

Moravian College Studio Art

Course number and section: ART 170 A

Course Title: Drawing 1: Section A

Semester: Fall 2012

Meeting time and location: 9am – 11:30am Tues / Thurs

Instructor: Matthew Shelley

Office Hour: Before or after class by appointment only

Instructor contact: email: shelleym@moravian.edu / phone: 610-861-1680

Course Description:

This class will cover the basic principles and disciplines of drawing. Over the course of this semester, students will work with the core ideas needed to observe, critique and create dynamic and skillful drawings. Demonstrations and group critique will solidify formal skills and prepare students for intermediate and advanced study in drawing and painting. Through weekly lessons students will build representational skills in line, shape, space, composition, value, and accuracy. This class is designed to provide students with the tools necessary to approach drawing from a well rounded and confident perspective, focusing on the formal and conceptual elements that define the medium.

Course Materials:

This course uses an art kit that includes all materials needed for in class projects as well as take home assignments. Occasional reading will be given in the form of hand-outs. The ability to participate in class discussion on these readings will impact the final group discussion grade.

Course Goals:

- To advance technical drawing skills
- To develop skills in composition and design
- To increase visual literacy and vocabulary
- To analyze artwork and exercise critical thought
- To understand historical and contemporary context

Course Requirements:

- Students are required to work a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of class
- Students must be prepared, ready to work, and focused at all times
- Students must engage coursework directly at all times with strict adherence to lesson objectives
- Students are required to participate in class discussion and critique
- Students are required to attend the art department field trip

Attendance:

The Art Department established this department-wide attendance policy to apply to students in all art classes. For classes that meet twice a week (most full-unit studio courses, most day art history classes): After the second unexcused absence, final grade will be dropped by one full letter. After the fourth unexcused absence, students will receive a failing final grade.

Absences:

Excused absences are given at the sole discretion of the Professor. An excused absence is one confirmed by a note from the Dean's Office, Student Services, the Learning Center, or verified with an off campus doctor's note (within 24 hours of illness). Death in family should be confirmed with Student Services. Documentation is required for sports. Coach should email a note to instructor confirming matches, meets, departure time for away games, or anything that would require absence from class. Practice is not an excused absence. Job interviews or doctor's/dentist's appointments are not to be scheduled during class.

Missing Portions of the Class:

The following count as unexcused absences

- More than 15 minutes late for class
- Failure to bring supplies to class
- Failure to return from break
- Leaving class half an hour or more early
- Being tardy more than 3 times. Tardiness: being 5 to 15 minutes late for class
- If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility (not the professor's) to find out what you missed and to catch up in a timely manner.

Participation:

Participation will make up a significant portion of the final grade in this course. A total of 25 points, out of the final 100, will be awarded based on participation. Participation points are earned by attention to course goals and actively focusing on lesson objectives at all times. Participation means that students are focused on the current lesson and applying that lesson to the best of their ability. Students should be able to locate and discuss their aims at all times, and state clearly how those aims apply to the current lesson. This requires that students act strategically and with purpose, working to absorb course content at all times. Points will not be earned based on technical achievement, but a through understanding of the principles and the skills introduced in each lesson. If students cannot provide adequate explanation as to how their work reflects the goals of the current lesson participation points will suffer. Homework assignments (sketchbooks and independent projects) will be graded under similar criteria, but with a grater emphasis on technical proficiency.

Group Discussion:

Class discussion involves final critique and daily conversation. Discussion points are earned by contributing valid ideas in both the final critique and in daily conversation. Students should be comfortable addressing their work and the work of their peers. Students need to be active members of the conversation at all times, and see that their statements utilize the concepts and vocabulary covered throughout the semester. Conversations need to remain productive and respectful at all times.

Note: Participation relates to the drawings students make, and how accurately they reflect the course material. Discussion relates to the ideas that students put forth during critique and class conversation.

