

ARS 160 Introduction to Drawing
(Mon & Wed 8:30--11:00am)

Fall 2008

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Course Description:

Introduction to the principles, tools, materials, techniques, and concepts of drawing. Through exercises in rendering from observation, studies in perspective, and problem solving, students develop strong visual skills, consider the role of aesthetics, and begin to explore a variety of means for artistic expression.

Course Objectives:

Introduction to Drawing is a foundation-level course for both art majors and non-majors. Using a variety of exercises such as contour and gesture drawing, value, texture, perspective and compositional strategies it introduces the student to the drawing process and the many forms it can encompass. The class will also introduce a variety of drawing media and approaches, but the main emphasis will be observational drawing; learning to see and using this visual sense as part of the drawing process.

Course Goal:

The goal of the class is to develop formal and technical abilities and mature aesthetic judgment. Students will develop an understanding of concepts, media, and processes to promote creativity, idea generation, invention and problem solving. Students will learn critical thinking and conceptual skills. Students are expected to achieve a basic mastery of drawing theory and techniques, as well as the ability to critique and analyze artwork.

Grading:

Portfolios 75% Graded portfolios turned in over the course of the semester. Portfolios will consist of homework and in-class drawings.

Sketchbooks 20%

Sketchbooks will be turned in and graded during the semester. There will be weekly sketchbook assignments. Where in-class assignment will deal more with technical abilities, sketchbooks focus more on conceptualization, idea generating, experimentation and brainstorming. Drawings in sketchbooks are not necessarily "polished, finished drawings", although they can be, but rather you should develop a sketching method - a visual language/shorthand that is useful to you. A "sketchbook" does not always have to be limited to a drawing pad of a certain size... When I grade sketchbooks I consider creativity, experimentation, originality, intensity and intent.

Class participation 5%

Verbal participation during class discussions and critiques.

Regular attendance: You are allowed 3 absences during the semester, each subsequent absence will result in a 5 point reduction of your **final** grade. 3 tardies equal 1 absence. If you miss more than 3 classes (unexcused) it will result in failure of the course.

General standards will be used to evaluate and assign a letter grade. Among things I consider when grading assignments, as applicable, are:

- technique and craftsmanship
- execution/degree of success in meeting criteria of assignment
- imagination/originality
- concentration and effort
- organization of line, shape, value etc.
- cohesiveness/unity
- improvement

Grading Scale

An average grade is "C". A higher grade is reserved for those showing a high level of achievement, concentration, and commitment in their work.

"A" Excellent improvement, superior execution, superior unity and cohesiveness, maximum originality, complete concentration and effort, initiative, excellent judgment, highly imaginative, experimental, superior intent.

"B" Noticeable improvement in works. Good execution, adequate concentration, initiative and self-control, good imagination, good overall unity, high values.

"C" Average improvement, moderate originality, moderate execution, some imagination, average self-expression, an acceptable job.

"D" Poor improvement, limited originality, moderate execution, some imagination, average self-expression, an acceptable job.

"F" Insignificant improvement, no originality, no unity, minimum concentration, no organization, unimaginative, no self-expression, poor values.

You may redo any homework or sketchbook assignment to improve your grade... but just because it is redone does not mean it will automatically give you a better grade.

***** LATE ASSIGNMENTS will drop 5 points for each class day that they are late and MAY NOT be redone. It is much better to turn in an incomplete assignment and complete it later!

Any assignment or days missed are expected to be made up - it is your responsibility to get the assignment and see me with the outside work - ASAP.

Other Stuff

Students are expected to remain working in the classroom studio for the entire class period.

Please feel free to contact me by Email or phone as needed.

Please **turn cell phones to silent during class**.