

FIRST YEAR INTERNATIONAL

CURRICULUM LISTINGS

Course Name	Course #	Credits
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Full Semester | 16 weeks

Forum I*	FF 111	3.0
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**Drawing: students enrolled in one
Half Semester | 8 weeks**

Tradition & Innovation	FF 161	3.0
or		
Contemporary Practices	FF 162	3.0

Liberal Arts: students enrolled in one
Half Semester | 8 weeks**

Art Matters	AH 100	3.0
or		
Frameworks: Themes in Humanistic Studies	HMST 101	3.0

**Color/Design
Half Semester | 8 weeks**

Color/Design/Process	FF 120 A	3.0
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**Systems/Time
Half Semester | 8 weeks**

Designing Information	FF 140 B	3.0
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Please note that your classes have been carefully selected; **your schedule has been customized for you**. First Year International is a rich curriculum, designed for online learning with the same course learning outcomes as in-person coursework.

* This course is available to take as the **ONE COURSE ONLY OPTION**. Please check with your advisor if you are considering this option.

Some students will also be enrolled in a 1.5 credit **CWRT 100 Academic Writing Workshop during the 8 weeks that they are taking their Liberal Arts course.

FIRST YEAR/ INTERNATIONAL/

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FORUM I

3 credits

Consider what it means to develop and sustain an independent art/design practice. This yearlong, non-media specific studio course affords students the freedom and space to discover their own creative voices and interests. First year students will learn not only to navigate life at MICA, but also to make work independently and to collaborate with a cohort of students from multiple majors. Visiting artist lectures and workshops will foster critical analysis and generate inspiration. Work in Forum will prepare students for future independent studios and broaden the idea of what it can mean to live a creative life.

DRAWING

3 credits/ students take ONE

FF161: Tradition and Innovation

Drawing is an active form of thinking and a cultivable skill that can be used to support a range of art and design disciplines. This studio intensive course explores the principles, techniques, media, and applications of drawing through analog-based perceptual drawing practice. Central to this course is the "Tradition and Innovation Research Project," in which each student researches a historical tradition of drawing, presents on that chosen tradition, and, in a culminating sustained project, creates a drawing or set of drawings that innovates on that tradition.

FF162: Contemporary Practices

Drawing in the twenty-first century is a dynamic field of inquiry characterized by a range of material and conceptual approaches. Building on analog and digital experiences from Drawing: Tradition and Innovation, this course provides students opportunities to enhance their drawing practice using a variety of media to: investigate the lens and the frame as formal and conceptual tools; articulate structural aspects of dimension and space; and explore aspects of time through sequential or iterative processes.

LIBERAL ARTS

3 credits/ students take ONE

AH 100: Art Matters

A first year foundation experience, this course introduces students to the interpretation of art, architecture and design. The course is not a survey class. Rather, it focuses on teaching students on how historians, curators and critics approach the study of art, architecture and design in context - the types of questions they ask and the methods they use to answer those questions. Different sections of this course will focus on specific themes that will guide the content of each section. Students in all sections will complete a common series of art-historical writing assignments and will receive instruction in library use and research.

HMST 101: Frameworks

This topic-based introductory course will examine how we think about and write in our cultural landscape. Each section will be organized according to a specific and overriding theme, issue or question and will include different genres of writing. This topic will be addressed through several of these critical frameworks: Power and Inequity, Environment, Values, Borders and Margins, Self and Identity, and Evidence and Authority which are essential for future coursework in the Humanistic Studies department. Students will pursue questions, such as how we encounter and create meaning in response to texts of various kinds, how we understand and measure the texts' power, impact, and influence, and how we critique in forms tailored for different audiences and ends.

CWRT 100: Academic Writing Workshop

Based on the dual premise that writing is a form of thinking on paper, and—like painting or sculpture—a written piece is a "made thing," requiring structural integrity and thoughtful, original use of materials (in this case, language). Students analyze a wide range of writing, including their own, and experiment with different structural and organizational strategies, sentence-level revision techniques, research methods, and the nitty-gritty of achieving a tight, powerful final draft. This is a 1.5 credit class with placement based on writing sample.

FIRST YEAR INTERNATIONAL /

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

COLOR/DESIGN

3 credits

FF 120 A: COLOR/DESIGN/PROCESS

Investigate visual organization principles and explore color theory. This introductory color and design course will teach both additive and subtractive color mixing, as well as composition in multiple dimensions. First year students will experiment in both analog and digital media, using paint, print, and light. This course uses narrative as a topical point of entry to investigate the way color informs meaning.

SYSTEMS/TIME

3 credits

FF 140 B: Designing Information

Immerse yourself in innovative multimedia idea mapping. This course introduces first year students to novel methods of data visualization, contextualized by a larger inquiry into the possibilities of time-based art. Using both analog and digital techniques, students will learn to analyze and map patterns found in human behavior and daily life. This course is an exciting space for students looking for ways to integrate emerging technologies into their studio practice.