

Interaction with Color

PROFESSOR **Becca Gurney**

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OFFICE **Sloane 150**

OFFICE HOURS **by appt**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our exploration of creativity and visual expression will center around a series of exercises and applied projects that introduce key theories of color interaction and use. Students will study the relativity of color through color-aid paper exercises and then use screen printing (digital illustration if remote) to express and experiment with color use. These assignments welcome experimentation, frustration, failure, and discovery as natural parts of the creative process.

The printmaking (*digital illustration if remote*) projects are student-driven, using prompts as the starting points for more extensive research and experimentation. The final five weeks of the semester will be devoted to a final project that asks students to create their own content and to supply their own point of view.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Experience and appreciate the relativity of color
- Understand the terms germane to the study of color
- Develop an eye for color (hue, value, saturation, format, tint, shade, etc)
- Develop the skills required to make precise paper and printed compositions
- Acquire patience and curiosity when doing new and unfamiliar things
- Learn how to present and follow through on an extended project
- Gain an introductory knowledge of different color theories
- Become competent in the use of screen-printing (*digital illustration if remote*) tools to create expressive works of design, including making color separations and registering multi-color prints
- Create conceptually-rich pieces of graphic design through ideation and creative thinking

ENGAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS

You're engagement with the class and the assignments will effect your grade and by extension the quality of your work. You are expected to actively and passionately take part in our class:

- Attend class meetings both in-person and online
- Actively participate in discussions and critique sessions both in-person and online
- Do the classwork and homework and be prepared to show them to the class for discussion
- Create with thought, intention, and intensity

- Meet deadlines for handing in work and process steps
- Be curious about making things and the things your classmates make
- Come prepared to do work
- Care about yourself and your work, your classmates and their work, this class and art & design as a discipline

OFFICE HOURS & EMAIL

Office hours are by appointment. We can Zoom or meet in-person with masks and 6 ft apart (my office is big enough or we can sit outside Sloane weather permitting).

Contact: I can be contacted by email at rgurney@smcvt.edu

GRADING

CONSIDERATIONS FOR COURSE GRADE

Classwork, Homework & Active Participation (in-class & online) 70%

The bulk of the course grade is based on your weekly effort in class, evidence of 7 hours of homework, understanding of color concepts, and quality work including: Color-aid Exercises & Explorations and Applied Print Projects. 5 points per week are available and will be assigned accordingly.

Final Expressive Print Project 30%

The self-authored expressive project will be assessed used on the following criteria:

- Concept development, critical and innovative thinking
- Oral presentation of concept and process
- Developmental process and progression that leads to execution of turned-in project
- Craft of turned-in project (following specifications, cleanliness of physical presentation/ submission, orderly digital presentation/submission)
- Demonstrable understanding of color concepts and techniques explored
- Demonstrable competence/skill in printmaking/illustrations concepts and techniques explored

GRADE SCALE

This course is modeled on the rigor of the print design industry and requires students to work and progress both in and outside of class time.

A 100–90 This grade indicates work and professionalism that reflect an excellent understanding and communication of the material.

B 89–80 This grade indicates work and professionalism that reflects a good (above average) understanding and communication of the material.

C 79–70 This grade indicates work and professionalism that reflects understanding of most of the material covered.

D 69–60 This grade indicates work and professionalism that reflects inadequacies of presentation or does not fulfill the specifications of the assignments.

F below 60 This grade indicates a lack of work and professionalism.

SCHEDULE

Deadlines are on Canvas. Any changes will be announced in class and on Canvas. Projects and homework are due in their entirety at the beginning of class.

Weeks 1- 3Read and discuss The Secret Lives of Color
Applied Project 1: Response to The Secret Lives of Color
Weeks 4-11Color-aid exercises (*and digital illustration if remote*)
Applied Project 2: Cut Paper Composition
Applied Project 3: Hand lettered postcard
Weeks 12-15Final Project: Poster Zine

TEXTBOOKS

The Secret Lives of Color by Kassia St Clair. 2017. ([link](#))

SOFTWARE & COMPUTERS

For communication, discussions and feedback sessions we will use a mixture of education-based and industry frequented apps, and standard digital equipment.

- *Canvas*: project and course management; work submissions
- *Google Slides*: present homework and project work
- *Digital Camera* (smartphone is fine) and ability to zap image to computer/apps: capture work to share with and present to class

For Digital Illustration (*if remote*): We will use free, web-based apps to create and share work:

- Figma (like Illustrator) ([link](#))
- Photopea (like Photoshop) ([link](#))

SUPPLIES

IN-PERSON & REMOTE

- Color-aid paper
- Sketchbook: any
- Tracing paper pad: 9" x 12"
- Aluminum Non-Slip Ruler - 18"
- Artist tape, 1"
- Adhesive: Invisible Glue Stick
 - Grafix Artist Tac - 5-1/2" x 9", Pkg of 25 Sheets (*optional*)
- Eraser: Rubber cement pickup (*optional*)
- Eraser: white block Staedtler-Mars
- Mechanical pencil (0.5mm)
- Choice of black markers and/or technical pens:
 - Markers*: fine, medium, chisel tip
 - Black technical pens*: sizes 01 or 02, 04, and 08 or more (Micron, Staedtler)
- X-Acto Knife (must fit No. 11 blades)
- X-Acto Replacement Blades - No. 11, at least 40
- Self Healing Cutting Mat - 12" x 18" (*needed only when/if not in the studio in Sloane*)
- Aluminum T-Square - 18" (*needed only when/if not in the studio in Sloane*)

IN-PERSON

- Transport portfolio for your work/sketches, at least 11" x 17"
- Tool box or bag to transport and store supplies
- Rags / old T-shirts
- Small airtight, plastic containers for ink storage

Other materials per personal preference and project needs.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Your work belongs to you; what you make is the outcome of your creative decisions. However, Saint Michael's College and the Art & Design program reserve the right to show, to the public, work produced in classes. When doing so, credit will be given to you as creator and owner of the work.