SFASU School of Art
Fall Semester 2021
Syllabus

**Drawing I - 12984 - ARTS 1316 - 006**

Monday, Wednesday 2:00 - 4:40 pm

Professor Neal Cox
Office Phone 936.468.4563
d email coxn@sfasu.edu (preferred contact)

Office Lower Art 133

Office Hours 10:00-10:30 Mondays through Thursdays; Fridays by appointment

Course Description: Fundamentals of drawing in various media; 3.000 Credit hours

Welcome to Drawing 1. In this class, you will be given instruction and assignments designed to help you learn how to draw from direct, real-time observation of objects in your immediate space. We call this practice, “drawing from life,” as opposed to drawing from photographic or other virtual reference. Drawing 1 serves as a foundation for the study of all the two-dimensional disciplines at the School of Art at SFA, including Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Graphic Design, Digital Media, Photography, and film making, and is a prerequisite for most of these disciplines. It is also required of all SFA art students.

Drawing from observation trains the artist to notice the “big picture,” that is, how parts relate to the whole, as well as small details. It fosters a connection between oneself and one’s surroundings like nothing else does. It trains the artist to slow down, be methodical, make and translate visual assessments, and produce patience and work ethic. For the dedicated student, drawing can become a very satisfying exercise. For the best students, it quickly becomes a way of being—a medium for visual expression unrivaled in its immediacy, its history, and its paradoxical simplicity/complexity.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO’s):
Program – STUDIO ART BFA PLOs

1. Undergraduate students will demonstrate proficiency in studio foundation skills as they relate to the elements and principles of design.

2. Undergraduate students will exhibit a high level of proficiency in the use of materials, techniques and media.

3. Undergraduate students will demonstrate understanding of contemporary art issues through exploration of synthesis of content, problem solving and creativity.

4. Undergraduate students will define and state knowledge of Art Historical precedents.

Program – STUDIO ART BA PLOs

1. Undergraduate students will demonstrate proficiency in studio foundation skills as they relate to the elements and principles of design.

2. Undergraduate students will exhibit proficiency in the use of materials, techniques and media.

3. Undergraduate students will demonstrate understanding of contemporary art issues through exploration of synthesis of content, problem solving and creativity.

4. Undergraduate students will define and state knowledge of Art Historical precedents.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO): Students enrolled in ART 100 should be able to demonstrate through the successful completion of projects and exams the acquisition of the following:

- The recognition and use of the fundamental principles of drawing (specifically line, perspective, shapes/plane and volume, value, and texture)
- The ability to interpret 3 dimensional form on the 2 dimensional picture plane, working primarily from life.
- The ability to work successfully with a range of media and materials in composing drawings on both small and large scale, in both sketchbook and portfolio formats.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to ground themselves strongly in the fundamentals of drawing from life. The skill of observational drawing is essential for an artistic practice. Those who learn how to draw well learn how to perceive visual data accurately and translate that data correctly. This ability positions the art student to successfully navigate any visual subject matter in a range of media. Students should expect to gain insight and skill into drawing and perception. This will be accomplished through a joint effort on the part of both the instructor and the student to work diligently on assignments, to be disciplined and focused and to approach each visual problem with a positive attitude.
Course Overview:

This is primarily a face-to-face class. Students are required to come to class each day to receive instruction and to work on their own drawings. In the event that a student manifests symptoms of illness, it is expected that the student will communicate ahead of time with the professor who will accommodate alternate forms of content delivery until the student can resume in-person attendance.

Grading Rubric and Attendance:

Formal evaluation of coursework will proceed as follows: Assignments will be due each week, usually at the end of the week. Grades will be assigned on a scale of 0-4, 0 being low and 4 being high, according to the rubric as outlined below:

An assignment receiving a grade of “A” represents the best possible example of that assignment. The work is excellent. There are no technical problems. The parameters of the assignment, such as they are, have been met with exactness. The work exhibits a sound understanding on the part of the student.

An assignment receiving a grade of “B” represents work that is good, but could be better. The work has some technical errors, but overall is satisfactory and above average. Possibly not all of the parameters of the assignment have been fulfilled, but most have. It is slightly evident that further inquiry could have been used on the part of the student.

An assignment receiving a grade of “C” represents work that is average. The work has several errors. The work betrays a general lack of understanding on the part of the student. Not all parameters have been met.

An assignment receiving a grade of “D” represents work that is below average and that is in need of reconsideration. There are many glaring technical errors. The work doesn’t satisfy the parameters of the assignment, but should be given some credit based on a low level of effort. The work displays that the student does not grasp the assigned content very well at all.

