

☞ *This is a college level class in observational drawing. Respectful behavior is expected and required. Arrive on time and be prepared to work, always bring all supplied materials unless otherwise specified. These art materials are for Ryman use only. Students are expected to be self-motivated and disciplined. There will be mandatory weekly homework assignments and classroom critique of these assignments. Each homework assignment will be preceded and explained by classroom lesson. Along with a study of the elements of art (composition, value, line, texture, color, form) and the use of various media, students will employ planning, critical thinking, risk-taking and problem solving to create quality artwork, all in a uniquely supportive environment.*

☞ **NOTE:** Put your name tags on your art bin, portfolio and on the *back* of your drawing board

WEEK 1 February 3rd

Composition: structure of all elements

- Introduction to course and materials with handout
- Composing objects, defining shapes, balance
- Thumbnail sketches and using view finders
- Working from observation, introduction to value

Homework assignment:

Using three or more objects, make thumbnail sketches of different compositions on half a sheet of your large paper. Create depth: don't put objects in a line. Avoid a linear horizon line. Make a finished drawing on the other half of the same piece of paper in graphite (HB - 6B) from the strongest thumbnail composition. Know why you made your compositional choice! Define the composition by creating a border. (If you decide to use an entire sheet of paper for your finished drawing, please bring thumbnails to class on a separate sheet.) Utilize the relative value of the objects in the drawing. Avoid outlining. Don't let objects float in space: shadows and negative space are an equally important part of the composition. Control value by shading, not by smearing.

WEEK 2 February 10th

Value: the relative degree of light and dark

- Critique of composition homework
- Talk about drawing from a still life with handout
- Observational drawing

Homework assignment:

Continue in the same manner as the previous week by planning your drawing before you start: make thumbnail sketches to create a composition for a larger drawing which will use an entire sheet of paper. DO NOT include the thumbnails on the final drawing. Plan the composition and the relative value of the objects. Use graphite (HB - 6B) and a single strong light source. Observe light and shadow carefully to give objects mass and weight. Avoid smearing and outlining! Use a complete range of values, from black to the white of the paper.

WEEK 3 February 17th

Texture: surface quality

- Critique of value homework
- Discussion on texture with handout
- Drawing from objects with contrasting textures

Homework assignment:

Plan a drawing composed of objects with very different textures. Work very lightly in graphite to plan but the final drawing will be in charcoal. Be sure to vary the weight of the lines to indicate light and texture. As always, take time to plan your drawing, including composition and value. Let the viewer know what the objects feel like.

WEEK 4 February 24th
Chiaroscuro: dramatic light and dark
Critique of texture homework
Lecture on chiaroscuro with handout
Canson paper will be supplied

Homework assignment:

Don't procrastinate! Spend time making sure you have a strong idea and composition before you start. Choose rough or smooth side of the paper carefully. Drawing will be on toned paper to create dramatic lights and darks. Work with a single light source. Use charcoal, black and white Conté crayon. Combine texture, value and composition.

WEEK 5 March 3rd **GUEST ARTIST to be ANNOUNCED**

Line and introduction to Figure Drawing
Critique of chiaroscuro assignment
Discussion and handout about line, line in different weights and media
Gesture and contour drawing from life model
Extended drawing from life model

Homework assignment:

Draw a family member or friend in an interior space. Include elements of the room in the drawing. Always plan your drawing first. This time you will be drawing with line only. No shading. Draw from life. Do not use photos. Be sure to vary line weight and to work in fluid lines: don't sketch. Figure out a way to have your model hold still! It is okay to draw lightly in pencil first, then finalize with a different medium.

☞ **OPTIONAL: Next week, March 10, wear something with horizontal stripes**

WEEK 6 March 10th
Perspective: creating the illusion of 3 dimensions
Critique of line assignment
Lecture on perspective with handout
Warm up with simple perspective exercises
Extended perspective drawing

Homework assignment:

Make a two-point perspective drawing of the exterior of a building. Chart it out lightly. Work horizontally so the vanishing points will be far apart. Remember: perspective is a tool to create an illusion of space. The media of the finished drawing is artist's choice: graphite, colored pencil, charcoal etc., as long as it fits in portfolio.

WEEK 7 March 17th
Color and color theory
Critique of perspective assignment
Lecture and handout on color theory and atmospheric perspective
Extended drawing with color

Homework assignment:

Make a drawing using colored pencils. Colored pencil is so beautiful! All colors must be mixed; no black or brown pencils may be used. Choose objects with strong primary and secondary colors. One object must be transparent, such as glass or plastic. Utilize light, shadow, atmospheric perspective and depth with color. Work lightly so that you can layer. This is a very time-consuming assignment, be sure to plan your picture first. Take advantage of the extra week.

☞ **OPTIONAL but highly recommended: Career Day at Cal State Fullerton Saturday, March 23**

WEEK 8 March 24th

FIELD TRIP

Field Trip, drawing on site

Bring journal, pencils, colored pencils, etc. Bring a sweater and wear walking shoes. No backpacks! Leave your homework assignment at home! We will be drawing on site. Eat lunch first!

Homework assignment:

Write a short paragraph on something that really affected you while on the field trip. Be prepared to share your heartwarming story in class. Continue to work on extended color assignment. Catch up on all assignments.

WEEK 9 March 31st

Figure Drawing

Critique of color assignment and reading of paragraphs about the field trip
Lecture with handout on anatomy and proportion with special attention to portraiture
Warm up gesture drawings from life model
Extended drawing of life model

Homework assignment:

Make a self-portrait using any medium as long as it can fit in your portfolio. Artist Choice!

WEEK 10 April 7th


GUEST DANCER

Figure Drawing, working with motion

Critique of self-portrait assignment
Discussion with handouts on creating motion in a static format
Warm up gesture drawings with dancer model
Drawings of motion, in sequences and implied movement with dancer model

Homework assignment:

Create an image that implies motion, using any medium that can fit in your portfolio. Use an observational source, but creativity is encouraged. Due to the ephemeral nature of movement, photography is allowed as a reference.

 **NOTE:** All homework MUST be completed and turned in by next week


WEEK 11 April 14th

Combining everything we've learned so far with Interior Perspective and Ellipses

Critique of motion assignment
Lecture w/ handout on interior perspective and ellipses
Warm up drawing exercises
Extended drawing of interior perspective including circles and ellipses
ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Final homework assignment:

Make a drawing in one-point, two-point or observational perspective of an interior, including a round object. Artist's Choice! Medium is also Artist's Choice! This is a creative assignment: you may be inventive. As always, plan a strong composition first. Apply any and all things that you've learned with color, texture, chiaroscuro, value and perspective. You may work in any medium that can fit in your portfolio. Start early on this assignment. This is your last assignment. Make it memorable! You do NOT have to work from observation on this assignment. Creativity is encouraged. Hooray!

 **NOTE:** April 21st

NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK

WEEK 12 April 28th

Critique of creative interior perspective homework
All homework MUST be finished and returned to Ryman, absolutely no exceptions
Student DJs encouraged
One-on-one discussion of class work with instructor
Drawing from surprise subjects