



Drawing Studio: Beginning and Intermediate

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: FLOR 1201 (Beginning)/ 3201 (Intermediate)

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 45

Course Description

“One must always draw, draw with the eyes, when one cannot draw with a pencil”. (Balthus)

This course introduces students to the ideas, methods and materials of drawing and favors a cultural immersion in the city of Florence. The course provides an introduction to:

1. Analysis, development, and construction of visual ideas
2. Drawing practice within contemporary, historical, and cross-cultural traditions in contemporary and historical museums
3. The creative process through hands-on investigation in markets, squares and streets of Florence
4. Observational investigation of the immediate environment analyzing the special warm light in the city of Florence
5. Methods for non-objective exploration
6. Methods for effective and constructive evaluation of visual efforts

Students gain proficiency in expression of their ideas and concepts and in their critical abilities. They explore the foundational elements of drawing and the relationship between composition and meaning.

1. Line (contour and gestural)
2. Value (how light and shadow influence subject)
3. Texture (simulated and actual surface treatments)
4. Shape (two and three dimensional illusionistic space)
5. Space (compositional studies)

This drawing curriculum acknowledges that visual experience is shaped and influenced by ideas and experience. Students are encouraged to apply these developing insights and their problem solving

abilities to their own art as well as that of their peers and to their entire liberal arts experience across disciplines.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the distinct ways of thinking and making art in general, and specifically to the fundamental exploration of the elements of drawing.

Students will learn how the particulars of their own history shapes their choices in subject matter and artistic processes and how art is an ever-evolving discipline, which artists continue to expand. Attention is also paid to the way artistic practices are connected to the student's daily life and the culture at large, and how the skills of making, knowing and critique learned in the class can enhance students' ability to engage in the society they live in.

Learning Outcomes

This course satisfies specific University of Minnesota Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To identify, define, and solve problems. Specifically, by exploring the foundation elements of drawing they gain proficiency in expression of their ideas and concepts and in their critical abilities;
2. To locate and critically evaluate information as this pertains to subject matter, art historical precedents and other cultural phenomena and ideas related to one's art
3. To develop drawing skills and to understand the world through an artist's eyes and to know how this is distinct from other disciplines;
4. To communicate more effectively, especially concerning one's ideas and feelings in artistic form and in verbal discussion;
5. To understand the role of creativity, innovation, discovery and expression within the arts but also how this distinct way of knowing can help students analyze other fields and images in the world at large; and
6. To acquire critical and creative skills that helps students be more socially effective
7. As citizens and able to pursue their creative investigations and analysis outside of the classroom.

As a branch of knowledge within the Arts and Humanities, art is concerned with human thought and culture as these take shape in concrete visual images and objects. The discipline of art involves material and conceptual investigations and creative discoveries, emphasizing the various ways of knowing that artists contribute to understanding our place in the world.

Methodology

Outdoor and on-site activities give hands-on experience and are complemented by technical demonstrations, presentations of historical, cross-cultural and contemporary examples in illustrated lectures, visiting artist presentations, and visits to local galleries and museums.

Individual, small group and class critiques are an essential aspect of the learning experience. Students learn to communicate their responses to visual. Emphasis is placed on concept development as well as the appropriateness of techniques and materials utilized.

Every attempt will be made to individualize instruction. Critiques will be held after each project is completed. Emphasis will be on idea and concept development as well as how you carried this out, that is: the appropriateness and exploration of techniques and materials. We will use a variety of critique formats.

If your work is not critiqued to your satisfaction and/or you wish to know how you are doing, come and talk to me, or write me an email.

Grading

There will be 12 projects, approximately one each week, and a final summary project.

As part of the class, you will be expected to keep a visual process notebook. This is an important aspect of drawing as it provides a personal ongoing reference for work.

This book should include:

1. Notes made in class
2. Correlative drawings
3. Out-takes, false starts
4. Miscellaneous thoughts and ideas that relate to the class.

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Participation	20%
Mid-term critique	30%
Final critique	50%
Overall grade	100%

Assessment Details

Attendance

"Artists cannot be taught. They need to communicate with each other." - Ree Morton, artist

It is important that you attend each class. Class time will be divided among presentation of materials, concepts and assignments, discussions, critiques as well as working on projects. Working on drawings outside of class is required and essential. Attendance and participation in class discussions and critiques will be considered in your final grade. (20%)

Critiques

"To draw, you must close your eyes and sing." - Pablo Picasso

Every attempt will be made to individualize instruction. One critique will be held mid way through the program (mid-term critique) and at the end of the course (final critique). Emphasis will be on idea and concept development as well as how you carried this out, that is: the appropriateness and exploration of techniques and materials. We will use a variety of critique formats.

If your work is not critiqued to your satisfaction and/or you wish to know how you are doing, come and talk to me, or write me an email.

Class Schedule

Week 1

- Introduction: Value and Composition
- Visit art store and draw in Piazza S. Spirito

Week 2

- Value and Scale
- Location: Museo dell'Opera del Duomo

Week 3

- Light, Shadow and Shape: Composition and Interpretation
- Location: Piazza della Signoria

Week 4

- Perspective and Use of Line
- Location: Piazza SS Annunziata

Week 5

- Trip to Taormina: Sketches of trip

Week 6

- Drawing From the Imagination: Invention and Transformation
- Location: Museo Marino Marini and indoor settings artist visit

Week 7

- Final Project Proposal Due
- Location: Galleria Uffizi

Week 8

- Figure: Portraiture, Self-Portraiture and Planar Construction of the Head

Week 9

- Planar Construction of the Figure

- Location: Museo dell'Accademia

Week 10

- Final Project

Week 11

- Final Project

Week 12

- Presentation of Final Project
- Final Portfolio Due

Policies

Attendance Policy

It is important that you attend each class. Class time will be divided among presentation of materials, concepts and assignments, discussions, critiques as well as working on projects. Working on drawings outside of class is required and essential. Attendance and participation in class discussions and critiques will be considered in your final grade. (20%)

Three unexcused absences and you will be dropped from the class.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).