BEGINNING DRAWING

SUGGESTED READING FOR INTERESTED PARTIES:
- Perspective Drawing; Auvil; Mayfield Publishing; 1990
- Art in America, Flash Art, Art News, Art on Paper, Art Forum, Parkett

COURSE OVERVIEW:
This class gives you the opportunity to explore the basic concepts and techniques of drawing as a medium including line, form, light, space, value and color. Here you have the opportunity to consider objects and concepts visually while remaining open to the possibilities for what a drawing can be.

We each have a unique approach when conveying our ideas. I strongly encourage you to experiment with different drawing techniques, in order of finding the best way to express yourself.

Expect to work in and out of class. Drawing in class is a major emphasis but is not the only effort required of you. Significant drawings and projects will be done outside of class. If this is not what you had in mind you may want to reconsider taking this course.

The class will be based on 8 completed assignments and an artist sketchbook/journal. Finished drawings will be due on the day of the critique as outlined in the schedule and will also be re-reviewed at your individual portfolio review at the end of the semester. The sketchbook will be reviewed at midterm and will be due Monday, December 1st. *NOTE: You will be expected to keep this sketchbook on a daily basis & I may ask to see it at any point. The attached class schedule outlines sketchbook assignments however, it may not be inclusive. I reserve the right to add assignments or revise the schedule as needed.
LECTURES:
Scheduled lectures and demonstrations will be given in conjunction with assignments and sometimes will be accompanied by a reading assignment. It is important not to miss class on the days of scheduled lectures because they describe the aim of each assignment and cover material needed to complete the course - the material covered is impossible to make up. In the event that you do miss a lecture, you are responsible for getting any assignments, explanations, notes or announcements from your fellow classmates.

CRITIQUES:
This is a studio course so examination comes through the process of critiques. Critiques will manifest in multiple forms including speaking and writing but most of the time it will involve the entire class in a discussion about each of your works. Your constructive participation in critiques and discussions is expected and attendance at critiques is mandatory. This is a major component to the class and your attendance and participation during crits will be factored into your final grade. You must come to class prepared. Part of the magic of a class experience is feeding off of each other, stealing from each other, bouncing off each other, and sharing with each other. We all have something important to say about what we see and we all rely on our classmates to voice their opinions. There will be a variety of critical methods used including one-on-one, roundtable discussions, and written responses.

STUDIO:
Please consider this a co-operative space in which you are all part owner. The building can be accessed 24hours a day and I hope will become one of your most frequented places on campus. Although this is a great studio, it’s limited in space. It is very important that you all work to keep the studio clean and clutter free for a safe & comfortable work environment. The less I have to clean up after you, the more time I’ll be able to work with you one-on-one. You are each responsible for cleaning up after yourselves every time you leave the studio. NOTHING can be left out after class or over the weekend, all materials must be taken with you when you leave so that space is suitable for the next class. Rhodes is not responsible for any materials or artwork left in the studio.

COURSE GOALS:
In this class you have the opportunity to:
• See, think & express your vision in drawing using the basic properties of line, composition, perspective, value and color.
• Become familiar with traditional & contemporary drawing with an emphasis on development of your observational skills and hand-eye coordination.

• Begin to develop the verbal means to assess and describe visual images by participating in-group and individual critiques, discussions & lectures.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance and punctuality is an absolute requirement for successful completion of this course. You must be working in the studio during class time. You will be granted two unexcused absences. On the occasion of your third unexcused absence, you can expect your letter grade to drop one full point. An expected A- will become a B-. Every unexcused absence after the third will lower your grade an additional half letter. Six or more absences will result in failure. Two tardies/incomplete class days equal one absence. Absence from crits, even if your work is up for that session will not be tolerated. (Should you confront personal problems or illness it is your responsibility to seek me out to discuss the situation.) Certain class days will be scheduled as work-in-class, to which you must come prepared to work on the assignment at hand, including all supplies, homework and/or research materials.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING:
You will be graded on a combination of the following:
• Your work (both in class & outside assignments) quantity & quality including finished assignments and sketchbook
• Your participation in discussions and critiques
• Your development over the semester
• Your overall commitment & attitude

MATERIALS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:
• 1 Wire bound sketchbook@ least 9x12"
• 1 18x24" drawing board with clips & rubber band
• 1 18x24" drawing pad (medium tooth)
• 1 gum & 1 kneaded eraser
• 1 ruler
• 1 box thumbtacks
• 1 medium tip sharpie marker
• 3 sticks medium compressed charcoal
• 2 sticks medium black conte'
• 2 sticks terracotta conte'
• 2 sticks white conte'
• 1 stump
• 1 chamois
**CLASS SCHEDULE**
Revised 9/15/03

**Wednesday, August 27:**
Introductions, syllabus, materials list, student questionnaire

**Monday, September 1:** LABOR DAY – NO CLASS!!!

**Wednesday, September 3:** Materials
**LECTURE ON THE INVESTIGATION OF LINE & REALLY SEEING**
- **SB (sketchbook)** - make 20 good drawings using: BLIND CONTOUR, CONTOUR, GESTURAL, WEIGHTED & BROKEN LINES one for each exterior landscape, self portrait, interior space & small object.

