# Visual Documentation & Learning Evidence

The inaugural cohort of *Generative AI for Visual Communication* (Spring 2025) brings together undergraduate, MA, MFA, and PhD students from a wide range of cultural and disciplinary backgrounds, including learners from Japan, Ghana, Nigeria, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Egypt, and Guyana. The course emphasizes collaborative inquiry, peer learning, and ethical engagement with generative technologies. This diversity is not incidental but foundational to the course design, creating a learning environment in which multiple perspectives inform creative and critical inquiry. Students engage in shared exploration and peer-to-peer exchange, allowing advanced theoretical perspectives to circulate alongside exploratory and practice-driven approaches. The classroom functions as a studio-lab in which dialogue, critique, and collaboration replace traditional hierarchies, fostering a culture of mutual learning and intellectual exchange.

## Comparative Tool Analysis and Critical Evaluation

Early in the semester, students participate in structured group presentations that examine categories of generative AI tools. For example, one group compared text-generation platforms, while others evaluated text-to-image and automation-based tools. These activities establish a shared vocabulary around AI capabilities, limitations, and ethical considerations while modeling comparative and critical analysis.
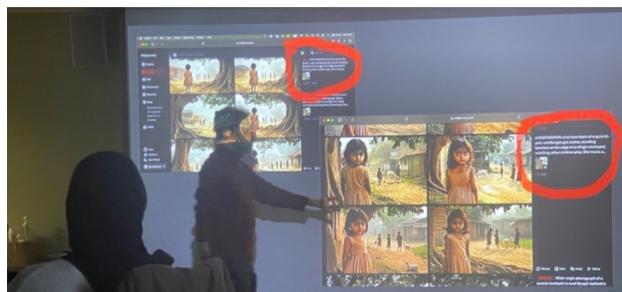
MA student Sankha Kar leads a discussion on image prompting, addressing challenges such as hallucination, compositional control, and cultural sensitivity. These discussions encourage students to interrogate not only what AI systems produce, but also how and why those outputs emerge. Through hands-on experimentation, students build both technical fluency and ethical awareness.

From Concept Development & Prototyping to Critique & Professional Feedback
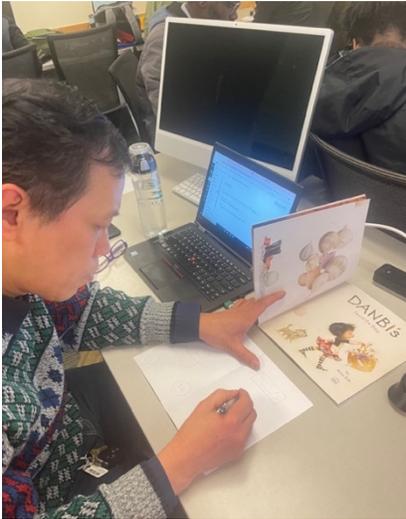
Students explore visual storytelling through a sequence of workshops that move from ideation and sketching to prototyping and refinement. These sessions prioritize process over polish, encouraging experimentation, critique, and iteration as core design practices rather than final outcomes alone. **BELOW:** Guest critics are integrated into the course to model professional critique and disciplinary dialogue. VisCom Director Tim Goheen and Professor Emerita Julie Elman provide feedback to MFA student Raymond Ayivor on his picture book project. Ayivor's work later received special recognition in an international AI design competition, reflecting the professional caliber of student outcomes and the rigor of the course's evaluative framework.

VisCom (OU) Alumni and Friends
Ken Klein · December 13, 2025 at 10:38 AM · 🌐

Ohio University MFA student Raymond Ayivor honored by AI Design Awards (with shoutout for VisCom faculty member Adonis Durado)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION 2025

Dear Raymond Ayivor,

We're so excited to share that your work has been awarded **Special Recognition** in the AI Design Awards! 🎉 Your creativity really stood out at the jury, and we're genuinely thrilled to be celebrating this moment with you.

LINKEDIN.COM
OHIO U grad student wins recognition for artificial intelligence design
Ohio University Master of Fine Arts (MFA) student Raymond Ayivor won special recognition fro...


Students from VICO 3456/5456 pose with their completed picture books alongside instructor Adonis Durado, marking the culmination of a major course milestone.

Selected projects received the *Titsworth Prize*, named in honor of Dean Scott Titsworth, recognizing excellence in generative AI-assisted storytelling.

