

Introduction to Drawing Syllabus

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Course Description

Learn how to develop dynamic drawings by strengthening your observational skills and experimenting with a variety of styles and techniques in this course. We will begin with fun warm-up exercises that will help retrain your eye to “see.” We will investigate the power of line, the importance of composition, and the science of shading through a series of projects. We will also discuss and practice using perspective, proportion, scale, texture, contrast, and value throughout the course.

You will need a sketchbook in order to practice drawing exercises that will help reinforce what is learned in class. We will reflect on our progress as a group through class critiques.

For your final exam you will create a piece that incorporates what you have learned and expresses your own personal style, and your relationship to the world around you.

Finally, we will be studying the drawings of prominent artists including Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Degas, and Escher.

Course Objectives

1. To strengthen observational skills by retraining the eye through warm-up exercises.
2. To practice and study the use of line in drawing.
3. To create interesting and purposeful compositions.
4. To study how light effects an object, and to practice recreating this effect in drawings through a variety of shading techniques.
5. To study and practice drawing in perspective, and to learn strategies to help create proportional relationships in drawing.
6. To practice analyzing artwork objectively.
7. To experiment with a variety of drawing materials.
8. To complete weekly assigned sketchbook drawing exercises.
9. To successfully complete a final exam which illustrates your understanding of line, composition, value, etc. and expresses your relationship to the world around you.

Performance Objectives

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

1. Study the subjects of your drawings with an attention to detail.
2. Understand how to create lines that best describe the form that you are drawing.
3. Use a viewfinder to choose interesting compositions.
4. Use your pencil as a measuring tool when creating proportional relationships in a piece.
5. Add dimension to drawings by using a variety of shading techniques.
6. Create depth in drawings by following the rules of one-point perspective.
7. Analyze artwork objectively and discuss the artist's use of line, value, composition, etc.
8. Create a final drawing that expresses your personal voice and illustrates your understanding of line, shading, depth, and composition.

Class Participation/Critiques

Coming to class on time, prepared to work, and willing to participate in class discussions is essential to your success in this course. Class critiques will provide you with a chance to share your work, realize your strengths, and discuss possible solutions to any problems in your art pieces. We will work together to build a positive environment where sharing work and ideas is an enriching experience for everyone.

Homework

Sketchbook assignments will be given at our first meeting each week and are due at the last class of the same week. I expect you to spend at least two hours on each assignment. Your work should reflect an understanding of the concepts being taught.

Grading

Class participation = 30% (Punctuality, active involvement in class discussions/critiques, respect for your classmates and their work, and creating a positive environment. Sketchbook assignments are also included in this category.

Projects = 70% (Willingness to work through problem areas, craftsmanship)