



Drawing 5-6 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 Change the Way You See

Students learn the concept of, "Draw what you see, not what you think you see," observing their subjects carefully, rather than attempting to illustrate preconceived ideas of them.

2 Basic Elements of Drawing

Students are introduced to basic elements of drawing such as line, volume, perspective, space, composition, and more.

3 Fundamental Observational Drawing Techniques and Approaches

Students learn and practice various approaches to drawing such as contour, gestural, measured, line, value, and subtractive drawing, with a variety of subjects including still life, landscape, and the figure, using both pencil and charcoal media.

4 Artist Critiques

Students learn about the basic function of an artist critique and begin considering both their work and the work of their peers to offer constructive criticism as well as encouragement.

Course Topics

1 Learning to See

Students learn the mantra, "Draw what you see, not what you think you see."

2 Positive and Negative Space

Students learn to identify and utilize negative space as well as positive space in drawings.

3 Line and Line Variation

Students learn to describe objects with only line and how different kinds of lines can help represent the subject.

4 Figurative Drawing

Students learn how to draw the figure using gestural drawing and measurement, touching on some basic concepts as contrapposto and foreshortening.

4 Contour and Continuous Drawing

Students complete exercises to build hand-eye coordination and observational ability.

4 Gestural Drawing

Students learn to "scan" and capture the essential shapes, angles, and spatial relationships of a subject through quick, natural, and continuous movements.

4 Intro to Measuring

Students use a pencil or other measuring device to help convey accurate proportions of a subject.

6 Linear Perspective and the Illusion of Space

Students learn about and practice multiple ways to give the illusion of space in a drawing, including one-point perspective, measuring, line quality, and position in the frame.

9 Value and Light with Subtractive Charcoal Drawing

Students learn to see and utilize value to describe a subject while learning subtractive drawing techniques with charcoal.

10 The Critique

Students learn to consider their own artwork critically as well as that of our peers. Students offer constructive criticism as well as encouragement to fellow students.

11 Art and Artists

Students look at the work of both classical and contemporary artists and observe the vast possibilities available to the artist in terms of style and approach.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Course Intro

Students are introduced to each other and the instructor. They learn what to expect from the class, uses of the course materials, and some inspirational drawing images.

Keeping It Loose

Students do several observational drawing exercises that help them feel comfortable working with mistakes, erasing, and starting over.

Experimenting with Lines and Tools

Students experiment with making different kinds of marks with their various media, including charcoal and pencil, to start to become familiar with the tools and their potential uses.

Day 2

Drawing What You See

Students discuss and begin to practice the art of “drawing what you see, not what you think you see.”

Drawing with Negative Space

Students learn to identify both positive and negative space and practice using negative space as a tool for describing their subjects and compositions.

Composing with Negative Space

Students design their own compositions using framing devices as a visual aid that they feel make interesting use of visual space.

Day 3

Continuous Line Drawing

Students make continuous line drawings to practice hand-eye coordination and better understand spatial relationships.

Blind Contour Drawings

Students make "blind" contour drawings, practicing slow, deliberate observation and hand-eye coordination.

Gestural Drawing

Students practice quickly assessing and capturing shapes, volume, spatial relationships, and movement with quick gestural drawings in charcoal.

Day 4

Cross Contour & Conveying Volume with Line

Students practice cross contour drawing as a way of understanding and expressing form and volume. They turn one cross contour drawing into a topographical map of an imaginary land.

Day 5

Intro to Measuring

Students learn to use a pencil or other measuring device to help capture accurate proportions of a subject.

Day 6

Gestural / Figure Drawing with Measuring

Students apply the lessons they learned in the gesture drawing and measuring activities to sustained gestural drawings of the figure.

Day 7

Intro to Value and Subtractive drawing

Students make subtractive charcoal drawings with charcoal and erasers to begin the practice of looking at and representing light quality and value.

Day 8

Linear Perspective and the Illusion of Space

Students learn basic concepts of linear perspective and other methods for creating the illusion of space on a 2 dimensional surface.

Day 9

Dream Boxes

Students augment perspective drawing of boxes: they "fill" their boxes with elements from various remembered dreams, using what they've learned so far to add dimension and a sense of space and perspective to the things they illustrate from memory.

Day 10

Final Project and Critique

Students make a final drawing, trying to incorporate everything they have learned in the class, and then share and

discuss their work with their peers in an artist's critique.

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