

**Moravian College**  
**ART 170 section A Drawing I**  
**Fall 2009 Tuesday/Thursday:**                      **Room:**  
**Office hours: T/TH Art Office:**  
**Instructor: Aron Johnston**  
**Email: astrogato@hotmail.com Cell:**

**Course Description:**

Drawing I will focus on technical assignments intended to introduce you to the tools, terms and techniques used to manipulate different media as it relates to drawing. Through regular critiques, lectures, and skill building assignments you will be introduced formal investigation techniques and how they relate to drawing. Although Drawing I is an introduction course, I expect that you will be challenged by the creative variety you can achieve through the elements introduced in this class.

**Text:**

Text book:  
Assorted handouts and reading materials will be assigned though the semester

**Course Goals:**

Developing an understanding through the pictorial.  
Introduction of the formal and material elements of Drawing.  
Introduction and understanding of critical terms of art and its intention.  
Understanding the persuasiveness of images.  
Introducing a critical framework for thinking and looking at images with increased attention to emerging media and new technologies.

**Course requirements-**

On time attendance for all classes  
On time delivery of homework and in class projects  
A minimum of 6 hrs work outside of class  
Participation in class discussions and critiques  
Readings and papers.  
Sketchbook  
Field Trip

**Homework-** There will be several outside assignments due on specific dates. Due to the sequential nature of the course all assignments **MUST** be completed on time with no exceptions. This will absolutely affect your grade. You are expected to work a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the scheduled meeting time.

**Critiques-** There will be a critique every Monday at the beginning of class to look at your homework from the previous week. In addition to reading assignments and outside studio work you are expected to be regularly involved in critiques, and document your work in slide/digital form at the end of the semester. Missing a critique is equivalent to missing an exam and will affect your grade accordingly.

**Sketchbook-** due to the nature of the course material you will be given weekly sketchbook assignments to experiment, plan, and record. Try to use it each day and date each entry. Sometimes you may find that a sketch takes you several hours,

sometimes just minutes. The point is to take what you learn in class, personalize it and experiment with it in your sketchbook. Take it with you everywhere you go. Find a book that suits your personality; something you want to have on you at all times. Be fetishistic about it. It should become your best friend. A place to develop ideas, record thoughts . . . it should become a visual diary of your life and something that you will be able to return to again and again for inspiration or previously thought, but never carried out, projects. Can you tell I think this is important? Also, you will be graded on this and you must have it in class with you at all times. If it is missing it will be marked against you.

#### LECTURES and TRIPS:

During the course of the semester you will be required to attend an on-campus art event and one off-campus (generally a bus trip to NYC to visit museums and galleries) art event and write a short (300-400 word) paper on one of these events in addition to your design project requirements. The paper is generally due one week after the date of the event. Types of events include Gallery Openings, Visiting Artists, and Bus Trips. Gallery Openings are public events which occur at some point during the course of each Gallery Exhibition. These generally include a short talk by the artist being shown or the curator of the exhibit. Visiting Artists may feature slide talks by art department faculty, visiting artists, art historians, critics, and/or art professionals such as conservators, illustrators, and art editors. The Bus Trip is usually to New York City, where we might start the day viewing classic works at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and finish with contemporary artwork in museums and galleries downtown.

Date for Bus Trip to NYC:

Note: I must receive all papers on \_\_\_\_\_. I must receive them as hard copies, not email attachments. The papers will not receive a grade, but will count toward the class participation portion of your grade. Not handing in a paper will seriously jeopardize the class participation portion of your grade.

#### **Assignments/ Grading**

Studio and Homework	30%
Participation in critiques, and reading discussions	30%
Readings, papers and quizzes	10%
Sketchbook	15%
Final	15%

#### **Quality of work is based on**

Completion of projects  
Effort and Engagement  
Understanding of various concepts  
Participation and attendance  
Technique

#### ***Grading-***

Due to the volume of material to be covered it is essential that you be in class every class (unless an excuse has been presented and permitted) have completed the homework and are prepared to fully engage in class discussion. This is a secure space where every idea, comment or question will be addressed with respect.

You will be graded on participation, intent, creativity, and technique. Work that is truly exceptional and moves beyond expectation will be graded in the A range. Work that is interesting and moves beyond average will be graded in the B range and work that exhibits good/ average quality will be within the C range. Individual meetings will be scheduled mid-term and 2 weeks before the final to assess your strengths and weaknesses. This will allow you ample time to address any issues before a final grade is submitted.

It is the responsibility of the professor to assist the student with the development of each and every segment of the class. The professor should give opinions in a helpful and collaborative manner. It is, however, the responsibility of the student to ask for help when he or she is confused, a misunderstanding exists, or there is simply a question that may hinder the student's development if not addressed. This is a safe environment where learning is the primary goal of both parties. Yet, if the student does not ask questions when help is needed the professor has no choice but to grade accordingly (i.e. the professor is not a mind reader and will assign a grade based on the criteria above). Please feel free to meet with me at any moment throughout the course. I have posted office hours but am also available by appointment.

