal ordeal, the body has always been the most powerful (if not controversial) image we can conceive. We will focus our studio time on daily drawing sessions with a live model. A variety of drawing media will be used and we will gain a working knowledge of human anatomy. Along with in-class critiques of our own work, we will look at examples of figurative art

from classical to contemporary to put the figure in better perspective. Through our practice and discussions we will achieve, both structurally and conceptually, a greater understanding of the human body and the power it has to shape the way we see ourselves and each other.

Course: Experimental Drawing Lab

Instructor: Samuel Rowlett

Time: Afternoon

All great innovations in the world come about through taking risks. We are familiar with how scientific fields employ experiments to prove or disprove a hypothesis. The same is true for art, only in a less structured way. In order to get the most out of our experiences in life we must push both our tools and ourselves as far as they will go. The history of art is an ongoing dialogue where artists expand on the ideas and the innovations of other artists.

This course will focus on drawing as experiment, as a method to investigate our world both visually and conceptually. We will use as many different drawing media as possible pushing both the physicality of the materials and the effects rendered. Each day we will start by considering a series of questions or assumptions. We will then draw both individually and in groups, and end in an in-class critique of our work and discussion of its conclusions on the given experiment. This class will be driven by our own concepts and ideas, and we will look at how other artists use drawing experimentally. From the first tremors of inspiration to the aftermath of creation, we will use the medium of drawing to perform the experimental tests, with only ourselves as the proverbial guinea pigs.

Course: Painting

Instructor: Susan Smereka

Time: Morning

Brush work, palette organization, and the names of colors are some of the techniques students will develop in this class. Emotions of color, things that are of importance in your world, and the role of the artist are some of the topics we will explore in painting. Students will transform their ideas into color and form.

Course: All Outdoors

Instructor: Susan Smereka & Cavan Meese

Time: Afternoon

This class is outside everyday rain or shine! Our meeting place will be outside and creativity about how that will work with the weather will be encouraged. Journals will be kept to develop a better understanding of how you perceive things and how that impacts what you create. We will be working with a variety of media, which will include, writing, sculpture, painting, drawing, installation, and working collaboratively.

Course: Direct Stone Carving**Teacher: George Kurjanowicz****Time: Morning & Afternoon**

Direct stone carving, one of the oldest means of artistic expression, is not the exclusive province of the muscle-bound. This introduction to the fundamentals of carving stone by hand will explore the tools and techniques you will need to add this most basic of sculptural skills to your aesthetic repertoire. You will not only learn to design for stone, but also to shape and finish the material with chisels, rasps and sanding tools. This course will allow you to complete at least one soapstone sculpture of your own design. This most permanent of the arts is not gender specific. Any can do this.

Almost any subject matter lends itself well to interpretation in stone. So bring a sketchpad, pencils, any reference materials you think you will need to follow, and your imagination, and prepare for an exciting learning experience that will forever change your perception of the third dimension.

Course: Tiny Art**Instructor: Dennis Murphy****Time: Morning**

Tiny pictures are gem-like, easy to display and easy to store. Since they are small, you can afford to use the very best materials. Working small is both a challenge and a great deal of fun! We will work mostly with various combinations of watercolor, colored pencils, graphite pencils, oil pastel, charcoal and pen, plus what I call "glass prints," a print process which results in an image resembling an etching. Our upper size limit is 5 by 7 inches. There is almost no lower size limit. We will also deal with a number of "practical matters," such as quick and easy ways of creating your own changeable home gallery. Open to all, beginner to advanced.

Course: Video Animation (2-Dimensional)**Instructor: Meredith Holch****Time: Morning**

Make an animated video! Working in groups of 2-3, you will learn to use a video camera to shoot frame-by-frame animation. You will create your own storyline, draw or paint 2-D characters and backgrounds, or collage cut-outs Monty Python-style. Then, make them come to life through animation. Each group will record an original soundtrack with music, sound effects, and voices. You will learn basic computer editing to complete your short film.

Course: Video Animation (3-Dimensional and Claymation)**Instructor: Meredith Holch****Time: Afternoon**

Same structure as the 2-D class except we will use 3-D materials such as plasticine clay and wire to make figures, and common household materials such as cardboard

and fabric to construct 3-D sets. As in 2-D animation, working in groups of 2-s and 3-s, you will complete all the creative and technical stages necessary to create your own stop-motion animated shorts.

THEATER ARTS

Course: Acting

Instructor: Jennifer Jordan

Time: Morning

“Acting is being private in public.” Through the examination of our own behavior, we will develop a sense of truth and reality on stage. Using improvisation, mime, movement, and physical and emotional warm-ups, we will break down texts, free our imaginations, lose our inhibitions and learn real techniques on how to begin to approach character and scene. We will then rehearse these scenes for an eventual performance night at GIA. No previous experience necessary.

