ARTZ 105A.04: Visual Language

Steven Krutek
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School of Art, University of Montana  
ARTZ 105A Section 04, Visual Language: Drawing, 3 credits  
Fulfills General Education Requirement for Expressive Arts  
T, R 9:00 AM - 10:50 AM  
Fine Arts 401  
Fall Semester, August 31-December 20, 2017  
Instructor: Steven Krutek  
Office: Fine Arts 303  
Office Hours: T, H 10:50 AM-11:50 AM  
X2065  
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Mailbox in art office-"Krutek"

Course Description and Objectives  
This course provides an introduction to visual language, concepts, and studio practicum. There is  
a focus on basic skills development in rendering volume, pictorial depth, and figure/ground  
relationships. The course will also research historical and contemporary approaches to drawing.  

Students will develop an understanding and ability to demonstrate several important historical  
and contemporary drawing techniques and concepts. These include but are not limited to mark-  
making, proportional development, form, gesture drawing, contour line,  
cross-contour line, light, value, composition, positive and negative space, repetition,  
rhythm, perspective (one, two, and three-point), subject matter, emotional content and  
expression.  

Techniques and concepts will be introduced through lectures, image galleries, demonstrations,  
and assigned readings.  

**Students will demonstrate an understanding of these techniques and concepts through in-class assignments, sketchbook entries (optional but recommended), a weekly finished drawing (to be completed at home and turned in at the beginning of each week), and through a final project.**  

Coursework  
You will find a syllabus below, which lists the concepts we will undertake by the week. Any  
assigned projects, more than likely, cannot be completed in the allotted class time. You can  
expect to spend at least 5 hours outside of class per week in order to satisfactorily complete the  
assignments (per N.A.S.A.D. guidelines). Individual and group critiques will coincide with the  
completion of the assignments. Students are required to thoroughly evaluate their own drawings,  
others’ drawings, as well as understand/accept criticism given by others.  

To be successful in this class, each student must:  
- Attend and participate in all scheduled classes  
- Actively participate in critiques  
- Complete all assignments on time
- Keep notes on technical information
- Help maintain a safe, clean, and organized drawing studio
- **FYI: I will not accept work turned in for another course**

**Textbook**
No textbook is required but pertinent readings will be assigned periodically.

**Syllabus**
Week 1, August 31-September 9: mark-making and the illusion of space
Week 2, September 10-September 16: gestural drawing and value shapes
Week 3, September 17-September 23: cross-contour line and proportion
Week 4, September 24-September 30: quick drawing and gallery viewing
Week 5, October 1-October 7: the elements of art and principles of design
Week 6, October 8-October 14: linear perspective
Week 7, October 15-October 21: linear perspective continued
Week 8, October 22-October 28: individual student meetings
Week 9, October 29-November 4: lighting
Week 10, November 5-November 11: auto-biographical drawing
Week 11, November 12-November 18: work week for long(er) term project
Week 12, November 19-November 25: infusing emotion into your drawings
Week 13, November 26-December 2: work week for final project
Week 14, December 3-December 9: work day on Tuesday Dec. 5th, **first group of final projects due Thursday Dec. 7th**
Week 15, December 10-December 16: **second group of final projects due Tuesday Dec. 12th, final project grades and semester grades will be distributed Thursday Dec 14th at 10:10 AM. THE LATTER IS OUR SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM TIME AND DAY---YOU ARE REQUIRED TO BE THERE.**

**Grading**
**Late work is not accepted.** If you have an extenuating circumstance, please contact the instructor. **Extra credit is not offered for this course.**

Your final score/grade is based on a 490 point scale that breaks down as follows:

- Weekly drawings (6, 30 pts. each) 180 pts.
- Long(er) term drawings (2, 50 pts. each) 100 pts.
- Midterm drawing (1, 70 pts.) 70 pts.
- Final drawing (1, 80 pts.) 80 pts.
- Attendance 60 pts.

(2 pts. for each day present, 1 pt. for tardy or leaving early, 0 pts. for absence)

TOTAL GRADE: _________ / 490 PTS.

**Note:** Instructor reserves the right to change the number of semester tasks and/or the points mentioned above. Of course, students will be notified of such changes.
A total number of points will be formulated from studio projects, written critiques/reflections, and class attendance. The percentage of points earned will be assigned letter grades as follows:

- 100-93 = A
- 92-90 = A-
- 89-88 = B+
- 87-83 = B
- 82-80 = B-
- 79-78 = C+
- 77-73 = C
- 72-70 = C-
- 69-68 = D+
- 67-63 = D
- 62-60 = D-
- 59-BELOW = F

**Academic Misconduct & Student Conduct Code/Classroom Conduct**

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://www.umt.edu/vpesa/documents/Student%20Conduct%20Code%20PDF-%20FINAL%208-27-13.pdf](http://www.umt.edu/vpesa/documents/Student%20Conduct%20Code%20PDF-%20FINAL%208-27-13.pdf)

+ Students may not use headphones or ear buds during class time. This course is meant to build community between one another and to learn from conversations occurring around you as you work. If we are engaged in studio practices during class time, I encourage you to walk around the room to look at other students' work in order to learn and progress.

