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Fall 9-1-2021

### ARTZ 105A.03: Visual Language - Drawing

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School of Art - University of Montana, Department of Art  
**ART 105A, Section 3, Visual Language: Drawing, 3 Credits, Fall Semester 2021**

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Prereq.: none.

Instructor: **Erica Hitzman**

Office: Room 407, Fine Art Building

Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Meeting times: 12:00-1:50 (Room 401)

**Course Description:** Introduction to visual language, concept development, and studio practicum. Focus on basic skills development based on observation, imagination, and memory. Some research in historical and contemporary approaches to drawing required.

**Course Objectives and Format:**

Through a variety of drawing exercises, lectures, vocabulary quizzes, sketchbook assignments, group critiques and readings, the goal of this class is to:

1. Impart the fundamental skills of drawing and increase your observation skills. In other words, learn to translate three-dimensional form into a two-dimensional visual surface by exploring techniques of line, value, texture, space and formal composition.
2. Assist you in developing a vocabulary with which to analyze drawings, and constructively criticize your own work as well as that of your peers.
3. Begin to locate and develop personal expression and meaning in your work.

There are four main components to this course:

- In-class drawing. This is a studio course, and the majority of our time will involve working on exercises and assignments that explore various concepts. During in-class studio time, I will work one-on-one with you to provide suggestions and help refine your solutions.
- Critiques are valuable to artists at all stages of their career. These discussions allow students to learn from each other and their instructor, evaluate themselves, and to utilize their growing visual vocabulary. I will guide these discussions and offer my feedback, but ultimately expect the class as a whole to speak more than myself in response to each other's artwork. Your participation is essential to make these meaningful and engaging experiences.
- Readings and periodic in-class lectures explain, illustrate and highlight important concepts and ideas. Although a different way of knowing than drawing, your engagement and comprehension will directly impact your drawing practice. Please attend in-class lectures and complete readings--we will have two quizzes based on this information throughout the term.
- Homework is an opportunity to expand and deepen your exploration of the ideas introduced during class. Expect to spend 5 hours a week on outside assignments. Often we will critique your homework assignments on the Monday after their completion. It is therefore important to turn your assignments in on time. Once you have your assignment back, please place in a portfolio with other significant work you have created.
- A sketchbook will be required for each student to record thoughts and ideas related and unrelated to class work.

**Attendance:** Success in drawing is almost entirely a function of effort. It is important to arrive on time, with all materials, and be ready to work. Usually at the beginning of each class I will discuss important concepts and issues that will guide the day's assignment, and each assignment builds on previous work. **It is therefore nearly impossible to make up missed class and it is**

**essential that you are committed to arriving on time and attend every class.** More than 3 missed classes or consistent lateness will result in a lowered grade. (For example, from B+ to B).

Two hours go by quickly in a studio so it is also important that you are set up and ready to go by the start of class. Information about assignments is usually discussed at the beginning of the class and it is distracting to others to be setting up late. I know it is early, but if I can do it, so can you.

**Grading and Assessment:** Grades will reflect your attendance, completion of assignments, commitment to your work and understanding of new concepts. Of primary concern is the distance you move between the beginning and the end of class. I realize that each student comes with different levels of experience and your individual effort and development will factor into your grade. If you are present, engaged and working to understand new things, progress will come inevitably. I will give you feedback on each of your drawing assignments and conference with you at the end of the term.

70%. Timely completion and quality of assignments. Assignments should be completed and turned in on time. As each assignment build on the last, it is important to work consistently throughout the term. Understanding the assignment, and a sustained, concerted effort towards completion are essential for success and will be reflected in the quality of your work. While it is important to work through an assignment to completion, I also consider the degree to which a student is taking risks and experimenting with new ideas.

30%. Participation. Criteria include:

1. Participation in critiques and discussions
2. Engagement and diligently working in class
3. Studio etiquette (material clean-up, care for classroom and equipment)
4. Regular attendance in class and lecture.

**Student Conduct Code:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321).

**COVID-19:** Masks are **REQUIRED** in all classrooms and labs. If any student refuses to wear a mask they will be asked to leave class promptly. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you.

**Disabling Condition:** If you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to successfully complete this course, please confer with the instructor.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Specifics available at this web address:  
<http://www2.umt.edu/catalog/acpolpro.htm>

**Health and Safety:** The UM School of Art uses environmentally sound methods. Required materials from your supply list are in compliance, with the exception of spray fixative. Spray fixative is **not** to be used in the building at any time except for in the spray booth in room 401. You are individually responsible for clean up at the end of each session in this classroom (either in or out of class time). No creatures or children will be allowed in the studios during class time or open studio times. No food or beverage containers will be allowed in the School of Art facilities when art-making is in progress. All art work must be picked up by the Monday after finals week or it will be discarded.

**Building Access:** The use of studio space requires current enrollment in a specific studio course, as course fees are used to purchase supplies. Those not currently enrolled will be asked

to leave. Building hours are 7:00am to 11:00pm daily. Fridays are open studio day in the art building—no classes are scheduled.

**Art Student Collective:** The collective is a student –organized and student-led group that sponsors art-related workshops, events, and the Annual Juried Student Art Show. Please inquire at the School of Art Office for more information.

**Events in the Department**

<http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com>

Please sign up for the School of Art Facebook Page—look for “GrizArt”. Address:

<https://www.facebook.com/griz.art.9>

The School of Art host many events and visiting artist over the semester. All will be posted in the GRIZART facebook page. Please review these postings weekly.