**Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the art of observational drawing. Students will begin with basic line drawings and progress in complexity each week. At the end of the semester, students will be capable of completing fully shaded, representational drawings using traditional drawing media. This is an introductory class. Therefore, students from all levels of experience are encouraged to participate. All drawings will be completed as studies of objects from life. This class focuses on developing perceptual skills, manual dexterity, and concentration. Students taking this class will become fluent in recognizing and recording the shape, light, and texture of objects in their particular environment.

**Course Goals and Objectives**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to fundamental drawing and compositional skills. This course will: 1) familiarize the student with traditional drawing media, 2) enable more critical engagement with the visible world through prolonged sessions of observational drawing, 3) introduce traditional techniques used to render three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional plane, and 4) develop compositional skills. All projects and class time will be designed to provide the student with hands-on instruction and independent learning opportunities, enabling each student to gain proficiency in the area of observational drawing.

**Class Components**

- **Classroom Exercises**: The surest (and only) way to learn to draw is to draw. This course will engage students in regular drawing exercises in order to develop technical and perceptual skills. Students will spend the majority of each class period practicing a new aspect of observational drawing. These exercises are invaluable learning opportunities for students to receive individualized instruction while drawings are in-process.

- **Weekly Assignments**: There will be assigned drawings each week for the duration of the course. Students will schedule studio time outside of class to complete work assigned in class. Assignments will provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their understanding of covered concepts. Out-of-Class assignments will implement the material focused on in class and require longer periods of time than class projects. Students should anticipate spending 5-8 hours per week on out-of-class drawings. These drawings will be graded and will constitute the majority of your final grade in the class.

- **Critique**: Critiques will be held regularly during class meetings. The purpose of group critique is to aid in discussion about the ideas presented before the assignments are completed. This will allow useful comparison and contrast of each student’s work, and allow the class to see examples of successful representational drawings and also provide helpful feedback in order to correct errors and reinforce good habits.
Portfolio At midterm, you will turn in a selection of five drawings that have either been completed in class or on your own that demonstrate your finest work and your understanding of the drawing methods covered in class. This is your chance to show how you have participated and progressed during the class. Portfolio days allow me to have a discussion with you about your experience in the class and will be a checkpoint for the mid-semester. These will take place on Oct. 5 and 7.

TBA Projects Other projects may be assigned based on the evolution of the individual interests of the class, or in the case of changes in class format due to COVID-19.

Attendance

Attendance is very important in art studio classes. Each week we meet to check up on each other’s work and make progress on the current project. Therefore, class attendance is required. Each student is allowed two absences for whole the semester. Absences exceeding two will result in a 2% final grade reduction per day missed. These absences should be reserved for unforeseen emergencies or illnesses. Absences may be excused due to prolonged illness either related to COVID-19 or other, religious holidays, or other extreme or unusual circumstances defined by the university. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor in these cases.

Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. A student arriving to class more than 10 minutes late will receive half an absence for the class period. Similarly, leaving the studio before I have dismissed the class will be recorded as half an absence. Any student who misses information, directions, or assignments due to tardiness or absence will be responsible for attaining this information by contacting either myself or consulting with classmates. If you become unable to attend class due to COVID-19 related issues, you will be provided with the adequate information, time, and materials required to complete all missed content.

Coming to class with adequate materials is crucial in this class. Therefore, if you come to class without critical supplies, you will be unable to participate in the work for the day. This will result in a recorded absence for that day.

I understand that this attendance policy will need to be flexible in the event that either a student (or students) or myself become ill due to COVID-19. We will assess these as they come. I will provide ample time and space for any make-up work a student requires if they become too sick to attend class.

Grading

Factors that will influence the final grade:

- Marked improvement of drawing skills
- Full completion of homework and in-class assignments
- Effective use and handling of materials
- Overall work habits, attitude and preparedness
- Participation in critiques and discussions

Late work will receive a deduction of one letter grade per day late. If you are absent you are required to turn your assignment in before the day it is due. Also, if a student is absent, they are responsible for finishing homework assigned during the class in which they were absent.

**Like all art classes, grading will seem somewhat subjective, however the class will be working on specific techniques and measurable results. Grading will be determined by how well one demonstrates understanding and
execution of the techniques involved. Not everyone will be at the same level, therefore a large factor of grading will be based on marked improvement and apparent effort.

**Standards for letter grades**

A = Excellent. Outstanding work; significant progress shown; strong work ethic, strong compositional and technical skills; active and consistent participation in all discussions and critiques

B = Above Average. Strong work; extra effort demonstrated; moderate improvement; good work ethic; consistent participation in all discussions and critiques

C = Average. Fulfilled requirements of the assignments with no remarkable distinction in studio work; some progress; passable work ethic; limited participation in discussions and critiques

D = Inadequate. Requirements not adequately met; no progress; poor work ethic; no participation in discussions and critiques

F= Grossly Inadequate. Multiple inadequacies

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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* Missing assignments will receive an “F” unless authorized in advance by consultation.

**Grading Percentages**

65% - Weekly Drawing Assignments
20% - Final Drawing
10% - Participation (attitude, work ethic, punctuality)
5% - Portfolio

**Materials**

The materials listed here will be provided for each student through Dick Blick. Supplies are included in the studio fee for this class: $120. The drawing supplies that are handed out are in your care. Please keep up with your materials!

**Look up these artists’ drawings!** Albrecht Durer, Alberto Giacometti, Kathe Kollwitz, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Jean August Dominic Ingres, Georges Seurat, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Paul Rubens, Rembrandt van Rijn, Titian, Raphael, Honore Daumier, M. C. Esher, Henri Fuseli, David Kassin, Robert Crumb, and Steve Assael just to name a few.

**Subject to Change:**

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. With the exception of grading and attendance policies, deviations may be necessary and adequate notification of any changes will be provided. If, due to COVID-19, class format changes, students will be informed of any changes in a timely manner.

**Phone Policy**

In order to help students focus on the drawing process, I have a “no phone” policy in the class. This is designed to help students begin their drawings without distractions, paying attention to the crucial beginning stages of each drawing. There is also a “no-drawing-from-phone” policy that will be implemented for the duration of the semester. Phones images are already translated into two-dimensions and flattened. The goal of the class is to translate three-dimensional objects to the two-dimensions of the paper using only your own faculties of perception.