#### **CRITERIA FOR GRADES ARE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:**

- A. Superior: 93-100, A- 91-92  
Scholarship: strong exceeding requirements of instructor  
Initiative: contributions exceeding the assignment, showing independent resourcefulness  
Attitude: positive, beneficial to class  
Individual Improvement: continually developing
- B. Good - Above average: B+ 88-90, B 84-87, B- 81-83  
Scholarship: accurate and complete, meeting all requirements of instructor  
Initiative: good, meeting requirements of assignments  
Attitude: proper, beneficial to class  
Individual Improvement: shows signs of progress, responds positively to criticism
- C. Average: C+ 78-80, C 74-77, C- 71-73  
Scholarship: barely meeting requirements of instructor  
Initiative: uncertain, apparent only at times  
Attitude: generally neutral, but not objectionable  
Individual Improvement: not showing signs of progress, not responding to criticism
- D. Below average, yet passing: 70-61  
Scholarship: not meeting requirements of instructor,  
Initiative: not meeting requirements of assignments, not completing assignments  
Attitude: indifferent, possibly objectionable  
Individual improvement: not noticeable
- F. Completely unsatisfactory: 60 and below

**Group critiques and discussions-** will be scheduled throughout the semester. Students are **required** to participate.

**Cell Phones-** must be turned to the Silent position.

**Cleanliness-** It is the job of every student to leave the studio better than the way they found it. Disrespecting your environment and those around you implies poor participation and may affect your grade.

***Wear appropriate clothing-*** you will get some kind of art material on everything you bring into the studio... it just happens.

***Disability-*** Any student with documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Disabled Student Services.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is mandatory. Each meeting of class is considered a session. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each session. Students arriving 5-20 minutes late for any class session are considered tardy. Three tardy counts equal one un-excused absence.

-Arriving more than 20 minutes late or missing an entire class session is considered an absence.

-Students who do not return to class after break or who leave early will be considered absent.

-Showing up without your supplies is also considered an absence.

-Three unexcused absences may result in your grade being decreased one whole letter. Four un-excused absences is automatic failure.

-An absence may be excused if there is a medical reason, family emergency or extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. The determination of whether an absence will be excused is left to the discretion of the instructor.

-It is the responsibility of the student to ask his or her colleagues what information was missed during an absence and to make-up the work missed.

***-Students, not the professor, are responsible for assignments given on a day when they are not in class. All missed work must be made up within one week of the due date, unless another date is arranged and agreed upon with the instructor.***

### ***Academics Honesty (issues of plagiarism)***

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses that erode the academic environment. Moravian College and the Department of Visual Arts will condone NO form of plagiarism- Defined as the use of another's words, ideas, visual or verbal material as one's own without proper permission or citation. Each student has the responsibility to make sure they have a clear understanding of this important issue and how it applies to a studio class and their imagery. Any and all image appropriation needs to be discussed with the professor prior to usage. This includes material found on the internet.

Students who violate the standards of academic honesty face serious disciplinary consequences, including referral before the honor council and/or immediate course failure.

### **Syllabus**

- 09/01: *Intro, syllabus review. Hand out supplies & review supplies  
Group assignments introduce Homework (HW) and reading assignments*
- 09/03: *Slide discussion. Understanding the Language of Drawing: Written  
Drawing (landscape, still-life, portrait) Understanding the Language of Drawing*
- 09/08: *GROUP (A,B or C) Critique. Discuss reading, Quiz,  
Slide review elements of a line and shape Homework (HW) and reading  
assignment: Texture*
- 09/10: *Timed drawings, line drawing drill: contours open closed. Emotion of a  
line investigate lines of texture and invention*
- 09/15: *GROUP (A,B or C) Critique . Discuss reading, Quiz,*

defining the elements of Texture and the line HW- Still Life assignment Read:  
Value and space

09/17: Texture. Mark making and meaning. Mark Making Spatial elements:  
09/22: GROUP (A,B or C) Critique . Discuss reading, Quiz.  
Review- Still Life assignment Reading: Value and space  
HW- Perspective and measuring Reading- Perspective and measuring

09/24: Drawing drills: Still life observing and defining objects in space  
09/29: Introduce Mid term project: Slide lecture: Space relationships  
introduction to perspective. Brief history of perspective. Slide presentation

10/01: Midterm Project.  
10/06: Midterm Project.  
10/08: Mid term project Due, Mid term Crit  
10/12: Fall Break  
10/13: Fall Break  
10/15: Individual Critiques  
10/20: GROUP (A,B or C) Critique,. Mechanical-..  
10/22: Landscape drawing exterior space  
10/27: GROUP (A,B or C) Critique . Discuss reading, Quiz,. Portraits figure and gesture  
10/29: landscape conte Interior .  
11/03: GROUP (A,B or C) landscape conte ideas of texture and composition.  
11/05: measuring techniques as it relates to the figure. Apply techniques  
11/06: Field trip New York  
11/10: GROUP (A,B or C) Critique. Proposal for final project due.  
11/12: Self-portraits. HW- Draw hands and feet. Opening faculty show  
11/17: Figure- Gesture.  
11/19: Figure. HW-portrait of drawing partner.  
11/24: Critique. Figure. (model)  
11/25: Thanksgiving Break  
11/26: Thanksgiving Break  
12/01: Figure. (model)  
12/03: Figure. (model) HW- Begin final.  
12/08: Final critique  
12/10: Individual Crit.  
12/15:  
12/17:

**\* Note: this is a working syllabus subject to change.**

Supplies- An art kit will be distributed in class; the cost will be billed to your student account.

