CORCORAN STUDIO ARTS (CSA)

Explanation of Course Numbers

• Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses
• Those in the 2000s to 4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that can also be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work
• Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master’s, doctoral, and professional-level students
• The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

CSA 1101. Introduction to Handbuilt Ceramics. 3 Credits.
Introduction to working with clay as an art form; fundamental hand-building techniques such as pinch, coil, and slab; basic surface, glaze, and firing techniques. Introductory history of ceramics. Materials fee.

CSA 1102. Introduction to Wheelthrown Ceramics. 3 Credits.
Introduction to wheelthrowing in ceramics; the potter’s wheel as a tool to make ceramic cylindrical, open forms, and vessels; slips, underglazes, and glazes; reduction and oxidation kiln firing; the role of wheel-thrown pottery in historic and contemporary cultures. Materials fee.

CSA 1201. Sculpture Fundamentals: Material Investigations. 3 Credits.
Beginning study of design and fabrication of sculpture. Introduction to sculptural techniques across multiple media, with a focus in hand-built processes including textile, wood, and found object techniques. Materials fee.

CSA 1301. Drawing Fundamentals. 3 Credits.

CSA 1401. Painting: Visual Thinking. 3 Credits.
Development of technical and perceptual skills that are the foundation of visual expression. Introduction to the mechanics of paint handling, including how to begin a painting, apply paint, and model form. Value, line, color, and abstraction. Materials fee.

CSA 1501. Black and White Photography Fundamentals. 3 Credits.
Materials and processes of black and white chemical photography; camera operations, film processing, printing, and presentation methods; the visual language of photography: historical antecedents, contemporary practices, and strategies of critical interpretation. Materials fee.

CSA 1502. Digital Photography Fundamentals. 3 Credits.
Materials and processes of digital color photography; color theory, exposure techniques, film scanning, digital color correcting, and printing; the use of color as a means of visual communication and creative expression, historical antecedents, contemporary practices, and strategies of critical interpretation. Materials fee.

CSA 1601. New Media Digital Art. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the tools and processes of digital, electronic, and time-based arts; development of technical skills necessary for using the computer as a creative tool; the history and current role of digital representation and distribution in art, ideas, and relationships. Materials fee.

CSA 2000. Sophomore Colloquium. 3 Credits.
Sophomore colloquia are small, seminar-type classes that deeply engage CCAS second-year students in a discipline, focus on a narrow issue of high interest and impact, and require independent research projects. May be repeated provided topic differs. Consult the Schedule of Classes for more details. Restricted to CCAS sophomores.

CSA 2091. Photography Studio Sequencing and Narrative Strategies. 3 Credits.
Approaches to image making and interpretation in sequence. Strategies for researching, photographing and editing stories; advancing technical skills; photographic traditions and contemporary practices, including photojournalism and documentary modes. Prerequisites: CSA 1501 or CSA 1502 or CPH 1091. Recommended background: prior completion of CSA 2090 or SMPA 2113.

CSA 2101. Clay and Earth Medium and Materials Workshop. 3 Credits.
Intensive introduction to the materials and methods essential to ceramic practice; clay forming techniques in hollow construction, including hand building, wheel throwing, extrusion, and casting; materials and basic chemistry of clay, glazes, and firing. Materials fee. Prerequisites: CFA 1092 or CFN 1091 or CSA 1201 or FA 1201.

CSA 2211. Sculpture Fabrication. 3 Credits.
Intermediate to advanced fabrication techniques including woodworking, metal fabrication, mold-making, and textiles; developing safe and creative uses of more advanced sculptural techniques and tools in the development of a body of work. Materials fee. Prerequisites: CFA 1092 or CFN 1091 or CSA 1201 or FA 1201.

CSA 2401. Painting Medium and Materials Workshop. 3 Credits.
Intensive introduction to the materials, surfaces, subjects, and sources of historical and contemporary approaches to painting. Issues of form, process, and content are used to develop the student’s objective visual judgement and intuitive subjective response. Materials fee. Recommended background: Intended for, but not limited to, BA and BFA in fine arts majors.
CSA 2413. Painting: Process and Materials Lab. 3 Credits.
Traditional and experimental contemporary materials, construction, and application processes used in fine art painting: support structures, grounds, paints, application tools, and actions by the painter. Materials fee. Prerequisites: CFA 1091 or CFA 2124 or CSA 1401 or CSA 2401 or FA 1401.

CSA 2701. Printmaking Medium and Materials Workshop. 3 Credits.
Introduction to printmaking media and their use in historic and contemporary artistic practice; multi-faceted relationships of printmaking with photography, sculpture, painting, and other media. Materials fee. Recommended background: CFN 1090, CSA 1301, or FA 1301.

CSA 2702. Screenprinting. 3 Credits.
Fundamental techniques required to produce hand-pulled screen prints and their context within printmaking and contemporary art; history of screen printing and its role as a fine art, mass media, and commercial tool. Materials fee.