Course: Performance Without Boundaries

Instructor: Jennifer Jordan & Peggy Peloquin

Time: Afternoon

Is it theatre? Dance? Improvisation? Living Poetry? Performance Art? Experimental or Avant-Garde Theatre? All of the above and more. Using these elements and the architecture of site specific locations around the campus, we will explore and experiment with various political, social, cultural and biographically "charged" themes in order to create our own LIVE art. Working solo and in groups we will learn to explore and develop the edges of issues and tell our own stories through a combination of artistic mediums. If you want to find a non-conventional way to express yourself through art, then this is the place to do it. Please bring comfortable clothes and shoes to move in. No previous experience necessary.

(See Dance...)

Course: Physical Comedy/Clowning

Instructor: Peter Gould

Time: Morning

Fun with physical comedy, clowning, mime, juggling, balancing, and working with surprising props (last year's yellow step ladder was a big hit!). We'll figure out what is funny and why. You'll learn incredibly useful concepts like discovery, framing, focus, escalation, deflection, and pay-off. You'll find out how to get in touch with the Charlie Chaplin, Harpo Marx, Monty Python, Jim Carrey, and/or Lucille Ball lurking in YOU. We're not silent, so bring your sound effect, voice, or instrument. We'll do individual work and play, but we'll also become a performing group with an ensemble piece to show. If you like to write, bring your brain and be ready to squeeze some new work out of it--work you might like a bunch of physical clowns to bring to life in front of your eyes!

Course: Shakespeare Funnery

Instructor: Peter Gould

Time: Afternoon

An energetic, challenging Shakespeare class: full of physical comedy and verbal hilarity, love, passion, and politics. Get ready to get shaken up and turned around by the Great Bard, who you will find to be bawdy, zany, wise, outrageous, up-to-date, over-the-top, hipper than you can imagine, and waiting to be a friend of yours for life! We'll learn how to read 'til we understand, how to brainstorm and move and rehearse 'til we're ready to perform selected crystal-clear, keep-'em-on-the-edge-of-their-seats scenes. ABSOLUTELY NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Course: Short Attention Span Theatre

Instructor: Dana Yeaton

Time: Afternoon

It happened, and then it was over -- that will be our mantra as we create and develop new bite-sized performance pieces. Sometimes alone, sometimes with a partner, we'll experiment with anything -- music, gymnastics, architecture, poetry, children's stories, you name it -- anything that can be turned into a short, intense experience for an audience. And watch out, because the entire campus is our stage: a short attention span piece may go off anywhere, any time!

MUSIC

Course: Creative Music Workshop

Teacher: Ron Kelley

Time: Morning

Anyone with a desire to make music and a willingness to try new things will benefit from this workshop. Working in groups and on your own to produce original music, and using a computer to write and record will be components of the work we do. Those who have skill on instruments are encouraged to bring them.

Course: A Capella Singing

Teacher: Ron Kelley

Time: Afternoon

A capella singing is one of the most fun and satisfying things that a person can do. In this class we will explore many different styles of music, all sung without accompaniment.

Course: Jazz Ensemble and Improvisational Skills**Instructor: Eugene Uman****Time: Morning**

This ensemble will meet to play and listen to music using the jazz masters Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk and Duke Ellington as a few of our musical role models. We will play their tunes and use them as a springboard for our own improvisations and possibly our own compositions. The class will begin with basic forms such as blues so that we can start improvising with confidence. Each composition will be arranged by the group to feature the strengths of all involved. All instruments are welcome. Students will learn music by ear and by using simple musical scores. Members of the group are encouraged to play in the proud but zany GIA marching band for our Fourth of July parade. Bring your instruments!

Course: Jazz Composition + Jazz Poetry Project**Instructor: Eugene Uman****Time: Afternoon**

Jazz is a music that comes in many forms: blues forms, song forms, modal jams and even "free" forms. We will compose our own jazz tunes using basic jazz forms as models for our own compositions: first as a group, and then as individuals. You'll learn about the phrases of a blues and then write your own. You'll learn how the "modes" can free you up to write a jazz tune by choosing the notes from a scale that sound good to you (Miles Davis based his album "Kind of Blue" on a similar concept). We'll also write some music based on rhythmic and chordal vamps. Don't worry if you have a hard time putting your ideas to paper; we'll be learning about chords and rhythms so that you can apply these skills too. Plus, the instructor will be happy to help. We will also have opportunities to perform our new compositions as a group.

After we've gotten a good glimpse of some of the concepts of writing and performing jazz pieces we will get together with Verandah and the "Jazz Poets." She says "Poetry has always craved the company of music." Jazz, too, has often been inspired by the meaning, rhythm and texture of the spoken word. We will exchange our ideas with those of the poets, play them our music and listen to their poems. We will combine our efforts at first with our prepared pieces and then *boom* we will collaborate, creating new compositions together, using new forms inspired by our own shared vision of how words and music can relate with one another.

