

Visual Language – Drawing

ARTZ 105A-02 – 3 credits –Spring 2021
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:50 pm

PROFESSOR: James Bailey
CONTACT: james.bailey@umontana.edu
OFFICE LOCATION: FA 402 (enter through the print studio-FA 403)
OFFICE HOURS: 12:00-1:00 pm on Mondays or by appointment.
MOODLE: All grades, deadlines and updates will be posted on moodle, so check it frequently.
2D TECH: Jason Clark

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 GOALS

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

- 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.
- Assist you in developing a vocabulary with which to analyze drawings, and constructively criticize your own work as well as that of your peers.
- Begin to locate and develop personal expression and meaning in your work.

COURSE STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

- 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.
- 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 Tuesday after their completion. It is therefore important to turn your assignments in on time.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Come to class ready to work, students are not to leave class to purchase supplies. Demonstrations missed will not be repeated for the absent student. If you are absent from class it is YOUR responsibility to get any missed information from another student, and you will be required to meet any deadlines set. Showing up late or leaving early from class will also affect your grade in a negative manner. After three absences, you will lose 10 points per absence. (Being sick does not count as an excused absence-it is one of your 3). 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. 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

GRADING POLICY

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. It is always appropriate to approach me with questions or concerns about your grade or progress in class. We will have one-on-one meetings at mid-term, however it is your responsibility beyond that to pursue clarity about your grade. The following factors will be considered in the grading process:

- Adherence to project guidelines (completed on time, addressed projects learning objectives)
- Skill acquisition and application

- Artistic scholarship, conceptual depth, and attention to craft and process
- Use of class time and personal initiative
- Participation in critiques: ability to give and accept constructive criticism; ability to discuss visual concepts
- Personal growth/improvement of both technical skills and idea development

Timely completion and quality of assignments. Assignments should be completed and turned in on time. As each assignment builds 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.

All assigned work must be ready for critiques or grading at the appropriate deadline for each assignment. Each assignment will be given a point value. Some projects may be worth 5 pts while longer projects will be worth 50 pts. All assignment grades will be posted on Moodle. Completed work handed in on time can be redone as many times as you want to try to improve your grade, with only the highest grade being recorded. Work handed in late or incomplete cannot be redone for a better grade. It is always better to hand in a project late, than not at all.

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.

The course grade awarded at the end of the term will reflect the student's overall attendance and performance both in and out of class. It is your responsibility to consult with the Instructor throughout the term to ensure that your progress is satisfactory. It is the student's responsibility to complete the course work within the semester the class is offered. Not finishing the required work within the allotted time frame does not entitle a student to an incomplete. Incompletes will only be given in cases of extreme emergency.

CRITIQUES

It is extremely important to learn to express your ideas in verbal terms. All of you have reasons for making art, but these need to be clarified and you need to think about how your work fits into the historical and contemporary arena. As artists, you will constantly be faced with trying to communicate both visually and verbally with other people. Although it is often difficult to share ideas with a group of people, it is really important, and will only add to your images. Informal and formal critiques will occur throughout the semester. Group critiques will be scheduled to discuss works in progress as well as finished pieces. It is required that all students be present and participate in these groups critiques. As the instructor of this course I will never gonna give you up, never gonna let you down, never gonna run around and desert you. Never gonna make you cry, never gonna say goodbye, never gonna tell a lie and hurt you. All students should have the appropriate work to present and to have put in an appropriate amount of commitment into the work being critiqued. The purpose of these critiques is to openly exchange thoughts and ideas, technical issues and discoveries to further benefit the student. We can all learn from the trials and errors as well as the successes of one another.

ADDITIONAL WORKS

It may also be noted that you can always do additional works beyond those that are required. These works must be worked on in class at least some of the time. I will not grade any works that just "show up", that I have not seen worked on during class sessions. Additional works can only help your final grade. However, these additional works are not a substitute for assigned works, and will only be considered if all assigned works have been completed and handed in on time with a passing grade of "C" or higher. Additional prints, based on their complexity may not count as a full project.

FINE ARTS BUILDING GUIDELINES

- Fine Arts Building Hours are for currently enrolled students only; art studio use requires being currently registered in a specific studio course as course fees facilitate specific supplies. If not currently enrolled, students will be asked to leave.
- Hours: 7 A.M. – 11 P.M., Monday – Sunday
- Please do not work alone after hours – you are encouraged to work with a friend or classmate.
- No creatures or children not enrolled in courses allowed in studios during class time nor open studio times – they will be asked to leave.
- Pick up all artwork by the scheduled exam day or the last class period or artwork will be discarded. Please do not leave artwork in the art office.

SHARING A STUDIO

The Fine Arts Building is a shared space. You need to use it with consideration for others, the materials, and the equipment. It is your responsibility to clean up after yourself and our class. Failure to do so may negatively affect your grade. After working in the studio or presenting an artwork, make accommodations for removing the artwork and leave the space clean and in good condition— projects will be graded as incomplete until this is done.

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/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

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

HEALTH & 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.

END OF SEMESTER STUDIO CLEANING

Studio clean up is a required part of our course for all students. This will take place during our scheduled final exam time. You are required to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the cleaning. An automatic 10 percent of your total grade will be deducted for missing this clean up. All student works, materials need to be cleared out of all lockers, studio spaces no later than Noon, the Monday after finals week. Items left after this point will be tossed.

ACCESS/SPECIAL NEEDS

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>.

SCHOOL OF ART RESPONSIBILITIES

The School of Art is not responsible for lost or stolen materials or artworks. Unlocked drawers in the print shop, are used at the sole discretion of the student, and no guarantee of safety of materials is made by the print faculty or the School, metal lockers used by the student can be locked with lock provided by student.

COVID-19

Due to the current Covid-19 epidemic, Masks will be required to be worn in the studio at all times, and you must maintain 6' social distancing guidelines as much as is possible. You will also have assigned seating to help with contact tracing.