Sketchbooks:

Students will be required to keep a sketchbook of organized assignments outside of class. Sketchbooks provide students with an opportunity to slow the drawing practice down, make organized decisions, and focus on technical accuracy. Sketchbook assignments will cover material similar to the lessons introduced in class. All sketchbook assignments need to be done from direct observation only (no photographic references). The criteria for sketchbooks will be outlined in a separate hand-out. Sketchbooks will be collected four times throughout the semester. After each collection sketchbooks will be returned with a grade of 0 – 5 points. After all 4 collections are complete sketchbooks represent 20% of the final grade. During weeks when independent projects are assigned students will be excused from working in sketchbooks. This should be clearly documented by recording dates and assignments in sketchbooks.

Independent Projects:

These assignments are to be done out of class and give students the opportunity to exercise full artistic freedom. These projects can be done in any medium practiced in class and feature any subject or content as long as direct observation is involved when drawing. All projects should be created from live models, still life, landscape, etc. No Photographs; direct observation only.

New York City Field Trip:

November 9th all students will travel to NYC for a gallery / museum tour. A five paragraph paper will be assigned as a response to the field trip. Students can visit a single museum or tour multiple museums and

galleries. The paper can cover any number of works viewed, or focus on a single piece or artist. Students are responsible for the cost of admission to museums, however students can receive \$12 back with receipt of admission. The Met runs on a donation basis, other museums will charge more for admission. The paper will contribute 5 points to the final participation grade.

Reading:

Occasional short readings may be distributed. The material covered will be a part of class discussion and will contribute to your group discussion grade. There will be no written response for readings and the material will not appear on the mid-term or final quiz.

Mid-Term and Final Quiz:

The mid-term and final quiz will consist of short answer questions regarding vocabulary and concepts covered during class exercises. Students can reference class handouts and will be issued a study guide to prepare for each quiz.

Grading:

There are a total of 100 points in this class. All points will be added up and applied to the standard numeric grading scale. For example, class participation accounts for 25 points, or 25% of the final grade. Class points will be applied as follows.

Class participation = 25 points

Class discussion = 10 points

Sketchbook = 20 points

Independent projects = 20 points

Mid-term quiz = 10 points

Final quiz = 10 points

Digital portfolio = 5 points

No late assignments will be accepted

Assignment Grading:

- Class participation: (does the artwork produced reflect the lesson plan?)
Non-participatory = 0 - 10, Low quality = 10, Acceptable = 15, High Quality = 20, Exceptional = 25
- Group Discussion: (are comments firmly connected to course concepts?)
On a scale of 1 – 10 points questions and comments were insightful and utilized class concepts and vocabulary
- Sketchbooks: (is the sketchbook organized and of high technical quality?)
Unacceptable work = below 5, Low quality = 5, Acceptable = 10, High Quality = 15, Exceptional = 20
- Independent Projects: (is it technically sound and is there content present?)
Each independent drawing is worth 5 points and will be rated on a scale of 1 – 5 based on clarity of purpose and effort put forth.
- Mid-term and final quiz: (are definitions for vocabulary and concepts correct?)
10 questions each worth 1 point.
- Digital Portfolio: (is the work properly photographed and presented professionally?)
one CD of work worth 5 points.

Instructor reserves the right to apply qualitative judgment to these assignments

Saving and Disposing of Artwork:

Students should save examples of their work from all classes (particularly beginning studio classes) for the sophomore review. The dept. requires a CD of each student's entire portfolio at the end of the semester for assessment purposes. This CD contributes to 5 points of the final grade. Drawings will also be collected and photographed by the instructor to document class progress. A demonstration on how to photograph artwork will be given.

Class Schedule: Drawing 1: Section 1: Fall Semester
Class dates and lessons subject to change

Week 1:

August 27th Fall Semester begins

Aug 28 - 30th: Introductions, class syllabi, contour drawing, line, and gesture.

Week 2:

Sep 4 - 6th: Shape. Measurement, visual overlap, and using the rectangle of the page w/ still life arrangement.

