

Arts 110-01: Drawing 1: Visual Language

Summer 2021 Main Preession: 5/24 to 6/17

Class Time: M/Tu/W/Th/F 6:10pm-8:20pm | **Room:** Walsh 395 | **Instructor:** Mark Anderson

E-mail: mta68@georgetown.edu | **Office Hours:** Before and after class, or by appointment.

Introductory Note



“There are always flowers for those who want to see them.” *Henri Matisse*



“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” *Pablo Picasso*

I'd like for this class to serve as a valuable way for you to process and express your thoughts and emotions in this time of reflection. Where are we now? Social turmoil, health concerns from COVID-19, and economic uncertainty have caused us all to question and worry. The history, structural framework, and values of our institutions are being closely examined. On top of that, the shock of transitioning to a remote learning environment has been a physical and emotional strain on many of us. I want to let you all know that I am here to support you in these uncertain times. As you have been a student trying to navigate the remote learning environment, I am an art instructor that has been trying to do the same. I look forward to starting this (hopefully) in-person course, and I will do my best to embrace the new challenges that will arise.

Course Content

This is an introductory course in drawing. No previous art class experience is needed. This course will begin with the basic principles of perceptual drawing, allowing all students to develop a stable drawing foundation. Each student has a different level of experience, so I work with students individually to help them improve. Some of the topics that will be covered are linear structure (describing forms with line), composition, linear perspective (one and two point), and value structure (shading). Subjects that will be covered include still life, landscape, portraiture, and figure drawing. A variety of black and white media will be explored. Works of old and contemporary masters will be referenced and short films will be viewed.

In this course, students will study the human condition and engage in self-reflection. Work will be developed that is personally significant. Students will examine and compare environments and cultures while questioning one's personal values. These thoughts will be translated into visual form. Students are encouraged to use a sketchbook to use as a catalyst for developing visual narratives. Inspiration for drawings may come from one's personal history, environments, passions, concerns, hobbies, insecurities, etc. In essence, the drawings that are developed will be autobiographical. We are living in an unprecedented time; your drawings will be a mirror of it, filtered through your personal experiences.

Attendance

I will take attendance at the start of every meeting. It is very important that students try not to miss class during the first two weeks of class to keep from missing essential foundational instruction for the course. Each Student is allowed **two** absences without a grade reduction. Each additional absence will result in a full letter grade reduction from the final class grade. There are no excused absences and all absences will be

counted. Students will receive a failing grade after six absences, regardless of class performance. It is expected that students send me an email before a missed class session, or soon after in an emergency situation. Late arrivals of fifteen minutes or less will be counted as a tardy. A tardy is equal to half of an absence. Lateness of more than fifteen minutes and leaving class early without prior notice will count as an absence. I encourage students to show up to class even if they are going to be late. There are no scheduled breaks during class. Restroom breaks should be taken during open work sessions and avoided during lectures and demonstrations. If a student needs to leave early they should let me know before class begins.

If the course moves to remote, we will meet for every class via our ongoing Zoom class meeting at 6:10pm(EST). If a student is unable to attend class consistently due to internet connectivity issues, time zone issues, or for any other reason, they are to let me know at the beginning of the course so that I can help with accommodations. If a student is not logged into class via Zoom at the start of class then they are marked absent. Late arrivals of fifteen minutes or less will be counted as a tardy. A tardy is equal to half of an absence. Lateness of more than fifteen minutes and leaving class early without prior notice will count as an absence. I encourage students to show up to class even if they are going to be late. There are no scheduled breaks during class. Restroom breaks should be taken during open work sessions and avoided during lectures and demonstrations. If a student needs to leave early they should let me know before class begins.

Classroom Rules and Responsibilities

- ☒ All drawings, both in class and homework, are to be done from direct observation. No photographic or computer resources are permitted until the point in the semester when projects integrate photography.
- ☒ Work in an area that is distraction free. If possible, work in an area away from other people and pets, allowing you to best focus on the coursework and get in the “zone.”
- ☒ Be curious and take risks. I reward students who are ambitious and who work beyond their comfort zone; even when the work fails. This is the most important rule. Working beyond one’s comfort zone equals accelerated growth.

Critiques

Attending the final critique on the last day of scheduled classes is mandatory, be sure to consider the final critique meeting date and time for this class when making post session plans. Critiques will be held for most assignments. These group discussions are an important part of the learning experience. Critiques provide students with the opportunity to gain the perspective of their classmates and to share their own unique approach to an assignment. It is often enlightening to learn how others respond differently to your work often revealing other possible meaning in the work. Full participation in all critiques is required. Critiques begin 3 minutes after the start of class.

If the course moves to remote, students are to neatly load their drawing and reference image onto the designated Google Drive Slideshow before the start of class on the day the assignment is due.