An assignment receiving a grade of “F” represents the type of work that can in no way be accepted for credit. The parameters of the assignment are not met. The technical errors are gratuitous. The portrayed attitude is one of “blowing off.”

I reserve the right to assign occasional readings, including written responses, and administer quizzes and/or exams as I see fit and will include the grades of such along-side project grades.

Class meets for a total of 19 days during the normal term and once during finals. Since this class is based largely on studio experience, attendance is mandatory. I expect students to arrive to class on time, every time, just as I expect for myself. Students who miss class will fall behind and will not be able to make up the work to be done in class. Thus, an absence will equal a grade of “0” being assigned to that day’s work for the absent student. At the end of the semester, all project/exam/written assignment grades will be averaged to determine the final grade. Below is the grading scale:

- 3.5—4 A
• 2.5—3.4  B
• 1.5—2.4  C
• .5—1.4  D
• 0—.4  F

As the instructor, I will keep a record of attendance, noting the arrival and departure times of each student. In order to avoid factual error and to be able to verify my own record, students will also be required to sign in and out on a designated sign-in sheet each day. Students who neglect to sign in and out, for whatever reason, may be counted absent, tardy, or as having left early, which, as noted above, will negatively affect the overall grade for those students.

Classroom Deportment: Since we all have to share the same space for nearly seventy hours this semester, let’s do our best to treat one another with respect and civility. It’s important to remember that not everyone wants to hear questionable language or jokes, etc. but they may not speak up about it. Also, I expect that you will turn off your cell-phones during class. Failure to turn off cell phones may result in a grade deduction.

Recommended Texts:


Lab Policies:

This lab is a shared lab. It is every student’s responsibility to clean up after each work session and to use the equipment with care. Additionally, the drawing area is not a storage area. Every student should rent a locker from the School of Art. Consult the office staff for locker assignment.

Since we use materials that have the potential for causing physical harm, we have instituted a strict policy prohibiting consumption of food and beverages in the classroom.

Academic Policies:

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. For more information visit
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp
Students with disabilities: No qualified student with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any ... postsecondary education program or activity ... [Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 84.43] and
An institution shall make such modifications to its academic requirements as are necessary to ensure that such requirements do not discriminate or have the effect of discrimination on the basis of handicap, against a qualified handicapped applicant or student ...
for more information visit http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_accom_stu_disab.asp

Pregnancy Clause:
If you are pregnant or should become pregnant while taking this course, or have a medical condition that could increase your sensitivity to chemical exposure, it is important for you to take all precautions concerning your own personal safety. While reasonable measures have been taken to insure your safety, there is a risk in this class of exposure to materials that could prove harmful to persons at risk. Please contact the professor should you have questions or concerns. Students who need accommodations for certified disabilities should work through the Office of Disability Services and then your professor.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Course Evaluations:
Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the School of Art electronically evaluate courses taken within the COFA. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the COFA faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!

In the School of Art, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services  
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices  
3rd Floor Rusk Building  
936-468-2401  

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic  
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp  
Human Services Room 202  
936-468-1041  

**Crisis Resources:**  
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343  
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)  
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741  

**Calendar (subject to change)**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2:</td>
<td>Monday 8/30, Wednesday 9/01</td>
<td>Contour Still Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3:</td>
<td>Monday 9/06, Wednesday 9/08</td>
<td>Gesture Exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4:</td>
<td>Monday 9/13, Wednesday 9/15</td>
<td>Refined Gesture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5:</td>
<td>Monday 9/20, Wednesday 9/22</td>
<td>Negative Space Organic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6:</td>
<td>Monday 9/27, Wednesday 9/29</td>
<td>Negative Space Geometric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monday 10/04, Wednesday 10/06 Ellipses and Cylinders

Week 8:
Monday 10/11, Wednesday 10/13 Structural Analysis

Week 9:
Monday 10/18, Wednesday 10/20 Midterm Still Life

Week 10:
Monday 10/25, Wednesday 10/27 1-point perspective from imagination

Week 11:
Monday 11/01, Wednesday 11/03 1-point perspective from observation

Week 12:
Monday 11/08, Wednesday 11/10 2-point perspective from imagination

Week 13:
Monday 11/15, Wednesday 11/17 2-point perspective from observation

Week 14:
Monday 11/22, Wednesday 11/24 Thanksgiving Break

Week 15:
Monday 11/29, Wednesday 12/01 Value studies with prisma-color and kraft paper

Week 16:
Friday 12/10 8-10:00 am Drawing 1 final