Under the aegis of the School of Architecture and Planning, the Visual Arts Program focuses on the development of critical visionary strategies in artistic practice within the context of the advanced technological community of MIT. Students in the Program include undergraduate and graduate students majoring in a variety of fields from engineering to media studies as well as a small select group who make up the Visual Arts Graduate Program. Students from all disciplines are welcome.

Limited enrollment. Sign up now!

http://visualarts.mit.edu
vap@mit.edu
617-253-5229
265 Massachusetts Avenue, N51-328
Cambridge, MA 02139
4.330/331 Introduction to Networked Cultures and Participatory Media: Brain, Body, Network
Lecturer Amber Frid-Jimeńez
Meets: M 10:30 AM–1:30 PM, Room N51-315
Units: 3-3-6 Level: U/H, HASS-C

We examine the ethical, aesthetic and architectural challenges of engaging the dynamic information that defines our networks. Open source innovation empowers the individual as the technology that drives social media develops. At the same time, advances in robotics, informatics and remote sensing create situations where individual social interactions become remote and disembodied: wars are fought by drones controlled from video consoles thousands of miles away. In this hands-on, project-based studio course, we use design exercises to develop a new design language for embodied information and the architectural bodywear or structures to facilitate it. The ideological framing will draw from theories and practice in new media, cybernatics, information design, film, art, and fashion. Students will also attend the Monday Nights @VAP Lecture Series. HASS-CII class: undergraduates expected to complete 20 pages of writing assignments. Lab fee $65.

4.341 Intro to Photography and Related Media
Lecturer Andrea Frank
Meets: TR 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Room N51-315
Units: 3-3-6 Level: U, HASS-C

This course provides practical instruction in fundamentals of analog and digital SLR and medium/large format camera operation, film exposure and development, black and white darkroom techniques, digital imaging, and studio lighting. Individual projects are developed conceptually and technically throughout the semester and provide opportunities to develop technical skills and for personal artistic exploration. Work in progress is continuously presented and discussed in a critical forum. Lectures, readings, visiting professionals, group discussions, and site visits encourage a critical exploration of different aspects of photography, aesthetic appreciation of the medium, as well as a critical awareness of how images in our culture are produced and constructed. Production time outside class essential. Limited Enrollment. Lab fee $110.

4.343 Photography and Related Media
Lecturer Andrea Frank
Meets: W 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Room N51-315
Units: 3-3-6 Level: U/H

This studio will focus on the city and the ways in which artists can interact with the various forces and interests that comprise it. We will examine examples of photographic practice, including film and performance, which use the city as a stage. We will look at art as a form of investigation and knowledge production that addresses the social and political conditions of life in today's world. The class evaluates past and current artistic experimentation with the urban fabric and supports the development of individual and collective research projects that may collaborate with other disciplines at MIT. The class meets Monday afternoons. In addition, students are expected to attend Monday Nights @VAP Lecture Series, a series of lectures, screenings and debates that are open to the public. Home readings will also be assigned. Additional shop and lab time is required of students taking the graduate version. Enrollment limited. Lab fee $65.

4.352/4.353 Advanced Video
Lecturer Joe Gibbons
Meets: TR 7:00–10:00 PM, Room N51-315
Units: 2-4-6 Level: U/H, HASS-C

Introduction to advanced strategies of image/sound manipulation, both technical and conceptual. Includes pre-production planning (development of storyboards, scripting), refinement of digital editing techniques, visual effects such as chroma-keying, and post-production and color correction. Context is provided by regular viewings of contemporary video artworks and other audio-visual formats in comparison. Limited enrollment. Lab fee $50.

4.370/4.371 Interrogative Design Workshop - Design for Survival
Professor Krzysztof Wodiczko
Meets: M 2:00–5:00 PM, Room N52-342
Units: 3-3-6 Level: U/H, HASS-C

Design for survival, for an unacceptable world, for discontent. Addresses design media and technology as both ethical and aesthetic practice. Development of projects finalized as working tools, instruments, implements, and equipment is supported by relevant theoretical study, presentations and informed discussion. Design as a research proposal and implementation can be called interrogative when it takes a risk, explores, articulates, and responds to the questionable conditions of life in today’s world. Interrogative design questions the very world of needs of which it is born. This workshop poses new questions, exposes hidden issues, and creates inspirational and experimental situations for designers and artists as cultural agents. Lab fee $65.

4.390 Visual Arts Independent Studio
Associate Professor Gediminas Urbonas
Meets: W 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Room N52-342
Units: 4-1-7 Level: H

Inquiry and debate about art, culture, and society relating the independent studio project to the general direction of students' work and course of study. Additional regular consultations with faculty/thesis advisors and required. Supplemented by external guest studio visits and periodic presentations to visual art faculty and program students. The course will also help students learn how to organize portfolios, formulate grant applications, and acquire the skills to explain and promote their work to SMiVaS program students.

4.396/4.366 Special Problems in Visual Arts — Autism Studio
Lecturer Wendy Jacob
Meets: M 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, Room N52-342
Units: 3-3-6 Level: U/H

In the United States, the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders has risen to one in every 150 children. With this rise, artists will explore imaginative responses to the autistic experience. It will encourage open-ended exploration and research of the development, sociology and psychology of autism. The class is organized around a series of studio exercises designed to challenge dominant neurotypical conventions of how spaces, objects and sites are ordered, and culminates in a final, self-directed project. Projects don’t have to be solely practical, but can also be motivated by imaginative inventions. Instructors will be provided in various fabrication processes. Students of varied backgrounds and experience are encouraged to apply. Course limited to 15 students. Lab fee $110.

Level U courses for graduate credit by petition.

Monday Nights @ VAP Lecture Series
A transdisciplinary lecture series at the crossroads of art, culture, science, and technology. Meets in the Joan Jonas Performance Hall, N51-337. Schedule to be announced. Free and open to the public.

MIT Visual Arts Program
http://visualarts.mit.edu