

Ryman Arts

FOUNDATION DRAWING | FALL 2024

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory college-level class to the materials, techniques, and processes implemented in drawing and composition. Demonstrations and assignments are designed to explore ideas and methods related to line, value, texture, composition, perspective, and color. Students will develop the technical and perceptual skills involved in constructing still life, landscapes, and figurative drawings from observation emphasizing individual critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Projects will be completed using a variety of media including graphite, charcoal, and Prismacolor pencils.

PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

In-class projects and homework assignments will be provided each week, focusing on specific materials and techniques, related lectures, demonstrations, and exercises.

CRITIQUE

Group and individual critiques of in-class projects and homework assignments will be conducted during class hours. Everyone must participate in group critiques as they are essential for your artistic growth, and that of your classmates. During group critiques, you will acquire the formal and conceptual vocabulary necessary to describe and analyze art, and the methods used to help others further develop their work.

SKETCHBOOK

Have a sketchbook dedicated to this class. Students will use them during class and at home to take notes, do practice exercises, make sketches, and develop ideas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will demonstrate studio performance skills by arriving to Zoom class meetings punctually, equipped with the appropriate supplies; observing deadlines and delivering complete projects; using tools and supplies responsibly; and cooperating to maintain their work areas and common work areas. You are expected to spend at least 4 to 6 hours a week outside of class on homework.

EACH PROJECT WILL BE EVALUATED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

Handling/presentation: sensitivity to materials, technique, and presentation.

Growth/development: improvement and ability to reflect on progress.

Grasp of principle: deals with project issues related to translating a 3D form on a 2D surface, use of line, value, texture, light logic, and color.

Demonstration of skill: demonstrates hand-eye coordination and adept application of methods.

ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance is crucial to do well in this course. Please respect the class time and don't be late or leave early.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: September 8

Line, Contour, Composition (scale, angle, proportion, negative space), Contour Still Life

Sketchbook exercises on arranging, composing, and making contour drawings of basic geometric forms (cubes, cylinders, cones, spheres, and bottles) in perspective with graphite.

In-class contour drawing of geometric objects using graphite.

Examples: Julian Opie, Hannah Stouffer, Henri Matisse, Ernesto Caivano

Homework: Contour-only still-life drawing using graphite on 14x17 paper. Arrange both organic and geometric objects with a thoughtful arrangement of objects that activates entire surface. At least 5 objects total. Please do not shade in this week's assignment and only have clear and distinct contour lines that accurately describe each object.

WEEK 2: September 15

Group critique of homework assignment.

Cross Contours, Composition, Elliptical Perspective, Still Life

Lecture, demo, and sketchbook exercises on cross contour drawing of geometric and organic forms. Drawing cylindrical objects that are lying down.

Overview of composition as related to asymmetrical balance and harmony.

In-class cross-contour drawing of ellipse-forming objects using graphite.

Examples: Albrecht Durer, Lauren Marx, Robert Crumb, Ron Barrett

Homework (Striped Fabric Project Pt. 1): Still life light contour under-drawing in graphite of striped garment or fabric, a pair of shoes, and one cylindrical object. The cylindrical object can be a bottle, can, jar, etc., and must be lying on its side. Accentuate the folds and volumes by placing at least one of the objects partially underneath the garment/fabric. Keep still life set up somewhere it will not be moved for at least 2 weeks (take a picture in case it does get moved by accident, but try to work from life and not from the photo). Only a light, unshaded line drawing/sketch is due next week. You will add values and shading for week 3 homework. (Due week 4, September 29)

WEEK 3: September 22

Value, Texture, Chiaroscuro, Basic Light Logic, Still Life

Group critique of homework assignment in progress.

Lecture and exercises of value scale, texture, and shading using hatching, cross-hatching, cross-contour shading, and scumbling.

In-class still-life project implementing multi-textured shading and light logic with graphite.

Examples: Dutch & Flemish masters Pieter Claesz, Hendrick Andriessen, etc.

Homework (Striped Fabric Project Pt. 2): Complete project by adding values from a single light source that enhances volume. Demonstrate understanding of contours, values, and light logic. Use a variety of shading and mark-making techniques.

Week 4: September 29

More Chiaroscuro, Charcoal and Conte Crayons, Composition

Group critique of homework assignment

Lecture and demonstration on creating a neutral ground with compressed charcoal, and making a chiaroscuro still life using charcoal and conte crayons. In-class still life project using charcoal.

Overview of compositional principles such as repetition, unity, variety, anomaly, etc.