Course: Javanese Gamelan**Instructor: Dennis Murphy****Time: Afternoon**

The word "gamelan" means "orchestra" in Indonesia. All the instruments of a gamelan are built as an inseparable set, and each gamelan differs somewhat from all others. The instruments consist primarily, though not exclusively, of tuned metal bars and gongs. We will be using a gamelan of the Javanese type. We will be learning and performing traditional pieces, with perhaps a few modern pieces. While the music can

often be quite complex, we will begin with some of the simpler pieces. No previous musical experience is needed. You will hear and see a demonstration of the instruments on Sunday before you select your courses.

WRITING

Course: Finding the Poem

Teacher: Verandah Porche

Time: Morning

In this class we will delve into our selves, follow our wonder, find the poems we long to write, and the ways to word them. Each of us has a range of voices; some we have never heard, some we may borrow. We will feed on amazing old and recent poems, improvising off their themes and forms. Through short exercises and longer explorations, we will create a safe place to listen to life, play with language and stretch possibilities. We will slow down, gather interests, draw out imagery, write and share poems, sharpening their strengths through revision. We will draw out from poems from our time at the Institute. We'll share our work as we choose, through print and/or small performances. Bring poems you've written (if you have some) and writing tools; a notebook will be provided. No experience necessary but your own.

Course: Composing Poetry with Jazz: Play and Interplay

Teacher: Verandah Porche

Time: Afternoon

Poetry has always craved the company of music. We will explore how jazz and verbal language interplay, creating individual and collaborative poems. The music will provide an invisible road map to the journey of the poem. We will also write outside, in tune with the open air.

Inspired and supported by recorded and live jazz, we will respond, paying special attention to the meaning, rhythm and texture of the spoken word. We'll learn about the phrases of the blues and then write our own. We will listen to classic examples of word and jazz explorations, and make our own departures. Some of our poems will provide the text or scores for the musicians, who may incorporate our musical ideas into new work.

During our weeks together we will meet intermittently with Eugene's jazz composition class to listen to music, sample forms and pick structures for our writing projects. We will share our poems, improvise, and invent new pieces together with them. No experience with the music or poetry is necessary, just an interest in listening and connecting to America's great musical tradition, and to our own voices.

Course: Writing to Discover**Teacher: Geof Hewitt****Time: Morning**

Bam! From a single word you build something that surprises you, you don't really know how it will go, but you let your pen go jogging, you let the words do the talking. Is it a poem, a business letter, a soap opera, an editorial, a monologue, the first chapter of a novel? Or should you toss it out and start a new piece? It only took ten minutes! In our brief time together, workshop leader Hewitt will continually make "assignments" that he will try and that you can try or ignore! What matters is the exploration we'll enjoy as a group, figuring out how to write something fresh. Expect brief group critiques, expect to experiment with music, rhythm for your language, expect opportunities to perform your work, but only if you want to! Some day(s) we'll collaborate with any other GIA class that makes us welcome. Warning: This class will require 15 minutes of nightly homework! Bring pencil or pen and a fresh notebook.

Course: Slamming Poems and Short Prose**Teacher: Geof Hewitt****Time: Afternoon**

A writing and performance workshop. No experience necessary. We'll try a variety of writing styles, and explore the dynamics of public performance by creating, rehearsing, critiquing, and performing 3-minute pieces of our writing. From rap to hip-hop, from sonnet to stand-up comedy, from tender love story to political rant, slam is light-hearted competition where audience members act as judges, and everyone encourages the performer to bring intensity to short pieces of original work. Bring pencil or pen and a fresh notebook, and come prepared to write, to perform, and to have fun.

Course: Lyric Writing Studio**Teacher: Dana Yeaton****Time: Morning**

First, pick a few songs you like and bring 'em into the shop; we'll tear apart the lyrics and see what makes 'em go. Then it's your turn to be your favorite lyricist. Maybe you start with a composition -- yours or someone else's -- and learn to find the words inherent in the music. Or maybe the lyrics come first and you work alone or team up with someone else to set your words to music. You don't have to be a musician to try your hand at writing lyrics. You just have to love music and playing with words.

DANCE

Course: Dance Technique

Instructor: Peggy Peloquin

Time: Morning

This class is for people who love to move and want to be challenged in a supportive environment to go beyond what they already know. We will warm up with exercises based in several modern dance techniques, including release work, yoga, and improvisation. We will learn to create movement from a variety of sources and put them together with an awareness of composition and meaning. We will collaborate on an original dance piece to be performed at the end of this session. The contents of our piece will come from movement taught by the teacher and created by the students. Please bring an open heart and mind, a yoga mat, and clothes that you can move in that will keep you warm. Kneepads may be useful.

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COMMUNITY ARTS

Giant Puppet Street Theater Workshop

Sara Peattie

Time: 4 O'Clock

Dancing sculptures capture Main Street, Vermont

Curbside poets howl at the moon

Angel-winged dancers surround city hall

Wild primates paint up a storm

And the drummers and horns stir the fires

in the Annual Chromatic Aberration Samba Parade

Help design-organize-build-create the GIA community extravaganza; an intensive workshop on taking the arts to the people.