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ARTZ 105A.06: Visual Language - Drawing

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS
VISUAL LANGUAGE - DRAWING
SPRING 2014
ARTZ-105A, SECTION 06- 3 CREDITS
M/W: 4:10 PM- 6:00 PM
FA 404
PREREQUISITES: NONE

Instructor: Claire Melli
Contact: claire.melli@umontana.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00- 2:30 PM and by appointment.
Schrieber Gym, Room 127.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Equip students with the technical skill set necessary to accurately render form.
2. Encourage the expressive use of line and shape to communicate content.
3. Explore various media and surfaces in the pursuit of naturalistic drawing.
4. Enable students to recognize in art the principles that they are learning.

STRUCTURE:

Class time will consist of drawing exercises ranging in duration from one minute to ninety minutes. Throughout the course of the semester, we will focus on multiple subjects such as contour, gesture, still life, and perspective. At least two examples of each primary topic will be necessary to receive credit. Students will be required to keep a sketchbook that will be turned in for grading before finals and monitored during the semester. The final project will consist of a drawing of the students' choosing that demonstrates a strong understanding of the skills introduced in the class. We will hold critiques periodically to discuss the application of techniques and establish a critical but constructive vocabulary.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Grades will be based primarily on the effort demonstrated by the student to master the concepts that we will be addressing. This means the seriousness and preparedness of the student during class time, the time and energy invested in the sketchbook, and the quality of the drawings turned in for grading. Deadlines for assignments are not flexible; late work will be reduced by a letter grade unless you have discussed the issue with me or in the case of an emergency.

Summation of grading system:

Assignments: 35 possible points
Sketchbook: 35 possible points
Final Project: 20 possible points
Participation: 10 possible points

There will be seven main topics that we will focus on this semester and each accompanying assignment will be worth five points. The sketchbook will be checked on a bi-weekly basis and graded at the end of the semester. Participation refers to the student's contribution to critiques and discussions as well as an acceptable level of attendance. Additionally, 5 hours of work outside of class time is required. Extra credit may be possible, see me for details.

TEXT/MATERIALS:

There is no required text; however, I will supply additional articles and reading assignments throughout the semester. Required materials include vine charcoal, compressed charcoal, pencils (graphite, charcoal, and red Prismacolor or equivalent), erasers, newsprint, a drawing pad, a drawing board, and a sketchbook. India ink and a small brush is also a helpful medium. We will talk about materials more as the class progresses.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken daily. Three absences over the course of the semester will be permitted. Each additional absence will dock your final grade by half of a letter (A-, B+, B-, etc.). Three incidences of tardiness by more than ten minutes is the equivalent of one absence.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

No creatures or children will be allowed in studios during class time or open studio times. No food or open beverage containers will be allowed in art school facilities when art making is in progress. When needed, students may take breaks by simply stepping out of the studios. Studio clean up is required. Pick-up of artwork must take place prior to the scheduled exam day or the last class period. Pieces remaining after this time will be discarded. Artwork also may not be left in the Art Office.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND THE 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>.

DISABILITY CONDITIONS:

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modification by contacting 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.

BUILDING HOURS:

The use of the Art studio space requires current enrollment in a specific studio course, as course fee are used for purchase of supplies. Those not currently enrolled will be asked to leave. Hours are 7 A.M. – 11 P.M. daily.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The student art collective is a great organization, for more information about this group check out <http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com>. Also, there is no online component for this class; assignments will be posted on Moodle for students to access if necessary.

SCHEDULE:

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEEDED, THIS IS JUST A ROUGH TRAJECTORY)

WEEK ONE & WEEK TWO:

Contour & Cross Contour

WEEK THREE & WEEK FOUR:

Positive/negative space

WEEK FIVE & WEEK SIX:

Gesture & Value

WEEK SEVEN & WEEK EIGHT:

Value

WEEK NINE & WEEK TEN:

Perspective

WEEK ELEVEN & WEEK TWELVE:

Still life

WEEK THIRTEEN & WEEK FOURTEEN:

Portraiture

WEEK FIFTEEN & WEEK SIXTEEN:

Work on final project (details TBA).

SKETCHBOOK:

Homework, consisting of drawings and brief writing assignments, will be contained in a sketchbook that I will check on a weekly or bi-weekly basis during class. Expect group discussions concerning certain sketchbook topics. The final sketchbook grade will be determined at the end of the semester. You are responsible for obtaining a suitable sketchbook as well as maintaining the sketchbook and its contents until final grading takes place at the end of the semester.