

Fall Semester 2010 **ARTS 1101 BEGINNING DRAWING**, sec 003, Regis Center for Art, W244
09:05 AM-12:05 PM, Tue/Thu, (09/07/2010-12/15/2010)
Instructor: Avigail Manneberg
email: amanneberg@umn.edu (email is the best way to contact me)
Office hours: by appointment only

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.
-Scott Adams, American cartoonist

"The more I draw, the better I see and the more I understand."
-Richard Serra,

OVERVIEW OF OBJECTIVES:

Beginning Drawing is a studio art course introducing beginning drawing skills and techniques. The foremost objective of this course is to introduce you to possibilities and approaches for developing visual ideas through drawing and to provide you with the opportunity to explore and enjoy the process of drawing as a means of self-expression.

This includes but does not limit drawing as:

- A means of developing, conceptualizing and working out ideas
- Studies of forms, spaces, places, objects, etc. around us
- A means of experimenting with approaches, media and composition
- Preparatory studies for another medium
- An end in itself, where the idea/concept you are addressing is best expressed in this medium.

Beginning Drawing intends to develop technical proficiency and visual insight through direct practice. Work will be produced in class with supervision and presented for discussion at class meetings. Independent research and discovery will be encouraged through regularly assigned homework, the development of a personal sketchbook, and an ongoing research assignment that will culminate in a final project.

You will be expected to develop an understanding of the terminology, approaches, concepts and tools introduced in the course.

These will include, but not be limited to:

- Line- examination of contour and gesture
- Value- dark/light tonalities
- Texture- Two dimensional surface treatments
- The creation of illusionistic space

PREPARATION, REQUIREMENTS/PROJECTS: IN-CLASS WORK, HOMEWORK AND

PORTFOLIO: Weekly homework projects will correlate with in-class work, your ongoing research project or both. Unless instructed otherwise, assignments will be due one week from when assigned. Late work will result in a lowering of your grade for that assignment. All in-class work and homework must be completed and compiled in a portfolio for instructor reviews. Portfolios will be reviewed both at mid-term and at the end of the semester. We will explore Gesture Drawing, Still Life, Perspective Drawing, Self Directed Projects, “Improvisation Workshop”, and Final Project. Most assignments will be designed for your Strathmore drawing pad, rather than your newsprint pad. Please bring all your materials to every class as you may choose to change materials between class exercises. You may store your materials in the class cabinets, or you may rent a locker from the Art Department. If you are having difficulty with an assignment, or have any questions about any assignment, please contact me about it ahead of time. Typically, I will answer an email the day you send it. If a schedule conflict arises, please inform me before the class meeting. The course has a Moodle website that students can access through the www.myu.umn.edu portal. The Moodle site will have pdf files of readings. You will also be required to keep a sketchbook.

IMPROVISATIONAL COLLABORATION: MUSIC AND DRAWING

This 5 session project is organized in collaboration and interaction with musician and professor Erkki Huovinen who teaches “Improvisation for the Artist: Exploring Sound, Structure, Freedom” in the Department of Music. This collaboration with others working in another artistic medium will explore creative freedom in drawing as well as in sound gestures through live interaction. You will be asked to reflect on your experiences in short written paragraphs concerning personal reflections on improvising and learning to improvise. The five sessions included in this project will be documented for research purposes.

SKETCHBOOK/JOURNAL:

A sketchbook/journal will be kept in order to provide you a personal site for experimentation and an ongoing reference for the development of your ideas. The sketchbook should be fun and you can approach it any way you want to, however it needs to include (but not be limited to):

Inspiring words/sentences, ideas from weekly moodle video watching

Notes made in class, Writing in-class critiques.

Writing about paintings you have observed at art museums and galleries.

Occasional assignments to be done in sketchbook

Clippings and found images to use as reference

Sketching and generating painting ideas;

Miscellaneous and spontaneous, creative declarations which relate to class

Entries are required and the sketchbook will be checked periodically to view your progress, but graded at midterm and at the end of the semester. Grades will be based on your level of involvement. **Each assignment needs to be labeled and dated.**

PORTFOLIO AND CRITIQUES:

There will be two portfolio critiques – at midterm and final. Please keep all of your drawings safe

throughout the semester. The first portfolio will be due at midterm and will be composed of seven drawings of your choice, which you feel demonstrate your ability and your progress thus far. The second portfolio will be due on the last day of class and be composed of ten pieces of work throughout the semester that show your ability and progress, as well as a final project. Homework will be critiqued on a weekly basis.

FINAL PROJECT:

The final project will be a research drawing. The subject, the way you investigate it and the way you deal with it visually is up to you. This is to be an ongoing investigation you will present at the end of the semester. You will be working on this project throughout the course and its development will be largely on your own terms. This final project is to be based on research and should demonstrate thoughtful inquiry as well as development in your critical thinking skills as well as drawing proficiency.

GRADING STANDARDS:

You will be expected to challenge yourself and show improvement by the end of the semester. You will be graded based upon the amount of effort applied to your work, your ability to generate your own ideas, as well as the technical execution of your drawings. Students should show an interested exploration of the material and an appropriate technique to convey the idea of their choice.

Grading:

Attendance/Participation (15%)

In-Class Work (20%)

Assignments (50%)

Final Project (15%)

Letter grades for each assignment will be determined as follows:

“A” Superior performance, advanced study, skill development and execution evident

“B” Above average performance, additional work, care and thought evident.

“C” Average performance, adequately fulfills all the requirements of the assignment

“D” Below average performance. Goals attempted but not adequately fulfilled.

“F” Does not fulfill requirements.

“I” (Incomplete)-Extraordinary circumstances (hospitalization, etc.) that prevent a student in good standing from completing the work. *Student must have a note from dean of students or a faculty advisor regarding the circumstances.*

In determining your midterm and final grades I consider:

Improved observational and conceptual skills as demonstrated by drawings

Understanding the visual organization of elements in own drawings and drawings of others

Experimentation and risk-taking within the creative process (personal expression)

Development of critical analysis skills (how you speak about the work within critiques)

In-class work

Out of class assignments
Sketchbook
Participation, attitude, effort and attendance

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is critical to your success in this class. Two absences, (excused or unexcused), lower your grade, and three absences will drop a grade one letter (an A turns into a B). For every absence, you may choose to complete an additional assignment drawing to nullify that absence. This drawing may be based on one of the homework options or it may be of your own design (in either case, you must discuss your idea with me for approval). Your absence will be nullified if you complete the extra assignment. Make-up drawings must take at least 5 hours to complete, must be as high in quality as regular assignment drawings. If you are taking the class for S or N credit, you must not incur more than four absences during the course, or risk an "N" grade.

*Late homework assignments must be shown the following week to get credit. After the week passes no credit is received for homework assignments.

Late arrivals and early departures will be counted as ½ absence. Three unexcused absences will drop your grade.

DRAWING LABS: These are labs that are open to all Art students to attend. Times and dates will be posted up in the classrooms and announced at the beginning of the semester. One lab is a life model lab and the other lab is open lab.