



Drawing 3-4 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 Learn to see in a way that is conducive to drawing

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

2 Develop an understanding of the basic elements of drawing

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

3 Apply and practice fundamental observational drawing techniques and approaches

Using both pencil and charcoal mediums, students will 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.

4 Begin the practice of artist critiques

Students will learn about the basic function of an artist critique and will 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"

"Draw what you see, not what you think you see."

2 Positive and Negative Space

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

3 Line and Line Variation

Learning to describe objects with only line, and how different kinds of line can help us represent our subject.

4 Figurative Drawing

An intro to drawing the figure using gestural techniques and touching on some basic concepts as contrapposto and foreshortening.

5 Gestural and Contour Drawing

Learning to "scan" and capture the essential shapes, angles, and spatial relationships of a subject through quick, natural, and continuous movements, and other exercises to help build hand-eye coordination.

6 Linear Perspective & the Illusion of Space

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

7 Value and Subtractive Charcoal Drawing

Students will learn how to see and portray value while learning the technique of subtractive charcoal drawing.

8 The Critique

Learning to consider our own artwork critically as well as that of our peers. Students will offer constructive criticism as well as encouragement to fellow students and discuss what they've learned and on what they'd like to continue improving.

9 Art and Artists

Looking at the work of both classical and contemporary artists and observing the vast possibilities in an artist's approach to drawing.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Course Intro

The teacher will introduce his/herself to the class and what students can expect from it, course materials, and some inspirational drawing images.

Mark-making, tools, and "bands" of lines

Students will 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.

Keeping It Loose / Working with Mistakes

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

Day 2

Drawing what you see

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

Drawing with negative space

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

Day 3

Continuous Line Drawing

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

Blind Contour Drawings

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

Gestural Drawing

Students will 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 will practice seeing and conveying form and volume through a number of cross-contour line drawing studies, one of which will be turned into a topographical map of an imaginary land.

Day 5

Gestural / Figure Drawing

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

Gesture and movement break

Quick movement exercise to help break up the work and let out some energy! Can be done at any time.

Day 6

Day 7

Intro to Value and Subtractive drawing

Students will 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 & the Illusion of Space

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

Day 9

Dream Boxes

An imaginative activity to augment perspective drawing of boxes: students will "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 Drawing and Critique

Students will make a final drawing, trying to incorporate everything they have learned in the class, and then will share and discuss their work with their peers in an artist's critique.

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