



ALISON VALK

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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STEAMing up STEM

Visual Arts as a vehicle for student engagement on a STEM campus

Communication through Art

<http://library.gatech.edu/arts/home>

This poster spotlights a newly formed program through the Georgia Tech library. The program involves a collaboration between the campus writing and communication department, the library, and local artists. Along with artists from a local community arts center, the librarian in charge of the program and participating faculty members developed a series of library workshops that incorporated the visual arts into class projects and the curriculum. What makes this library program unique is the primary educational focus on the campus of Georgia Tech. On a largely STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) focused campus, librarians and faculty utilized the visual arts as a vehicle for student engagement, as well as forming lasting campus and community connections.

Study of Chaucer: Medieval Style bookbinding

While studying Chaucer and his literary works, the students were asked to create a physical book utilizing what they learned in class about medieval manuscript culture during Chaucer's day. They were also asked to later digitize that book, reflecting class

topics regarding the contemporary "afterlife" of medieval works.

Partners: Dr. Robin Wharton, Artist: Elizabeth Castaldo (SCAD affiliated), Librarian: Alison Valk

Study of Nineteenth-Century Print Culture: Relief Printing

During a study of 19th century print culture and the Labor movement, students were asked to recreate their own interpretations of protest posters associated with labor events of the time period. This was accomplished through a series of relief printing workshops, reminiscent of the time period. It also hopefully provided students with a more complete picture of the variety of intellectual and physical labor that makes art as well as technology possible.

Partners: Dr. Joy Bracewell, Artist: Ashley Schick, Librarian: Alison Valk



Engaging Students through a physical process



Collaboration across Campus and with Community

Study of Immunology: Relief Printing

In a senior level Immunology course students will create propaganda-style posters about the virtues of vaccination or hygiene in preventing disease.

The goal of the project would be to have the students internalize how, despite all the data in the world, public opinion is shaped in many ways.

Partners: Dr. Jennifer Leavy, Artist: Ashley Schick , Librarian: Alison Valk

Museum Studies: Poster Design / Accordion books

During this Museum studies class, the students are curating and designing a historical exhibit. They are also creating publicity materials for the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference that will be held at Georgia Tech. The artist collaborating with them is guiding the students through the design process from start to finish in order to sharpen their visual communication skills. The students are also creating accordion books. The main idea would be for the students to find ways to present the most important themes in their work -- and think more critically and creatively about those

themes. Students sometimes have a hard time thinking through a thesis (as opposed to stating their subject), and doing an accordion book promises to be an excellent way to get students to reflect on their work.

Partners: Dr Carla Gerona, Artist : Ashley Schick, Librarian: Alison Valk

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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