

**166 Topics in Studio Art and 366 Advanced Topics in Studio Art
(Portraiture: Approaches and Techniques)
(We are here together Monday and Wednesday from 1-4 pm.)**

Hamlett Dobbins

Office Hours by appointment

x3442 office, (901) 274-5170 home, (901) 522-9483 studio

E-mail: dobbinsh@rhodes.edu

Office Hours: I will be in my office in the gallery on M, Tu, W, & Th 12:00 – 1:00 pm or by appointment. I am usually on campus, please don't hesitate to contact me if you need to discuss anything.

REQUIREMENTS TO PASS THIS CLASS:

Studio art classes at Rhodes require a minimum of 138 work hours for every three hours of credit. You will fail if you do not have these minimum hours of work. In order to achieve this you must average nine hours of work each week. Six hours will be spent in class; however, you must schedule to spend the three additional hours on homework and outside projects. See project lists below.

Attendance and Class Participation: Class attendance and class participation is mandatory.

--Do not be absent. You will not be able to re-create the learning atmosphere of the classroom on your own.

--After three absences your final class grade will be lowered one grade with each additional absence.

--Team sports absence: If you play team sports and have to go out of town, be prepared to make up the hours outside of class. You are responsible for documenting your make-up work.

--Punctuality: Please be punctual. It has to do with respect, for the instructor and your classmates. If you're more than five minutes late three times it counts as an absence.

--Illness: Please contact me immediately if you have a serious health problem or a family emergency. If you tell me about problems on the last day of class there's not much I can do to help you.

--Class participation includes participating in critiques, class work, and clean-up. Your grade will be withheld if you fail to clean out your cubby and take your work and supplies home.

Grades:

40%= Engagement, completion and participation of all in class work and homework. Failure to attend class will pull your grade down dramatically.

40%= Outside projects (sketchbook 10%, fifty drawings 20%, outside lecture and exhibitions 10%.)

20%= Willingness to take risks/effort to improve/grow. (This is the difference between an **A** student and a **C** student.)

--Improvement is defined as significant and sustained skill acquisition.

--Risk taking students take their projects beyond personal satisfaction ("I like it"). They tend to work larger, more, with ambitious media and sustain projects for a long period of time. They make significant changes to their work all through their process.

A= Excellent

An **A** student fulfills all requirements for the class. They come prepared. An A student makes great improvements because he or she cares about art. The student shows that art and this

class are a priority in their life. At the end they can say “I did the best I could possibly do in that class.”

B=Good

A **B** student also fulfills all the requirements for the class but somehow lacks the spark or the determination to make great improvements in the class. Art may or may not be their major and for whatever reason art or this class isn't a priority for them. They can say they did well but could have done better.

C=Average

A **C** student is a student that comes to class most of the time, does the homework most of the time but their level of engagement was average. This class isn't a priority to them and their grade will reflect it.

Supply List for Portraiture:

One pad newsprint

One pad of Standard Drawing paper (Strathmore is a good brand)

Black conte crayons, a variety of hardnesses.

Graphite pencils (both woodless and traditional) graphite sticks are good too (a variety of hardnesses)

Black sumi ink

White pearl erasers

A variety of brushes for washes.

Containers for ink and water (plastic cups are good)

Large format good quality drawing paper (Stonehenge 38x50" and larger)

One tube of titanium white and ivory black acrylic paint

Hog's hair bristle brush flat #2 and #6

Part of your final grade will be determined by how prepared you are when you come to class.

Outside projects:

--**Sketchbook:** Students will be asked to keep a sketchbook. If you already keep one, great! You can use the same sketchbook for other classes if you need to. The sketchbook can function as a place to simply gather your thoughts, to provide a space where you can draw, where you can hold things that interest you, and a place for you to actively remember. The sketchbook should be thought of as your studio away from home. You will be provided with an assortment of examples.

--**Forty Portraits:** Early in the semester students should choose a person close to them (not themselves or a girlfriend or boyfriend) that they will be able to draw forty times over the course of the semester. Ten of the drawings will be done $\frac{1}{4}$ through the semester, ten more at midterm, ten more $\frac{3}{4}$ through the semester and at the end all forty will be presented to the instructor. **The drawings should not be done in a sketchbook, rather they should be done on loose pieces of paper of varying sizes.**

--**Exhibitions and lectures:** Students are required to see three off campus art exhibitions. The Brooks Museum, University of Memphis Art Museum, Memphis College of Art, Dixon Gallery and Gardens as well as local commercial galleries are acceptable venues. Students are also required to attend two artist lectures either on or off campus.

--**Final Project:** Hero portrait. The students will do a large format portrait on extra large paper. The student will be able to execute the project in any medium used in class this semester with any approach they choose. This project should be executed with the same amount of time, care, and attention as a final paper for one of your regular “academic” classes. On the last day of class we will have a group critique to discuss the pieces.

Rough timeline for the class: please note that if some assignments need more or less time, adjustments will be made in the timeline.

- 1.14.04 Hello my name is...
- 1.19.04 **No class (MLK day)**
- 1.21.04 Course materials will arrive, bring a check or credit card. Students will draw a portrait of a model during the course of the class in order for the instructor to see what they are capable of.
- 1.23.04 Mark making exercises
- 1.26.04 Work from slides in an effort to work from general to the more specific, understand the rectangle (class will end at three this day)
- 1.28.04 Class will work from a model and work on gestural drawings of the model from the waist up
- 2.2.04 Continuation of the charcoal gesture drawings of the model focusing on lights and darks
- 2.4.04 Continuation of the charcoal gesture drawings of the model focusing on lights and darks, addition and subtraction.
- 2.9.04 Line exercise (feel your own face) HW assigned: combine gestural drawings with line quality from feel your own face assignment.
- 2.11.04 Extended portrait of model with conte crayon. First ten portraits due.
- 2.16.04 Extended portrait of model with conte crayon. HW: gestural linear self portrait due
- 2.18.04 Crit for extended portrait of model. Extended large format portrait based on photograph begin
- 2.23.04 Continue extended large format portrait based on photograph.
- 2.25.04 Crit for extended large format portrait based on photograph. Begin large format portraits
- 3.1.04 One head becomes another.
- 3.3.04 One head becomes a still life. Second set of ten portraits due. During the class, students will meet with me to discuss their midterm grade.

midterm / spring break / end of the academe' drawings

- 3.15.04 Ink washes
- 3.17.04 Ink washes
- 3.22.04 (Moving heads) Take a head apart and put it back together
- 3.24.04 Take a head apart and put it back together
- 3.29.04 (Projection) Reinvent the human head
- 3.31.04 Reinvent the human head
- 4.5.04 Third set of ten portraits due. Begin mapping the human head (experience)
- 4.7.04 Mapping the human head.
- easter break
- 4.12.04 BUFFER WEEK
- 4.14.04 BUFFER WEEK
- 4.19.04 final project parameters discussed
- 4.21.04 work on final project
- 4.26.04 work on final project
- 4..28.04 Group critique of final project
- Finals we will set up a time for each student to meet with me to discuss their projects / progress for the semester (grades). The fourth set of portraits due along with other projects for the course you would like to set forth as examples of your best work.