*September 4th: HUB reception for Doug Zucco exhibition "*Choice Cuts*", @ 4:30pm*

Week 3:

September 11th: Independent Project #1 (no sketchbook assignment for week 3)

Sep 11 - 13th: Shape / Line / Gesture w/ figure drawing exercises

September 13th: Convocation on Sustainability. All 3rd Period classes report to North Campus

Week 4:

September 18th: Sketchbook Collection.

Sep 18 – 20th: Space. Positive and negative space, concave and convex shapes, and pictorial depth w/ still life arrangement.

Week 5:

Sep 25 – 27th: Value. Locating and using distinct points within traditional value scale w/ still life arrangement.

September 27th: Review for mid-term w/ study guide

Week 6:

October 2nd: Mid-term quiz. Vocabulary and short answer. 5 points.

Oct 2 – 4th: Value (continued). Lessons in light and value w/ figure drawing session.

Week 7:

October 6 – 9th: Fall Break. No Classes.

October 9th: Independent Project #2 (no sketchbook assignment for week 7)

Oct 11th: Composition. Introducing direct compositional strategies. Slide lecture and hand-outs followed by figure drawing session.

Week 8:

October 16: Sketchbook Collection

Oct 16 – 18th: Composition (continued). Additional practice in design and composition w/ figure drawing session.

Week 9:

Oct 23 – 25th: Perspective. Exercises drawing classroom interiors familiarize students with single and two-point perspective.

Week 10:

Oct 30 – Nov 1st: Planar analysis. Lessons in shape and perspective are applied to planar analysis.

Students learn how to communicate planar shifts in space. Class two will use planar analysis in conjunction with value, line, shape, space, perspective and other learned skills to re-enforce pictorial depth. W/ Still life arrangement.

Week 11:

November 6th: HUB reception. Alumni Photo Show followed by artist talks 5 - 6pm

November 6th: Independent Project #3 (no sketchbook assignments for week 11)

Nov 6 – 8th: Gesture and posture in figure drawing. Figure drawing session explores weight distribution within human posture.

November 9th: NYC Field Trip. Handout will cover assignment requirements.

Week 12:

November 13th: Sketchbook Collection / NYC paper due.

Nov 13 – 15th: Anatomy and figure drawing. Lessons in anatomy and proportion strengthen figure drawing skills.

Week 13:

Nov 20th: Figure drawing. Open session. Figure drawing open session serves as a review for anatomy, posture, value, line, gesture, etc...

November 21 - 25th. Thanksgiving Break. No Classes.

Week 14:

November 27th: Independent Project #4 (no sketchbook assignment for week 14)

Nov 27 – 29th: Still Life. Open Session. Still life open session serves as review for composition, shape, space, light and value, accuracy, etc... This week is dedicated to applying and practicing the full set of skills introduced this semester.

November 30 – December 3rd: Prepare portfolios for Final Review December 4 - 6th

Week 15:

December 4th. Sketchbooks Due. All independent Projects Due. Bring Portfolios for Review.

December 4th. Final quiz. Vocabulary and short answer. 5 points.

Dec 4th: Group Critique (Group A). Presentation of portfolios and projects. Each student is provided with 15 – 20 minutes of peer and instructor critique. Students should be prepared to talk about their work practicing the vocabulary and concepts introduced this semester.

December 5th. HUB reception. Winter Student Art Show @ 4:30pm

Dec 6th: Group Critique (Group B). Same as above.

Week 16:

Dec 11th: Individual Critique (Group A). Individual 20 minute reviews.

Dec 13th: Individual Critique (Group B). Individual 20 minute reviews

December 14th. Portfolio Collection.

Additional Information:

Disability:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Academic Honesty Policy:

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.

Cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated and will result in a 0 or F. Written assignments are designed to engage students with material covered in class through visual participation and personal reaction. Papers must be your own thoughts, impressions and reactions. The Internet can provide valuable source material, but you must participate by visiting the artwork yourself, in person, and offering your own viewpoint. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Be aware that I am very familiar with art websites, such as the Metropolitan Museum's, when you write your papers.