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ARTZ 211A.01: Drawing I - Figure

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Syllabus

Spring 2022

University of Montana, College of the Arts and Media

ARTZ 211A, Drawing I, (71285) 3 credits

Tues. Thurs 1 - 2:50 FA 401

Prereq., ARTZ 105A.

Instructor: Monday, noon to 2pm or by appointment (FA 409)

email: sarah.jones@umontana.edu

"The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come."

"When one makes art, one is striving to see as clearly as one can and in the fullness of one's faculties and doing this requires a kind of patience and an unhurriedness and a really strange complicated negotiation between will and willingness, between agency and receptivity."

~ Garth Greenwell

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of the human figure through drawing from life. Curriculum will include drawing and observations skills development, including basic anatomy studies. Regular homework will be assigned that may include research in historical and contemporary figuration.

PHILOSOPHY

This is a life drawing course grounded in the idea that anyone can learn to draw and that learning to draw is about accessing a mental state, as well as about acquiring particular technical skills. In this course, we will engage with drawing materials and processes through an exploration of drawing the human figure. We will practice observational drawing which will require patience, openness and a willingness to let go of assumptions that get in the way of seeing. This requires a commitment to *practice*, and a willingness to take *time it takes*. In this course, we will explore unique ways of drawing — slowing way down, focusing on close looking, curiously engaging with the subject as well as the drawing itself, making mistakes, and then trying again. Your drawing skills will drastically improve just by making the commitment to the process and practice of drawing for this course.

Research shows that drawing is really good for your brain, reducing stress, improving focus and memory, fostering patience and the acceptance of imperfection without judgement, and helping to form creative connections more quickly in other areas of your life and learning. It is my hope that a deeper connection between you and the world around you will be cultivated by this course: that you will develop a love for drawing as a process of learning how to see the world as it is, with more clarity and wonder, that drawing can be for you a tool that slows and focuses your mind enabling a more profound connection with yourself and what you see, so that drawing becomes a conversation between you, your work and the world.

FORMAT

This course will take place mostly in the drawing studio via lectures, demonstrations, discussions, critiques and drawing from the figure. There will be a couple of field trips to visit local exhibits. The course will include drawing assignments during class time and outside assignments. Students will investigate and discuss examples of historical and contemporary drawings. Students will be required to participate in group critiques of student work, homework assignments, readings and weekly studio assignments. Critiques and discussions allow for constructive feedback from both one's fellow students and from the instructor. The instructor will lead and direct these, however the success of these critiques depends upon the participation of all students. Specific guidelines will direct the critique format.

Plan to be presented with a variety of techniques and practices aimed towards improving your observational and drawing skills. The course will include fast gestural practices that help develop ease and spontaneity, as well as drawing assignments that extend over longer periods of time, encouraging deep slow looking in order to focus and increase perception and to erase assumptions that your brain maps onto things and that ultimately get in the way of accurate rendering. Experimental methods will be practiced to dislodge habitual looking and to unlock innovative ways of seeing. The expectation is that you will draw hard and long, engaging deeply in the process and the materials, with a willingness to explore, experiment, take risks and make mistakes.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

Please silence you cell phones during class.

It is expected that you will make a genuine, good faith effort to cultivate a regular drawing practice over the course of the semester. I will make sure you have clear and contextualized assignments, have many opportunities to connect with me and with classmates, and a lot of guidance and feedback along the way. I especially want to emphasize the values of flexibility, curiosity, and compassion.

If you find yourself struggling with time management or workload, please reach out to me and I will be happy to help.

Take breaks. Remind me if it seems like time for one.

Please photograph all of your work and email these images to me as soon as the assignments are completed. This is an important way for me to keep track of your progress. PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME AND THE DATE ON YOUR WORK. Please take photos of your work that frame and present your work well. DO NOT send all of your photos of your assignments at the end of the semester.

Final work be due the last week of scheduled classes and that studio cleanup be a scheduled part of each course. Artwork will be returned to students at the end of the term as there is not storage over summer or winter break.

COVID PRACTICES:

- **If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.**
- **If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress.**
- **UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.**

I am vaccinated and boosted twice against Covid 19.

COMMUNITY CULTURE

This class, based on the belief that everyone can learn to draw, and that this is best accomplished in a community of others with similar goals. Accomplishing this is dependent upon how we act individually and as a group. We are living in a time of trauma and suffering for many. Class members come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, and success means different things to each of us. The guiding principles of our community engagement are:

Respect (Commit to respect the varied experiences and backgrounds, and perspectives of all class members)

Kindness and encouragement (Commit to being the type of person that you would hope to turn to for support),

Constructive struggle (Commit to the vulnerability of sharing your work *before* it is finished, both to get help where you are struggling, and to connect with others having the same experience as you.)

GOALS and OUTCOMES

- 1.To understand and explore the different stages and components of the drawing process, including sketching, revising and finishing.
- 2.To understand and effectively work with the formal elements of drawing. To understand and effectively use tools and methods of sighting, measurement, and proportion, in order to translate three-dimensional observed reality into accurate two-dimensional drawings.
- 3.To safely demonstrate competent use of various materials.

