

IVS Course Information:

Course Title: Writing and Illustrating Literature, 3 credits

Semester: Spring 2010

Instructors:

Jared Featherstone (feathejj@jmu.edu, MSC 1007, 8-6967); School of Writing, Rhetoric, Technical, and Scientific Communication

Richard Hilliard (hilliard@jmu.edu, MSC 7101, 8-6367); Department of Art/Art History

Course Description:

In this course, students will apply writing and design principles to a semester-long project: a graphic novel or a children's book. Students will work collaboratively, using graphics and production software, to create a submission-ready project that will be part of a class exhibit at the end of the semester. Students will learn principles and practices of design and narrative, emphasizing the relationship between these disciplines. Films, books, and web sites will be used to facilitate discussion and to model techniques. Both instructors will be present for every class meeting, teaching in conversation with one another to offer discipline-specific knowledge of their crafts and to share their professional experiences in the publishing industry.

Equipment and Resources:

This course would be most effective if taught in a computer lab with a data projector and screen.

Working Syllabus:

Weeks 1-2: Introducing the Projects; Understanding collaborative work

Weeks 3-4: Defining the project, choosing a focus; evaluating sample projects; writing and design principles

Weeks 5-10: Integrating writing and design principles with project stages; analyzing sample works using different media

Weeks 11-12: Preparing projects for submission; Submission process and publication

Weeks 13-15: Project workshops and revision; Preparation for Student exhibition