

MSU DRAWING I – Spring 2018

right: MSU Student Work, Lindsey Liles

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Office Hours: MW 1-2pm or by appointment (please e-mail in advance)

“Instead of art I have taught philosophy. Though technique for me is a big word, I never have taught how to paint. All my doing was to make people to see.”

-Josef Albers - b.1888 – 1976

“While I recommend studying the art from artists, Nature is and must be the fountain which alone is inexhaustible, and from which all excellences must originally flow.”

-Sir Joshua Reynolds – b.1723 - 1792

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Drawing I is a foundation course in the Mississippi State University Department of Art. This is a required course for all Fine Art, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture and Floral Management majors.

The purpose of this course is to establish an understanding of fundamental drawing concepts and techniques through the hands-on study of drawing directly from observation. Simply put, our objective is to learn and put into practice how to convert 3-dimensional information that we see in front of us and transpose this information onto a 2-dimensional surface. Our goal is achievable at any skill level by extensive practice in sighting and measuring of our subjects.

It is also a goal for this class to immerse ourselves in the art community. At a small level this means getting-to-know and interacting with your peers and on a larger level this means attending art exhibitions and art related lectures throughout the semester. These experiences all factor into your growth as a student artist.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To develop perceptual drawing skills, working from life.
- To learn to SEE, to develop visual awareness and sensitivity. To learn to see objectively, spatially, and imaginatively.
- To build a basic vocabulary of Drawing, the fundamental concepts and techniques.
- To translate the visual language, to describe the 3D world (perceived and/or imagined) with a 2D medium.
- To explore the use of black/white media as formally expressive tools.
- To learn to analyze, to develop the ability to see Proportion.
- To develop an awareness of the formal design elements (point, line, plane, shape, volume, value, and texture) and use them to express Form, Space, and Light.
- To understand the importance of the relationship between the formal elements and the Picture Plane.
- To develop critical facilities and learn to be articulate about both your work and the work of others through critique and discussion.
- To look at Formal RELATIONSHIPS.

WORK ETHIC:

Drawing from observation is an intense and rewarding endeavor. Throughout the semester each student will grow exponentially in the development of their art-making craft. With that said, personal motivation and discipline are key to a student's success, especially in an introductory course. Motivation and discipline are demonstrated to me by actions such as coming to each class on-time and prepared, having thoughtful inquiry, deep involvement in projects, discussions, critiques, and finding successful resolutions to various challenges presented throughout the semester.

Also, drawing is a messy activity. Please dress to allow yourself the freedom to be messy. The last 10 minutes or so of every class will be designated as "clean-up" time in the studio. This means that you clean up after yourself AND your classmates in order to leave the room in a flawless state for other classes that you share the space with. If you have a medical condition that prevents you from cleaning, please see me for instructions.

METHODS OF EVALUATION AND STANDARDS OF ACHIEVMENT

A typical day in class consists of introducing new concepts, experimenting and working on in-class exercises related to these concepts while working on drawings that stretch throughout each class period. Each week I assign a homework drawing project that is graded out of 100 points. We typically critique these at the beginning of the week. Critiques are the equivalent to a test which means that your drawing is completed to the standards outlined in class and your participation in critiquing others reinforces the concepts we learn. If you miss a critique it is the equivalent to missing a test and your grade is negatively effected by losing a letter grade for lack of participation in addition to a late penalty on top of that.

You will have a mid-term drawing that will test your ability to sight and measure that is weighted more heavily than regular homework grades, and a final project that consists of three long-duration drawings centered around an approved concept of your choice.



Also, part of your grade is dependent upon participation. Your class participation is graded upon an amalgam of your attendance (including tardies), preparedness in-class, participation in critiques/class discussions, engagement with concepts and material, and time/effort put into course-work. Expanding upon the last point, students must work diligently during and outside of class time (expect to spend at least 6 hours a week outside of class working on homework and finishing classwork).