Examples: Various including past student samples

Homework: Still life of various objects using vine charcoal, compressed charcoal, and charcoal pencil starting with a neutral ground. On 14x17 paper.

WEEK 5: October 6

Group critique of week 4 assignment.

One and Two-Point Perspective, Architectural Drawing

Lecture and exercises of one and two-point perspective.

In-class contour sketch of corner of classroom using 1-pt or 2-pt perspective.

Examples: Ed Ruscha, Rafael, Various

Homework: Contour drawing of room corner using 2-pt perspective. Graphite on 14x17 paper.

WEEK 6: October 13

Group critique of homework assignment.

Intro to Color Theory, Still Life using Prismacolor Pencils

Basic color theory: primary, secondary, tertiary, complementary, split complementary, triadic and analogous colors, tints, shades, saturation, hue, tone; neutrals and earthtones.

Lecture, demonstration and sketchbook exercise of two still-life drawings of a single object, the first beginning with local colors, and the second with neutral colors with local colors added later.

Examples by past students

Homework: Still life drawing in colored pencil of various objects that relate to each other conceptually and/or visually. On 11x14 surface reduced from the larger paper. Every part of drawing should be covered with color (except highlights) including the background.

WEEK 7 : October 20

College Preparation Weekend: *No in-person classes on campus.*

All students are required to attend a minimum of three College Preparation sessions of their choice online over the course of the weekend.

The schedule will be emailed to students and parents.

WEEK 8: October 27

Group critique of homework assignments.

Introduction to Portraiture

Lecture on basic structure of head, neck and shoulders from a variety of angles.

Demonstration of portrait sketching. Quick portrait studies in sketchbook from various angles.

Lecture and demonstration on how to blend light and dark values, and warm and cool colors to create flesh tones and hints on how to make a convincing head of hair.

Homework: 1) 3 face studies from 3 different angles with values and shading. 2) Color studies in sketchbook of nose, mouth, and eyes.

WEEK 9: November 3

Group critique of homework assignment.

Figurative Drawing, Gesture, Structure, Male Model

Lecture and demonstration of gestural and structural drawings describing proportion and basic anatomy of male model using graphite

In-class practice of 1 to 5-minute gestural drawing.

In-class project of contour drawing(s) of male figure.

Homework: Self-portrait “album cover” assignment underdrawing using light blue or light green color pencil. Please consider background and figure in your design. No color yet. **First part due November 17. Completed project due November 24,**

WEEK 10: November 10

FIELD TRIP: 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena

WEEK 11: November 17

Group critique of homework assignment in progress.

Figurative Drawing, Reclining poses, and action poses

Lecture and demonstration of gestural drawings and foreshortened poses.

Lecture and demonstration of drawing model in reclining and action poses with more foreshortening

Homework: Complete Self-portrait “album cover” assignment fully colored using colored pencil.

WEEK 12: November 24

Group critique of completed self-portrait.

Atmospheric Perspective, Mental Landscape

Lecture on basic concepts behind atmospheric perspective

In-class collage assignment that demonstrates understanding of atmospheric perspective.

Begin one-on-one evaluations. Have all semester projects with you.

Examples: Various including student samples.

Homework: Final project. Based on concept of atmospheric perspective, create a Mental Landscape based on collage constructed in class. It does not need to be a literal copy of the collage. You may crop and/or interpret as you see fit, or simply use the collage as a source of inspiration. Use any medium. You are expected to spend at least 10 hours on final project.

YOU CAN DO IT!

DECEMBER 1: HAPPY THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS

WEEK 13: December 8

Final project due. Add final touches during class if you are not finished.

Final group Critique.

Complete one-on-one evaluations.

Bring all projects and assignments completed during the semester.

Foundation Materials

Toolbox containing:

PRISMACOLOR COLORED PENCIL SET

COMPRESSED CHARCOAL 4B

PEEL&SKETCH CHARCOAL SET

General's White Charcoal pencil

DRAWING PENCIL 2B

DRAWING PENCIL 6B

DRAWING PENCIL HB

DRAWING PENCIL 2H

CONTE CRAYON WHITE HB 2PC

CONTE CRAYON BLACK 2B 2PC

CONTE CRAYON SANGUINE 2P

WHITE BLOCK ERASER

SANDING PADDLE

BLENDING STUMP

KNEADED ERASER

SHARPENER- 2 HOLE

Sketchbook 5x8

Ruler 12"

Mesh Bag 24" x 32", containing:

DRAWING PAD 22x24 70LB 25 Sheets

ARTIST TOTE BOARD

Available as needed: Canson paper in felt grey or dark grey, newsprint, soft vine charcoal