**Monday, September 8:** Timed contours from still-life in class
- **SB** – Make ten 3 minute contour drawings of yourself. Use a mirror but also use your own line of sight for some, just focusing on your foot or a hand. Try to make the compositions of each drawing as varied as possible.

**Wednesday, September 10:**
**LECTURE ON SIGHTING/MEASURING FOR PROPORTIONS & COMPOSITION**
- **ASSIGNMENT #1: COMPLEX CONTOUR DRAWING OF STILL LIFE (18x24”)** – this will be your first finished portfolio drawing for the class. You can use graphite pencil, conte’ or charcoal. Do @ least 5 preparatory thumbnails in your sketchbook first to work out a dynamic composition.

**Monday, September 15:** CRITIQUE ASSIGNMENT #1
**SB** – Do a complex contour study of your bedroom. This should be at least a 3 hour drawing.

**Wednesday, September 17:**
**VALUE, TONE, & LIGHT ON FORMS / TONED GROUND DEMO**
- **SB** – Do a seven-step value scale
- **ASSIGNMENT #2: FULL VALUE DRAWING FROM STILL LIFE** – (18X24”) Use conte’ or charcoal. Do @ least 5 preparatory thumbnails in your sketchbook first to work out composition.

**Monday, September 22:**
Work in class assignment #2
Wednesday, September 24: CRITIQUE ASSIGNMENT #2
- SB – Make two collages using newspaper, magazines and other found 2D material. Use the entire sketchbook page – consider the entire picture plane.

Monday, September 29:
One-on-one review collages
DEMO ON ALTERNATIVE TONED GROUND AND HIGHLIGHTS
*NOTE: YOU MUST USE THIS TECHNIQUE ON EITHER ASSIGNMENT #3 OR 4.
- ASSIGNMENT #3: FULL VALUE DRAWING – (18X24 OR proportionate dimensions) Use one of the sketchbook collages to make a fine, finished value study on toned ground.
- ASSIGNMENT #4: FULL VALUE THEATRICAL SELF PORTRAIT – (18X24) Use a definite, artificial light source and perhaps a costume or props? On toned ground with @ least 5 preparatory sketches (SB) to work out composition.

Wednesday, October 1: Work in class on assignments #3 & 4

Monday, October 6: CRITIQUE ASSIGNMENTS #3 & 4

Wednesday, October 8: LECTURE ON PERSPECTIVE
ASSIGNMENT # 5: INVENTED PERSPECTIVE DRAWING – DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED

Monday, October 13: TBA

Wednesday, October 15: MIDTERM
Individual midterm review and sketchbook check
Instructor Midterm feedback form
Work in class assignment #5

Monday, October 20: FALL RECESS – NO CLASS!!!

Wednesday, October 22:
DRAWING FROM MEMORY SLIDE SHOW
- SB – without looking again at the sketches you produced in class, re-draw them and spend a little more time developing a finished piece for each subject.
- ASSIGNMENT #6: PERSONIFIED ANIMAL – During our field trip to the zoo, find an animal that is interesting, beautiful, sad, or maybe just nice and still. Make a series of sketches (SB). Think about the slides we looked at and how to add human
characteristics to the drawing. Finally, make a finished 18x24”
drawing using memory & your zoo sketches.

**Monday, October 27:** FIELD TRIP TO THE ZOO!!

**Wednesday, October 29:** Work in class assignment #6

**Monday, November 3:** CRITIQUE ASSIGNMENT #6

**Wednesday, November 5:**
SLIDE LECTURE

- **ASSIGNMENT #7: DRAWING IN LANDSCAPE – DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**Monday, November 10:** T.B.A

**Wednesday, November 12:** T.B.A

**Monday, November 17:**
- **ASSIGNMENT # 8: FINAL SERIES (part A)** – Make 9 (18x24) completely un-related drawings. Really try to make them as
different as possible as if each one were made by another artist.
Use various mark-making techniques, subject matter and
medium. Work out ideas and compositions in your sketchbook.

**Wednesday, November 19:** Work in class assignment # 8 (part A)

**Monday, November 24:**
SMALL GROUPS CRIT ASSIGNMENT #8 (part A)
- **ASSIGNMENT #8 : FINAL SERIES (part B)**

**Wednesday, November 26:** THANKSGIVING RECESS – NO CLASS!!!

**Monday, December 1:** Work in class assignment #8 (part B)
SKETCHBOOKS DUE!!

**Wednesday, December 3:** FINAL GROUP CRITIQUE

**Monday, December 8:**
FINAL INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO REVIEWS

**Wednesday, December 10:**
FINAL INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO REVIEWS