Assignments

The final assignment cannot be turned in early or late. Drawing assignments make up a large portion of the final course grade. Late or underdeveloped assignments will receive a **full letter grade deduction** on that assignment. Late assignments will be accepted no later than one week after their due date. Begin working on assignments as soon as they are assigned. At minimum, each in-class hour should be matched with an hour. Drawings are to be submitted without wrinkles, tears, or stains.

If the course moves to remote, the uploaded drawing and reference images are to be in focus, well lit, and carefully cropped. Each assignment slide is to be labeled and a short description of the drawing is to be given in the text box bellow. Students are encouraged to give each other feedback via the text boxes on the slideshows.

Receiving Feedback

I encourage students to show me their drawings as often as possible so that I can better understand how their work is developing. I am available before, during, and after class to give feedback on in-class and homework assignments.

If course moves to remote, to receive detailed feedback on drawings please take a clear cell phone image of 1) the subject you are drawing from the exact vantage point that the drawing is being made, and 2) the unfinished drawing to give me a clear reference point. Then, load these cell phone images into the Classwork Google Drive for my review and our discussion.

I present course work in a variety of ways in order to accommodate a variety of learning styles. If I am explaining a particular concept in a way that is unclear please do not hesitate to ask me to explain it again. If a student has special learning needs I encourage them to let me know so that I may try to accommodate them as best I can. I am here to help you, ask for as much help as you would like or need.

Grading

Drawing assignments will make up the majority of the course grade. Assignments are graded on a 100-point scale. Missed assignments need to be made up within a week of their due date. The final grade for this course will also take into consideration attendance, having quality work present during in-class homework critiques, homework critique participation, in-class productivity, and attitude.

Project Grading Scale

- A- to A (90-100) Distinguished mastery in demonstration of concept and technical skill. Extra time/effort put forth.
- B- to B+ (80-89) Good understanding of concept and technique. Above average time/effort.
- C- to C+ (70-79) Average. Acceptable completion of the assignment.
- D- to D+ (60-69) Minimal effort on the assignment. Missed aspects of the concept. Poor technique.
- F (0-59) Failed to demonstrate understanding of the concept, or did not do the assignment at all.

Final Exam Critique

***Attending the final critique is mandatory.** Be sure to consider the final exam meeting date and time for this course when making post-semester travel plans.

Course Outline

Week 1	M 5/24	Syllabus, Course Outline, Supply ◆D#1 - Keeping Things Simple: Drawing Basic Geometric Forms
	Tu 5/25	ContinueD#1
	W 5/26	◆D#2 - Fitting Things Neatly into Boxes: Drawing Boxes Using a Measuring Stick
	Th 5/27	◆D#3 - Gaining Complexity: Organizing Semi-Complex forms
	F 5/28	Continue D#3
Week 2	M 5/31	◆D#4 - Value Structure: Shading with black and white charcoal on grey paper
	Tu 6/1	Continue D#4
	W 6/2	Continue D#4
	Th 6/3	◆D#5 - Time to Shade with Graphite: Constructed Figure Drawing
	F 6/4	Continue D#5
Week 3	M 6/7	Continue D#5
	Tu 6/8	◆D#6 - Profile Portrait
	W 6/9	Continue IC#6
	Th 6/10	◆D#7- Heads Up: Drawing the Human Head
	F 6/11	Continue D#7

Week 4	M 6/14	◆D#8 – Drapery Drawing: White Charcoal on Black or Dark Grey Paper ◆D#9-Expressive Figure Drawing
	Tu 6/15	Continue D#8 and D#9
	W 6/16	Continue D#8 and D#9
	Th 6/17	Final Critique for IC#8 and IC#9

Supply List

_ Drawing Boards to fit 18x24 sheets of paper
_ Strathmore 400 Series Drawing Paper Pad - 18" x24", 24 Sheets
_ Canson Mi Teintes Drawing Papers - 12" x 16", Gray Tone, Pad, 24 Sheets
_ Graphite Pencil Drawing Set (containing H, HB, B, 2B, 4B, 6B)
_ Charcoal Pencils (one of each-soft, medium, hard, white)
_ General's Compressed Pastel Crayon Sketching Color Set - Set of 4
_ Alvin Vinyl Eraser - White
_ Winsor & Newton Vine Charcoal - Extra Soft, Pack of 12
_ General's Kneaded Eraser - Jumbo
_ Tombow MONO Zero Refillable Eraser - Round
_ Tombow MONO Zero Eraser Refill - 2.3 mm, Round
_ X-acto Knife #1
_ 3M Production Sandpaper - Fine, Grit 120-C, 1 Sheet
_ Scotch Painter's Tape - 3/4" x 60 yards

Art Stores

Plaza Artist Materials (DC) 1120 19th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 331-7090	Artist & Craftsman Supply 1201 Brentwood Rd. NE Washington, DC 20018 (202) 526-4446	Blick Art Materials 1250 I Street NW Washington, DC 20005 (202) 898-0555
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