

9-2014

## ARTZ 105A.05: Visual Language - Drawing

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# University of Montana School of Art

Visual Language: Drawing, ARTZ 105A Section 05 (3 Credits)  
Fall 2014, Tuesday and Thursday 9:10am- 11:00am, Fine Arts Room 401

Instructor: Crista Ann Ames  
Email: [crista.ames@umontana.edu](mailto:crista.ames@umontana.edu)  
Office: Schreiber Gym room 120  
Office hours: Wednesday: 1-3pm

## Materials, (available at UC Bookstore):

- Drawing Fundamentals Starter Pack (Sept. 2)
- Drawing board \$7.75
- Bee Drawing Pad 18x24
- Cardboard portfolio 5.25
- Scissors
- Blue Painters' Tape
- Container for drawing supplies
- Hand Pencil Sharpener

**Course Description:** The foundations program prepares students for further study in the arts by introducing skills and strategies important for creative visual expression. Students develop an understanding of how formal language, material sensibilities and a wide range of art practices can articulate content and express ideas. The program also establishes craft and work expectations while encouraging creative risk, experimentation and cross-media solutions. This coordinated introductory curriculum of five classes spans all areas of the studio and art history experience and introduces students to a full range of disciplines for possible future study. Foundations classes are designed to be taken at the beginning of a student's course of study, and are prerequisite for most other art courses.

**Course Objectives:** The objective of this course is to introduce the student to the tools and techniques that are essential to the development and understanding of drawing. By the end of term, the student will become familiar with the elements of drawing, explore artistic work and theory and develop a visual literacy through creating drawings that reflect an understanding of both form and content. A significant component to this course will include introductions to a variety of drawing materials, concepts, and techniques. While this is a studio course, lectures, demonstrations and other learning tools will supplement the studio practices. The course will focus on specific elements of art and students will develop an understanding of their meaning and the possibilities inherent in their use. These include, but are not limited to: Line, Shape, Value, Volume, Perspective, Gesture, Negative and Positive Space, Direct Observation, Scale and Control of Media. As we progress through the semester, we will use these basic elements to explore more elaborate ideas of composition and design. Movement, Exaggeration, Measurement, Spatial Analysis, Plane, Modeling, Illusion, Flatness, Linear Perspective, Viewer Positioning, Concept and Composition will also be discussed. Throughout the course, students' intellectual and emotional engagement will be encouraged.

**Course Format:** Most lectures, handouts, and critiques will take place at the beginning of class. Studio practicum takes up the larger portion of the class time. Students should be prepared to listen carefully, take notes, be present the entire two hours, and apply classroom instruction independently. For three credits there are four hours of scheduled studio contact and a minimum of five additional unscheduled hours to be spent preparing work, reading, attending outside art events.

The assignments in this course are designed to enhance one's knowledge of media selections, compositional arrangement and, most importantly, conceptual development, which ultimately prepares the student for upper level art courses.

**Attendance:** This is a studio art class and therefore regular attendance is essential. Each student will be permitted **3 unexcused absences**. After three unexcused absences, your grade will **drop one letter grade for each day missed**. If you miss more than 6 classes it will be impossible for you to receive anything but a failing grade (F) for the course. Know that this is not a recreational course, and any activity that disrupts focus of classmates will not be tolerated.

If you have a cell phone that disrupts the class or you use the phone during class time for anything unrelated to the course, it will count as an absence. Students who habitually arrive late, arrive without necessary materials, leave early or take extended breaks will also be considered absent.

**Work schedules, minor illness, oversleeping, studying for other classes, etc. are not acceptable excuses for missing class.**

When you are absent or late for a class, you are still responsible for the information and assignments presented. All presentations and readings will be posted on Moodle but In-Class demonstrations will NOT be repeated for the convenience of an individual student. The instructor reserves the right to review attendance problems on an individual basis.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Full Information on the Withdrawal Policy for University of Montana courses can be found on the web at <http://www2.umt.edu/catalog/acpolpro.htm>.

**Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:** Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic F for the course. 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).

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities may request reasonable modification by contacting the instructor. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disability, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more Information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>. Student with disabilities or special needs should see the instructor within the first two weeks of class

**Health and Safety:** The School of Art uses environmentally sound methods. Required materials from your supply list are in compliance, with the exception of spray fixative. **Fixative must be used in the spray booth only and left to dry fully before reentering the studio lab.** First aid kits, dust masks, gloves, eye wash, and eye protection are located by sink. Food and drink are not allowed in the studio. Animals and children will not enter the room.

**Building Hours:** The use of School of Art studios requires current enrollment in a studio course. Hours are 7:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M. Fridays are reserved for studio days, as there are no classes scheduled.