+ When we do engage in studio practice, I recommend that students wear clothing to class that they feel comfortable staining. (Feel free to wear an apron to class).

+ Cell phones/smart phones or any hand-held device should be put away and silenced while class is in session. They may occasionally be used for educational purposes only, such as photographing work, looking up information, or adding a due date to your calendar, etc. Texting and calling may take place before and after scheduled class times.

**Attendance**

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Students are expected to arrive on time and be in class for its entire duration. All absences regardless of cause (sleeping in/travel/medical emergency/family emergency), follow the guidelines below:

+ Two absences/late arrivals/leaving early: No grade change
+ Three to four absences/late arrivals/leaving early: One full grade drop
+ Five to six absences/late arrivals/leaving early: Two full grades dropped
+ More than six absences/late arrivals/leaving early: Retake course
Lectures, discussions, demonstrations, and instructions missed will not be repeated; the absent student must obtain notes and information from another student.

**Due Dates**

*Late work is not accepted.* If you predict an absence, submit assignments early.

**Legibility and Labeling**

Please label assignments with your name, course number, assignment title, and date: *John Doe, ARTZ105A, Section 4, mark-making drawing, 1/26/2015*

Label any artwork in this fashion on the back. Any hand-written materials (reflections/critiques perhaps) should be presented in a legible and professional format and labeled in the same manner.

**Final Exam**

Our final meeting is scheduled for the following date and time: **12/14/17, 10:10 AM-12:10 PM**

Attendance is required. Student attendance follows the above policy.

**Building Access**

The use of studio space requires enrollment in a specific studio course or a course that incorporates studio practices. Hours are from 7 AM – 11 PM daily.

**Health and Safety**

The UM School of Art uses environmentally-sound methods. Spray fixatives may not be used inside the studio/classroom facilities. They may be used outside or in an approved spray booth. Acrylic media are water-based and acceptable. All are available at our bookstore. You will be individually responsible for clean up at the end of each of your classroom working periods, both during and between classes. No creatures or children under the age of 18 will be allowed in studio during class time or open studio times. No food or open beverage containers are allowed in the School of Art facilities when art-making is in progress. Students may take a snack break by stepping out of the studio/classroom in necessary and approved.

*Courtesy Telephones:* Located on the fourth floor east hallway and basement foyer. To be escorted to your bike/auto/bus stop call extension X2777.

*First Aid:* Basic kits are available near the sink; contact security for serious situations at x6131. All accidents should be reported to the instructor and the School of Art office.

**Disability Services**

On the web @ [http://www.umt.edu/disability](http://www.umt.edu/disability)

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, 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.

**Incompletes**
Incompletes for the course will only be given in cases of extreme emergency. It is the responsibility of the student to keep the instructor fully informed of such situations.

**Withdraw Policy**
Refer to UM course catalog or visit http://www.umt.edu/business-services/Students/Student%20Accounts/Withdrawal%20Policy.php

**School of Art Announcements**
For updates on what’s going on in the School of Art and how you can get involved, please visit www.umt.edu/art/

**Student Art Collective/Art Club**
Members will likely meet weekly. Everyone is invited to bring a sack lunch and join in! Please visit: http://www.umt.edu/art/Current-Students/clubs%20/default.php
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Supply List

Texts/Materials:
Launching the Imagination (OPTIONAL)

Supplies:
The ARTZ105 supply kits will be available in the UC Bookstore the 2nd week of class:
- BEE-827T100-1824 Big Bee Sketch Paper 18x24 100 sheet pad
- Kit-Bag:
  | PRO-3025-60 Black compressed charcoal, 2-pack
  | LRY-5630109 9B Graphite Crayon, water-soluble
  | GEN-970A-BP Graphite Stick, assorted
  | SAN-14420 Ebony Pencil
  | GEN-T-24BP Tri-Tip Eraser
  | SAN-70531 Kneaded Eraser
  | GEN-57C Vine Charcoal Tube, assorted
  | PRO-6987-24C Blending Stump

Choose:
- Store-bought portfolio OR make your own portfolio with cardboard and duct tape

Additional:
- Masking tape (at least 1" thick)
- Utility or Ex-acto knife
- Ruler or straight edge
- Folder for handouts
- Workable fixative

Optional:
- GEN-558 White Charcoal Pencil
- Container for supplies