

FA14 DRAWING AND PERCEPTION 1

Purpose

This course is a beginning drawing course designed for fine arts majors. Non-fine arts majors with some background in drawing may also take this course. Its purpose is to train the hand and eye, while at the same time introduce the student to a variety of techniques of drawing. The larger purpose is to teach students to more sharply perceive both the world and the art we make.

Course Description

The course is divided into three parts: 1) Fundamentals of Drawing (Mark, Line, Shape, Tone, Form and Composition); 2) Perspective (One- and Two-point Perspective); 3) Figure Drawing (Gesture, Proportion, Balance, Line Studies, Modeling)

Course Requirements

1. Attendance is considered in grading, because most of the work of this course takes place in class. Grading is affected by unexcused absences (an excused absence is one accompanied by a doctor's note). The department's policy is that after three absences, a student's grade is affected.
2. Completion of class assignments in a satisfactory manner. The portfolio is graded down for missed classwork. Excused and unexcused absences do not exempt students from completing the classroom assignments in a satisfactory manner. (Missed classwork is handed in at the next portfolio review, with a note clipped to it, and not before.)
3. There are six outside homework assignments, graded individually. There is also one required visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Students may go into the city at any point during the second half of the semester to the Met (5th Ave. and 82nd) to look at the permanent collection of drawings on the second floor. The last homework problem entails making a copy (8 x 11 inches max) of one of the drawings there (see homework assignment #6 on homework assignment sheet).
4. There are "mini-critiques" throughout the semester, in which students are expected to participate. There are also a midterm and final. Missing either of these without a medical excuse will adversely affect the course grade. The purpose of critiques is to learn from fellow classmates' solutions and to learn to analyze drawing and use the specific vocabulary associated with it. Participation in critiques contributes to the grade.

Grading

Grades are a combination of the quality of classroom drawing and acceptance and incorporation of criticism, as judged by the instructor, homework assignments, and attendance and participation in an intelligent manner in the critiques. Portfolios are graded at midterm and at the final examination. The instructor's evaluation of the student's classroom work (the quality of the end result) is weighted heavily in determining the course grade. Students should remember, however, that attendance, homework, and attitude affect the quality of work and the grade. Students who skimp on time put into their homework problems will see this reflected in their final grades.

The instructor uses the standards in use at Hofstra: A=honors level; truly exceptional work; B=good; substantially above average; C=satisfactory work which meets the course requirements; D=poor work; noticeably below average, but still meeting the minimum requirements of the course; F=unsatisfactory work; fails to meet minimum requirements.

Materials List

Drawing pencils (2B, 3B or 4B, 6B, minimum of 3); HB pencils (minimum 1)
 1 small pencil sharpener
 Two graphite sticks (4B or softer)
 2 pentel pens (or equivalent), one medium, one fine
 3 packages soft vine charcoal
 1 box soft compressed charcoal (brand name: *char-kole* preferred)
 2 black conté crayons, 2B or B; 1 black conté crayon, H, optional
 2 pieces white chalk or white charcoal (must be soft)
 Four kneaded erasers (approx. .50 each)
 3 pink erasers
 Straight edge (measuring marks not necessary, minimum 15 inches)
 3 watercolor brushes (1 small round, 1 medium round, 1 medium flat, all under 1 inch width)
 1 larger (1- 1 ¼ inch watercolor brush), flat
 1 bottle black india ink, small
 Newsprint pad (18 x 24 inches) 50 pp.
 All-Purpose or textured white drawing paper pad, good quality (i.e., acid-free) (18 x 24 inches) (50 sheets)
 3 Large Binder Clips for handing in drawings
 Workable Spray Fixative, 1 can
Rigid portfolio for storage of drawings (black board with ribbon ties, 20 ½ inches x 26 inches)
 Carrying case for materials (shoebox ok)
 2-3 tin cans (soup size) or paper cups
OPTIONAL: Masonite board with large rubber band; large trash bag for carrying drawing pad on rainy days; large clip for clipping drawing pad
NOTE: Grading is affected by failure to purchase required materials.