CLASS PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE

You will be expected to attend the 3 hours and 40 minutes of scheduled class time each week. [An additional 6 hours minimum will be needed outside of class to complete homework assignments.](#)

[Your presence in all scheduled classes is essential. You will not be able to get an A unless you attend 24 out of our 28 scheduled classes.](#) In order to benefit from the class you must be a contributing member of the group. You are expected to come to class on time and stay for the full duration of the class period. If for some reason you are unable to attend class due to illness or emergency, please call or email me and let me know in advance, if possible. Class participation includes your preparedness, both in terms of practical studio

work as well as readings, critiques and discussions. You can ensure a good grade in the “Participation” category if you:

- a) Come to class with all of the supplies you need, along with ideas and source material when necessary.
- b) Keep up-to-date on your practical assignments for the class
- c) Complete all studio assignments.
- d) Participate fully in all critiques.
- e) Check your email for messages regarding the class DAILY

If you are not sure what you need to be doing over the weekend, make sure you contact me before you leave Thursday class. The studio is available for your use when no other class is meeting.

GRADING

- Attendance and participation = 10%
- in class drawing = 70%
- Homework = 20%

Assignments will be graded equally on

1. Effort and participation
2. Handling of media
3. Design and craftsmanship
4. Improvement of figure drawing skills

Students will have the opportunity to re-work unsatisfactory homeworkwork. This will be due a week after the original deadline.

Your work for your midterm and final grade will be assessed on the following:

- a) Are the requirements of the assignment observed?
- b) Have you thoughtfully considered your iconography and meaning for the more conceptual assignments?
- c) Exploration and expansion of your use of techniques and materials and striving for personal excellence
- d) Personal work discipline (reworking drawings if necessary, handing work in on time)
- e) Progress and effort

***Review critique - There will be a review of your work at midterm and at the end of the semester. Please bring all of your finished drawings and any preparatory drawing.

A= outstanding student, inventive, thoughtful, self-critical and highly motivated. Participation during group critiques/discussions, quality finished drawings and considered studies. Meets consistently high standards.

B= good student, above average; competent work if not always excellent; somewhat uneven quality (some very good work but not all work reaching the highest standard); perhaps one area of weakness, but otherwise skillfully executed work.

C= average student; college level work; competence in at least half of the assignments; lacking in some basic skills, eg. consistently timid mark making, or uninspired compositions.

D= incompetent work, very few basic skills demonstrated; unimaginative, or incomplete assignments; a very concerning number of missed classes (three or more) or a combination of these factors.

There will be opportunity for extra credit

* I reserve the right to change the syllabus w/out notice.

CONTENT NOTIFICATION

Art scholarship and art practice along with teaching and learning involve a critical exploration of ideas, theories, art-making practices, and art movements that encompass such things as the human body, sexuality, race, gender, religions, and cultures. This course can touch upon any of the above categories with an expectation that students will actively participate in all course assignments, discussions, and tests. Given this information, it is the student's obligation to determine that the requirements conflict with his or her core beliefs. If the student determines that there is a conflict with his or her beliefs, one of the following actions needs to be taken:

- 1) drop the class before the last day to drop a course without penalty
- 2) meet with the instructor within the first week of classes to determine if an accommodation can be made. (Note, faculty, are not required to grant content accommodations.)

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.

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 <http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/name/StudentConductCode>.

DISABLING CONDITION

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability for Students (DSS). If you think you have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you are not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The UM Art Department uses environmentally sound methods. All solvents, other than Gamsol, including turpentine and Odorless Mineral Spirits are prohibited. You are individually responsible for clean up at the end of each session in this classroom (either in or out of class time). Use of the wood shop power tools is voluntary, and all users must complete a power tool orientation. 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 Art Department 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.

INCLUSION POLICIES

The University of Montana values leadership, engagement, diversity, and sustainability, because our institution is committed to respect, we welcome, encourage, and celebrate the differences among us. As members of the University of Montana community, we aspire to:

- Respect the dignity and rights of all persons.
- Practice honesty, trustworthiness, and academic integrity.
- Promote justice, learning, individual success, and service.
- Act as good stewards of institutional resources.
- Respect the natural environment.

The College of the Arts and Media at the University of Montana, has chosen to actively pursue equity and access for all persons. In this charge we will be researching, planning, and implementing ways in which our culture can be more accessible, inclusive, equitable, sustainable. It is not enough to be anti-bias in principle without being equitable in action. We will implement these actions organized by a group of students, faculty, and staff across the entire College in an ongoing way.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENT SUPPORT

- Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code: “This Code of Conduct embodies and promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, and duties associated with citizenship as a student in our community at the University of Montana. This Code exists to protect the interests of the community and dignity of its members, and to challenge those behaviors which are not in accordance with our policies”. The Code is available for review online at <https://staging.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/student-code-of-conduct-2021-pdf>
- Accommodations: “Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting the DSS office. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.”
- The Writing and Public Speaking Center provides one-on-one tutoring to students at all levels and at any time in the writing process. Visit now. Visit often. We’re ready when you are. www.umt.edu/writingcenter.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy: The University of Montana is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, visit <https://www.umt.edu/diversity/resources/mental-health.php>

Take very good care of your selves and one another. Please don't hesitate to contact me and/or find support from other resources listed below.

In cases of life-threatening emergency, call 911.

- Campus safety: <https://www.umn.edu/safety/>
 - Office of Student Services: <https://www.umn.edu/student-affairs/student-support-resources/default.php>
 - Curry Health Center: <https://www.umn.edu/curry-health-center/>
- Off-Campus Emergency resources for Student Support:
- Crises Line: <https://namimissoula.org/suicide-prevention/>
 - Transgender resources and Hotline - <https://www.gaymontana.org/transgender-health/>

STAY CONNECTED

Please join SVMA social media to stay informed about events and happenings in our school.

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/umn_svma/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UMTsvma>

Student Art Collective (this is primarily for art students) The collective is a student-organized and student-led group that sponsors art related workshops, events, and the Annual Juried Student Art Show. Look for informational posters. The Director recommends soliciting student participation in art classes.