

Syllabus
Fall WEC 2008
Drawing 107 A
(Saturday 1:15 – 4:45)

Room – OM 17

Instructor - Lynn Bollman

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Office Hours – Directly before or after class or by arrangement

“A man throws himself out of the fourth floor window: if you can’t make a sketch of him before he gets to the ground, you will never do anything big.”

Artist – Eugene Delacroix

“You are lost the instant you know what the result will be.”

Artist – Juan Gris

“When I sit down to make a sketch from nature, the first thing I try to do is to forget I have ever seen a picture.”

Artist – John Constable

I will explain these quotes on the first day of class. They sound a bit crazy, but they do get at important drawing concepts that we deal with in class.

General Description:

This is a first level drawing course. It is designed to teach students important basic concepts of drawing and is for students with various levels of drawing experience. While some students intend to be art majors, many will be in other fields of study and will be taking the course for other reasons. A portion of each class period includes lectures/slides, demonstrations, and critiques; however, much time is spent in the studio making drawings. Each assignment has a specific purpose and will help you to better understand the art of drawing. Problems are designed so that students at all levels are challenged, but are also such that students can approach them with confidence. You should not feel afraid to take the course (it’s friendly), but you should expect to be challenged. We draw with traditional drawing media and will make at least one (sometimes several) drawing each class day. Most of the work can be done in class; however, as with your other courses, you should plan for work outside of the class sessions. **There is no text required; however, a supplies kit will be given to you at the first class session. This kit will contain everything you will need for the course. The cost of the kit will be applied to your fee statement. The kit will cost less than most texts for your other classes.**

Prerequisites: None

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, a student will be able to:

use and understand various drawing media and methods.

make drawings that show confidence and that reflect a personal style.

critique (talk about) drawings and will critique their own and the drawings of others.

Assignments:

An individual drawing (or set of drawings) will be assigned at each class session. The subject matter of our drawings will vary from semester to semester; however, all of the assignments will lead you to a better understanding of important fine art concepts. At the beginning of the course we practice learning technique. This includes techniques to help us improve our observational skills. These techniques will lead us to make better proportionate drawings, will help us understand perspective, will help us with shading, will cause us to think about composition, and will help us learn about media, and methods. After learning technique, we work with developing our own personal styles. During this section, a variety of subjects are drawn but in each instance, the primary goal is to improve our unique abilities as we render and interpret what we see. Finally, the last part of the course focuses on problem solving. In this section, students are not assigned certain media or methods, but choose media and methods that work best for solving a given/assigned problem.

You will be assigned drawings to do outside the class period and these will be required to be completed before the following class meeting. A topic/subject will be assigned for each.

Class Dates:

September 6

September 20

October 4

October 11

October 25

November 8

November 22

December 6

Grading/Evaluation:

In addition to the text below, I will further clarify and answer questions at the first class meeting. The most important criterion is that you push yourself to resolve each assigned problem to its fullest.

All human beings are unique and will show this in work that is truly (and personally) theirs. The energy and commitment given to solving the assigned class problems will be apparent in the final product (the finished drawings). Students should, therefore, always approach each assigned problem with their highest level of intention. There are many abilities that may prove valuable to the drawing experience. The most commonly understood ability is the one to be able to draw proportionately well (realistically). While this may serve some well, others will benefit from abilities that relate to expressiveness, a sense for good balance, a sense for using space effectively, spontaneity (confidence), or creative thought. All of these abilities, and others, are important. All or some could lead to successful drawings.

All of you have unique and varied backgrounds; therefore, all of you are beginning this course at different points along an imaginary spectrum. The purpose in this class is to move all of you further ahead on that spectrum and, therefore, to help you acquire new information and an improved practice of drawing.

Definition: Complex Thought – Complex thought requires a high level of attention. It is deep thought, concentration, and diligence to the issue at hand. In drawing, it often results in creative decisions and often shows a level of attention to detail. Complex thought “leaves no stones unturned”. If you “loose yourself in your work”, if you are problem solving, or if your thoughts are honest or original, you are practicing complex thought.

Using the definition above, here is what a certain grade might “look” like.

4.0 This student not only completes all the required assignments, but also makes sure that each is done thoroughly and includes complex thought. This student’s work will display some natural talent, but it would be wrong to limit this characteristic to drawing proportionately well (realistically). This student will participate actively in class discussions. This student will be prepared for each class session and will be responsible for maintaining the studio space. Finally, this student will have excellent attendance.

3.0 This student thoroughly completes all required assignments and often (80% of the time) uses complex thought. Some natural talent will be seen in this work too. This student will be responsible, will participate in class discussions, and will be prepared for all class sessions. Poor attendance will not be a factor. This student may be characterized by the criteria of the “A” student, but may experience some personal difficulties and will miss some class. As a consequence, the quality of the experience will be reduced and the grade will reflect that.

2.0 This student completes all the major required assignments. The approach to the work could be described as casual; however, the work does illustrate an understanding of the assignment’s purpose. Class participation is “on and off” and preparation for class may only include essentials. Attendance may be described as good. The total experience could be described as being adequate.

1.0 The work may often look rushed or incomplete. This student’s approach to the assignments might be described as indifferent and will show little thought. Preparation for class is marginal and attendance is poor.

0.0 This student has stopped attending class but has not filled out a “drop” form. Work that shows less than that of a “D” student would fall into this grade category.

Mid-term critiques are ongoing. I will meet with you periodically to discuss your work with you; however, you will receive only one assigned grade for your portfolio of work and that will be determined at the required final critique.

Attendance:

This class only meets eight times. You should not miss any class. What we do in class is very important. There is no text and so all information is received in the classroom. If you miss one class, you miss one-eighth of the course.

Notes:

- *Turn off all phones while in class.
- *You may not bring children into class with you.
- *Eating and drinking in class is permitted (snacks only).

Supplies – You will receive a supply kit on the first day of class. This kit will have been charged to you via your fee statement. It will include the following:

Graphite pencils, 4B & 7B; Erasures, a pink pearl-type and a kneaded type; Charcoal – vine and compressed; Conte – White, and brown; India ink, quill pen tip, and holder. White drawing pad (18” x 24”). Medium dark and black charcoal paper (a few sheets of each). Other – art tape, small watercolor brush; fixative.

Honesty Policy: The Augsburg College policy on academic honesty applies to this course.

Students Rights and Responsibilities: Students with diagnosed learning disabilities or physical handicaps may have legal rights to course modifications. Please identify yourself to the professor so that he might assist you with your course progress. All students have the right to use the College Counseling and Student Development staff services as well as to receive assistance from the writing lab.