Structured Learning, Resource Curation, & Guided Exploration
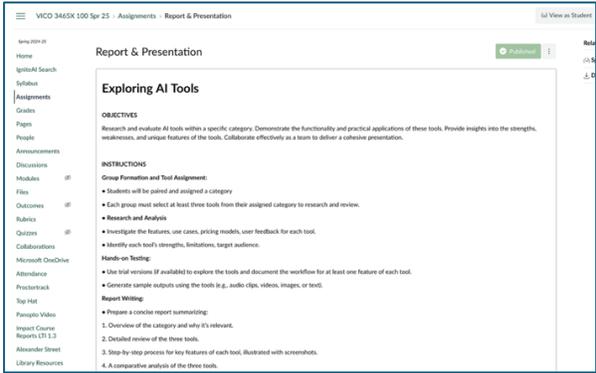
Screenshots from the course learning management system illustrate how structured prompts guide students through tool analysis, documentation, and reflective practice. These scaffolds encourage critical engagement rather than passive consumption of AI-generated content. One of the course's most popular features, *Tool of the Day*, introduces students to emerging AI tools through concise demonstrations and guided discussion. Supplementary readings, including Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics*, support visual literacy and narrative development alongside technical exploration, helping students connect conceptual thinking with creative practice.
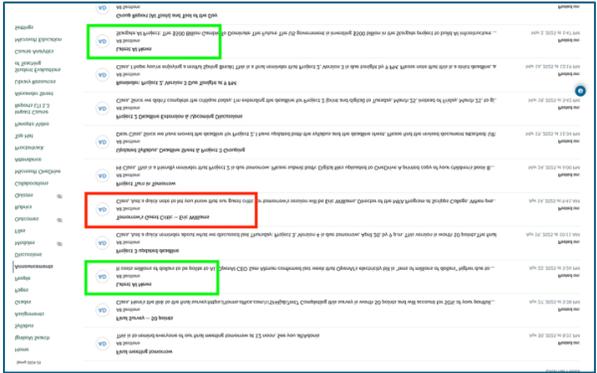
Course announcements highlight guest critics, project milestones, and emerging developments in AI. By integrating timely industry updates, the course reinforces real-world relevance and encourages students to remain actively engaged with ongoing ethical, cultural, and technological conversations. Supplementary course materials support independent exploration and conceptual grounding, providing curated readings, tool guides, and references that enable iterative experimentation and informed design decision-making across disciplines, contexts, and evolving professional creative environments.

Student Creative Works: Picture Books and AI-Driven Visual Narratives

The following projects showcase student explorations of generative AI as a creative partner in storytelling. Through picture books and AI-assisted video works, students combine human authorship with computational tools to craft narratives grounded in intention, ethics, and visual expression. These works reflect thoughtful engagement with emerging technologies while maintaining artistic agency and conceptual clarity.

Picture Book:
The Midnight Mischief of Dixie and Bug:
https://online.fliphtml5.com/izcah/aghj/
The Inventive Mind: https://online.fliphtml5.com/izcah/wrmj/
Twinkle's Night: https://online.fliphtml5.com/izcah/pelm/
Adventures of Wizzle: https://online.fliphtml5.com/izcah/uosr/

AI Video Projects
Music Video: https://youtu.be/kGdTcguKRsQ
Commercial Ad: https://youtu.be/9BPD8jOcoys
Commercial Ad: https://youtu.be/lyRFbogp7Uo
Narrative Commercial: https://youtu.be/zpf1xST9f5Q
Experimental Narrative: https://youtu.be/W0Jq1_6pUIQ
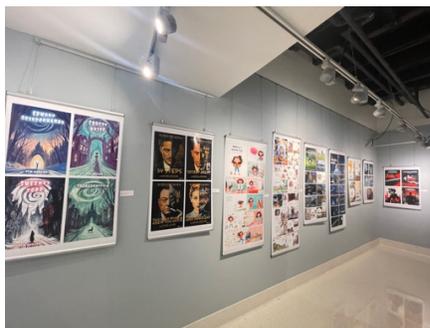
Supplementary Materials

Syllabus & Assignment Sheets

https://tinyurl.com/ycxhtt8j

Generative Sparks Exhibit

https://tinyurl.com/38p2ywap

Research Paper

https://tinyurl.com/2zmjtdfm

MORE MATERIALS AND IMAGES HERE: https://tinyurl.com/yp6ehx2j