#### **Studio Use Guidelines:**

- You are individually responsible for the cleanup at the end of each session in the classroom. The last ten minutes is used for clean up, and your space will be left better condition that you found it. This includes but is not limited to wiping the tables, putting drawing pads away neatly, returning all still life materials to their designated locations, shutting all windows, and putting the furniture back in place.
- Drawing pads must be kept inside cardboard portfolios in the trolley that is labeled for this course: **Ames.05 or Ames.06**
- All artwork, portfolios, and drawing pads must be clearly marked with student's name, course, instructor, semester, and year. Work that is not labeled will be discarded.
- Front critique board must be empty at the end of class.
- Cell phones must be turned off, NO HEADPHONES, music permitted by instructor.
- Drafting tables are not to be sat on or cut into.

#### **Grading and Evaluation**

|           |          |          |  |
|-----------|----------|----------|--|
| A/ 100-94 | A-/93-91 |          | excelled at every phase of the course                          |
| B+/90-87  | B/86-84  | B-/83-81 | demonstrated above average work                                |
| C+/80-77  | C/75-74  | C-/73-71 | fulfilled every requirement of the course                      |
| D+/70-67  | D/66-64  | D-/63-61 | made progress, but fulfilled requirements in a substandard way |
| F/60-0    |          |          | failed to meet the course requirements                         |

**Assignments and Projects will be evaluated in five major areas:**

1. Demonstrating a positive attitude and a willingness to improve upon skills
2. Craftsmanship: every area of work must be thoughtfully and technically addressed
3. Fulfillment of Project Objectives and completed drawings
4. Coming to class with seriousness and preparedness
5. Participation in discussions and critiques

Note: You are not graded according to other students in class. Students will be graded according to how well they have fulfilled the expectations of the course and specific projects. Additionally, I am very interested in the individual student's progress throughout the semester.

**Late Work:** All projects are due on due date, no exceptions. Any late work will have one letter grade deducted for each class period that it is late. Work will be accepted for less than full credit for one week after the due date. Extra credit is not available for this course.

### **Grading Breakdown: 250 possible points**

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| In class exercises       | 30 points        |
| Class Discussions        | 30 Points        |
| Weekly Assignments       | 40 points        |
| Projects 1, 2, 3         | 100 points total |
| Midterm Terminology Exam | 20 points        |
| Art event Responses      | 30 points        |

**In class exercises:** During each class period, students will complete exercises which pertain to the concepts and skills which we are discussing in class. In Class assignments will be graded mostly on effort and participation as other projects will be graded more critically.

**Class Discussions:** We will have a critique upon the completion of each drawing project. I will start the dialogue by giving the class a prompt or set of questions which must be answered about each drawing. It is very important to give constructive feedback through articulate comments. Your ideas and criticism should be based in an understanding of the terms and vocabulary that we have discussed in class. Failure to actively participate or bring in work that is less than 50% complete is unacceptable and will result in a loss of participation points for the critique. Remember, these critiques are designed to help you and your classmates. Overtly negative comments/behavior will not be tolerated.

**Weekly Assignments:** During the 2<sup>nd</sup> class period of each week, students will be assigned a weekly assignment. This Assignment will be a continuation of the techniques and processes that have been focused on in class. These projects should take on average 4-6 hours over the weekend. At the beginning of the next class the drawings will be hung up on the wall and we will hold a brief class discussion.

**Projects:** A major component of the course is the successful completion of projects which pertain to techniques and concepts we focus on in class. The projects are based on demonstrations and lectures from the instructor. The drawings must be done on large drawing paper. Be very concerned about your craft. Bring in finished, sprayed drawings for critique.

**Midterm Exam:** Students will be tested on the vocabulary and techniques that we have discussed over the course of the semester.

**Art events:** You must attend a minimum of 5 Art events. This may include visiting artist lectures, gallery openings, First Friday, etc. After attending each event, write one to two paragraphs detailing your experience. These writeups are due the first class after Thanksgiving break.

For comprehensive updates follow Griz Art on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/griz.art.9?fref=ts>

Also try the School of Art Blog <http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com/>

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Second Floor: Student Artist Collective Bulletin Board
- Second Floor: Resource Lab
- Fourth Floor: Emergency phone at the East end of the hallway
- Third Floor: Light Shaft

**Semester Calendar**

|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday, August 25            | First Day of Classes           |
| Monday, September 1          | Labor Day, No Classes          |
| Tuesday, November 4          | Elections Day, No Classes      |
| Tuesday, November 11         | Veterans Day, No Classes       |
| Wednesday, November 26       | Student Travel Day, No Classes |
| November 27, 28              | Thanksgiving Holiday           |
| Friday, December 5           | Last Day of regular classes    |
| Monday- Friday December 8-12 | Final Exams*                   |

**\*All artwork must be out of the studio by 12:00pm on Friday of Finals week. Items left will be thrown away.**