CSA 2703. Wood Block Print. 3 Credits.
Traditional and contemporary methods of wood block printing; techniques for incorporating wood block and other media in the creation of individual and multiple prints and objects; uses of woodblock printing in historical contexts and in contemporary art. Materials fee.

CSA 2705. Collagraph and Mixed-Media Printmaking. 3 Credits.
Production of multiple print editions using collaged and mixed-media printmaking techniques, including including, sandrographs for the Vandercook press, silk organza, traditional collaged plates and paper prints; historical and contemporary examples and development of critical language for analyzing print media. Materials fee.

CSA 2706. Lithography. 3 Credits.
Introduction to lithographic printmaking as a versatile tool for manipulating photographic images and as an expressive drawing medium. Materials fee. Recommended background: CFN 1090 or CSA 1301 or FA 1301.

CSA 2708. Introduction to Papermaking. 3 Credits.
Skills, tools and techniques for producing paper for a variety of fine arts, printmaking, book binding, and photographic processes; history and current uses of non-industrial paper within printmaking and contemporary art. Materials fee.

CSA 2760. Book Arts: Concept and Content. 3 Credits.
Fundamentals of developing book art structures and artist’s books; construction and bindings, text and image-making techniques, and utilizing design, photography, and writing as source materials for book projects. Materials fee.

CSA 3092. Fine Art Studio Critical Practices in Making. 3 Credits.
Students create work in response to conceptually oriented questions in media with focus on the structure and rhythm of their creative practice, consideration of the lives and politics of objects, and processes of individual and collective action. Emphasis on technical, conceptual, and aesthetic development. Materials fee. Restricted to BFA in fine arts majors; BA in fine arts majors with the permission of the instructor. Prerequisites: CFA 2090 and CSA 2092. Recommended background: Prior completion of CSA 2093.

CSA 3612. Video: Remaking the Archive. 3 Credits.
Use of existing moving image and sound in video, live remix or sources for performance in arts and documentary contexts. Narrative and theoretical approaches to mediated memory. Introduces students to the substantial archival resources in Washington, DC, and online collections. Prerequisites: CSA 2502, CSA 2601 and SMPA 2112 or related coursework with the permission of the instructor.

CSA 3613. Site and Sound. 3 Credits.
Contemporary sonic art practice and audio production; audio storytelling, spatialized sound, and site-based sonic artwork; critical perspectives on sound and audio practice. Prerequisites: CFN 1093 or CSA 1502 or CSA 1601 or SMPA 2112.

CSA 3614. Photo Printmaking Projects. 3 Credits.
The use of photography, appropriated imagery, and photographic processes in printmaking. Students develop personal imagery in an expansive and experimental manner. The instructor’s permission may be substituted for prerequisites. Materials fee. Prerequisites: CSA 1502, CFN 1092, CSA 2701, CSA 2702, CSA 2703, CSA 2705, CSA 2708, CSA 2760, FA 1502, CFA 2125, CPR 2300, CPR 2423 and CPR 2403.

CSA 3712. Letterpress From the 1400s to the Digital Age. 3 Credits.
Traditional and contemporary letterpress and relief printing applications; typesetting; presswork, inking, editioning, and Vandercook press operation; black and white relief printing, reduction printing; and experimental collagraph techniques. Materials fee.

CSA 3912. The Cinematic in Contemporary Art. 3 Credits.
The influence of cinema on contemporary art in historical, conceptual, and aesthetic contexts. Students employ cinematic strategies through projects that explore setting, sequencing, camera angle, point of view, tracking, lighting, performance, narrative, and sound. Prerequisites: CFN 1092 or CSA 1502 or CSA 2502 or CSA 2601.
CSA 3914. Art Outside the Gallery. 3 Credits.
Site-specific art practices emphasizing a variety of forms of public art, artist-run spaces, and practices that engage places and audiences outside of formal art spaces. Prerequisites: CFN 1093, CSA 2201 and CFA 2123.

CSA 3951. Creative Photovoltaics. 3 Credits.
The fabrication process of solar devices and the parameters of solar cells in design and art applications. Students build a small solar device and conceptualize innovative proposals for new solar technology solutions. Prerequisites: CSA 1201 or CFN 1093.

CSA 4085. Directed Studies: Studio Arts. 1-3 Credits.
Directed research and study in a specific area of studio art practice to be approved and supervised by a faculty member. Students must have their plan of study approved by the faculty supervisor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies prior to enrollment. Restricted to fine art photography, fine art, and photojournalism majors.

CSA 4170. Professional Practices for Artists. 3 Credits.
Infrastructure of the art world through analysis of various sustainable models of contemporary art practice for young artists. Establishing practical modes of criticism, promotion, fundraising and entrepreneurship in relation to exhibiting one’s work, seeking venues, conducting studio visits, managing budgets, and writing grants, press releases, and artist statements. Restricted to juniors and seniors in the BFA and BA in fine arts programs. Prerequisites: CSA 2001 and CSA 3092.