CLASS POLICY

- No Cell phones, laptops, or headphones of any kind. Phones should be turned off.
- No excessive chatter, especially that which is unrelated to class topics.
- No text messaging.
- No food in class.
- Have all materials at every class.
- Be ready to work at the start of each class.
- Good work ethic, attitude, and effort.
- Be willing to experiment and take risks.
- Participate in critiques.
- Show respect for classmates, instructor.
- Clean up studio at end of class.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is crucial. This is a ~3-hour long studio class, which means the lessons are taught orally or demonstrated in class, not from a textbook. We'll move through a lot of information quickly and missing a day places you significantly behind the rest of your class-mates.

At the beginning of each class, I record attendance. If you are not present by the time I record your attendance you are considered absent. However, if you are late I count you as tardy.

***3 tardies equal 1 absence**

Each semester, you are allotted 2 unexcused absences. Each subsequent absence after 2 reduces your final grade by 5%.

*For example, if your final grade for the semester is an 80% B-, and you have three unexcused absences, your final grade will be a 75% C. If you have four unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered to a 70% C-, and so on.

***6 total unexcused absences is an unconditional failure of the course.**

For an absence to be considered excused the student must provide satisfactory evidence to the instructor to substantiate the reason for absence (doctor's notes, obituaries, etc). The student is also responsible for making arrangements that are satisfactory to the instructor in regard to work missed. These arrangements should be made prior to the absence when possible. The reasons absences are considered excused are the following: Participation in an authorized university activity, a death or major illness in a student's immediate family, or a religious holy day

Additionally, a student with perfect attendance and no tardiness will receive an additional half letter grade to his/her final grade. For example an 85% B turns into a 90% A-.

MISSING/LATE WORK

Late work is deducted -10% for the first offense, -20% for the second, -30% for the third, and so on (unless you have sufficient excused absence documentation that prevents you from being able to make the project deadline). Late work must also be given to me in a timely manner, otherwise it is counted as a zero. In addition, you must e-mail me with all project information, dates turned in, location, etc. so I have accurate documentation in writing and we're all on the same page.

MISSISSIPPI STATE STUDENT HONOR CODE

Mississippi State has an approved Honor Code that applies to all students. The code is as follows: "As a Mississippi State University student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do." Upon accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Student will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor Code. For additional information, please visit: <http://honorcode.msstate.edu/policy>.

****Title IX**

MSU is committed to complying with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU's educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination, sexual violence and/or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU's Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 325-8124 or by e-mail to titleix@msstate.edu. Additional resources are available at <http://www.msstate.edu/web/security/title9-12.pdf>, or at <http://students.msstate.edu/sexualmisconduct/>.

Support Services

Students who need academic accommodations based on a disability should visit the Office of Student Support Services, 01 Montgomery Hall, call 662-325-3335, or visit the website at www.sss.msstate.edu.

Campus Resources

*indicates a required area under AOP 13.03 – Faculty Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum.

This policy also requires that the syllabus be available on the first day of classes and there will be no variation.

***statement required by General Counsel, effective Jan. 8, 2015.*

MATERIALS LIST

- ◆ At least a 4" x 6" sketchbook
- ◆ 18" x 24" Newsprint pad (< 50 sheets)
- ◆ 22" x 30" Sheets of high quality rag drawing paper (do not purchase yet - for projects, homework, etc. later in the semester)
- ◆ square-edged dowel rod (as straight as possible)
- ◆ 10" x 12" piece of illustration board/carboard/something hard-backed (for the construction of a viewfinder)

- ◆ Vine charcoal - soft
- ◆ Jumbo vine charcoal sticks (easily found at Michaels/Hobby Lobby)
- ◆ Charcoal sticks - Charkole brand or comparable
- ◆ Charcoal pencils (Hard, Medium, Soft)
- ◆ Red Conte pencils or sticks

- ◆ Chamois
- ◆ Kneaded erasers
- ◆ Triangle pencil-top erasers

- ◆ 1" wide blue painters tape
- ◆ #1 X-Acto knife with #11 blades
- ◆ Large Drawing Board 24" x 30" (made of Masonite) (needs to fit inside your portfolio)
- ◆ **Large Portfolio (larger is better but at least 24" x 30") (handmade preferred)
- ◆ Some sort of box to carry all your supplies safely
- ◆ Bamboo ink brush

*Other supplies may be announced as the semester progresses

Most materials can be purchased from:

Campus Book Mart

318 East Lee Boulevard, Starkville MS

662.323.7660