

Art 124B, Drawing I
Prerequisite, Art 124-A
Instructor: Ron Petrosky
Office: Art 600
Telephone: 818-677-6449
E-mail ronsky@frazmtn.com

Contact/Office Hours:

Best way to contact me is through my personal E-mail. There is no voice messaging on the phone extension. Office hours are 5:00 PM-6:00PM on Thursday (please make an appointment for office visits to ensure I will be there). Many times we can discuss minor issues either just before or after class.

Course Description/Student Outcomes:

1. Students will apply the knowledge gained in Art 124A relating to the concepts of space, shape, line, form, value and composition to render the human figure and related subjects on the two-dimensional surface accurately and expressively.
2. Students will have a basic working knowledge of human anatomy, i.e.: proportions, major skeleton components and muscle groups. Students will be evaluated in drawing and written tests on their knowledge of this subject matter.
3. Students will have a foundation understanding in the history of the human figure's role in two-dimensional painting and drawing throughout art history. Students will perform copying exercises from the "Drawing Lessons from the Old Masters" text. There will be additional exercises in Cubism, Impressionism and Hyperrealism as class or homework assignments.
4. Students will learn to utilize the human form as a compositional device to breakup surface into interesting juxtapositions of shapes, masses and spaces using the principles of design, i.e.: balance, repetition, rhythm, unity, etc.
5. Students will continue to sharpen their critical thinking skills by analyzing their own work and the work of others articulately, using the art vocabulary associated with this class during written and oral critiques.
6. Development of problem solving skills will be encouraged. Projects may/will be designed that will challenge students to arrive at an individual solution to a problem posed in a project.
7. Students will gain confidence in, and enthusiasm for figure drawing, which will encourage them to continue in more advanced classes and life-long practice.

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Class Assignments:

This semester we will have the live model to work from approximately 2/3 of the class time. Other than the model sessions, work in class will consist of the following kinds of assignments.

1. Review of basic geometric forms and the effects of perspective as they relate to the construction and foreshortening of the figure.
2. Studies and finished drawings of hands and feet (always a difficult task).
3. Portraits (head studies) of fellow students.
4. Gesture and finished drawings of fellow students (clothed!) on the model stand.
5. Drawings of casts.
6. Drapery drawings.
7. Homework drawing in the sketchbook.

II. When the model is available we will utilize those lessons gained in the above exercises and apply them to the live sessions in these typical types of assignments.

1. Gesture drawings in which we will capture the essential movement and structure, including major axis and alignments, of the form in quick poses. (also good to warm up!)
2. Construction exercises using basic forms; eggs, beanbags, cylinders, spheres, cubes, rectangles, etc. to construct the idealized human form.
3. Finished, composed line and value studies of longer poses, including dramatic foreshortening, etc.

Evaluation and Grading:

The plus and minus grading system will be used in this class. A final grade will be given at the end of the semester based on the following criteria:

1. The work – grades for in-class and homework assignments described previously.
The approximate breakdown is as follows:

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A. Mid term and Final portfolio = 50%

B. Sketchbook reviews (2 each) = 30%

C. Anatomy and vocabulary tests/quizzes
2 each @ 5% each = 10%

D. Work collected in class and “fun quizzes” = 10%

These percentages are approximate and may differ from final percentages somewhat.

2. Assiduousness! “Marked by careful unremitting attention or persistent application”, as defined Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary. Other than the work, the other obvious factors that can be used to gauge assiduousness are:
Attendance: You must be in class. The majority of work and all instruction will take place in-class. After 3 absences, the final grade may be dropped one point for each class missed (from an A to an A-).

Be on time! Leaving class early is not permitted, neither is arriving late. Each counts as a tardy and three tardies = an absence. If I see a pattern developing with particular students I will give pop quizzes or assignments at the beginning or end of class that will not be “made up”. These may be “fun quizzes” that will be added to the grade point total.

Get the name and number of at least two other people in class to find out what you’ve missed if you’re absent. Keep in mind that only you are responsible for being informed, meeting deadlines and doing the work. