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ART 123A.08: Drawing Fundamentals

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The University of Montana

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Required Textbook: Drawing: Space, Form, and Expression: Third Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, Wayne Enstice and Melody Peters, 2003

Office: Ceramics Graduate Studio, Art Annex, 243-6476

Office Hours: Wed 5-6 p.m. and by appointment

Description of Coursework and Objectives

This course will focus on the fundamental techniques of drawing and how they are used in various forms of art and visual communication. This course is designed to introduce these techniques providing an arena to develop visual communication skills. Drawing projects will explore a wide variety of materials, genres and issues in art. Students should hope to leave the class with a greater understanding of the purposes and practices of art, and gain critical thinking skills for interpreting and presenting visual information. Group critiques will be a large part of class, in which participation of students is required. Written assignments will be given addressing various concerns throughout the course. Aside from drawing, class time will be spent viewing exhibitions on campus, viewing contemporary and historical works on slides and video as well as reading various art publications.

Attendance

As with all university courses attendance is required and excessive absences will lower your grade. University policy requires one letter grade reduction for every three absences. If you are repeatedly late for class this will also reflect in your attendance grade. Important concepts are introduced in the beginning of most classes and if you miss the explanation of certain techniques the assignment for that class may prove difficult.

Sketchbook

Sketchbook should be **brought to class every day** for notes or assignments or ideas. If I go to check sketchbooks or want to talk to you about some ideas you are having for assignments and you are without your sketchbook, this will affect your grade. **Three days a week** you are required to make one **numbered and dated** entry in your sketchbook- it could be thoughts, sketches, something we're practicing in class- cut outs of things that inspire you- anything creative- this is your book, your journal – fill it with things that interest you. But do it because I will be checking it periodically- It's easier to do a little bit everyday than all at once.

Homework

In addition to the daily sketchbook, homework will be given on a weekly basis and is usually due next class- Showing up to class without your homework when it is due will reflect poorly in your homework grade as well as your participation grade for you will be asked to participate in critiques. The answer is not to skip class either as you will get marked zero for the homework since it was due on that day-Only doctors notes will excuse you.

During critiques of assignments each student will share their progress with the class. The class will discuss briefly each drawing. Suggestions may be made for improving the work. Keeping this advice in mind if a student does not feel satisfied, the student will have one more week to improve the drawing.

Expect these homework assignments to take time, a minimum of four hours. Students who finish a single interpretation of the assignment in less time are urged to expand the objective of the assignment or repeat the exercise. Late work will not be accepted. **Late work will not be accepted.** If you know you will not be attending a certain class, talk with me at office hours about what assignments you will need to turn in ahead of time.

Papers

You are required to write various short papers for this class concerning art issues/ topics. These papers account for 10% of your final grade and should be written with much consideration.

Evaluation and Grading

If you are new to drawing, do not worry; the quality of work done will be judged on a comprehension of concepts and effort put into work, not the mastery of any technique or process.

Most drawing assignments will be individually graded in consideration of effort, craftsmanship, concept, and adherence to the assignment.

In evaluating participation students must demonstrate constructive participation in discussion and critiques, willingness to explore new ideas and take chances and exhibit an understanding of a projects concepts and objectives.

Grade % Distribution:

Attendance/ Participation – 25%

(includes regular assignments from class kept in portfolio)

Homework Assignments – 25%

Final Series Project – 25%

Sketchbook – 15%

Papers –10%

I know this may seem like a lot of work but don't worry- you will find it's all manageable.

This class is designed to sharpen your vision of the world and for the exploration of your own self.

“Thinking is more interesting than knowing but not so interesting as looking.”

- Goethe

ART 123 - Required Materials

Text Book: Drawing: Space, Form and Expression: Third Edition , Pearson Prentice Hall, Wayne Enstice and Melody Peters. It has been on loan at the library in the past but I am not positive it will be on loan again this year- If you plan on continuing in art it is a book you should **buy and keep** anyway- It is a great reference.

Faculty Pack, includes most drawing materials, 18 x 24 inch newsprint pad and clip board. (You have paid for this in your materials fee already, however this cannot be picked up until the second week of classes).

In addition you will need to buy a **folder** for handouts, a **sketchbook**, **vine charcoal sticks as well as regular charcoal sticks**, and different types of nicer **quality paper** for certain assignments. A **portfolio** to keep your drawings in is also required. This can either be bought fairly cheap at the bookstore or made. This portfolio will be turned in at the end of the semester with drawings to be graded. Optional and useful items include spray fixative, paper stump, and a pencil sharpener.

Bring to class Everyday:

Drawing materials (additional certain materials will be required on certain days- remember them.)

Sketchbook

Folder

Portfolio (you can leave this at class if you wish, so it's always just here)

Outline

Mark Making
Viewfinders
Understanding Space
Composition
Proportion
Obvious Mass
Cross Contour
Planar analysis
Cross Hatching
Narrative
Gradation/Shading
Value
Perspective
Gesture
Figure
Self Portrait

Important Dates

Aug. 29..... Classes Begin
Sept. 5Labor day Holiday
Oct. 31 – Nov. 14Spring 2005 Registration Begins
Nov. 11Veterans day Holiday
Nov. 23-24-25.....Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec.1Portfolios Due
Dec.8Last day of class, Final Series Due, Portfolios returned
Dec 13-17Final Exams, Final Series Returned
Our Final Exam day and Time- Dec14th 3:20-5:20 pm.- Vote for earlier day and time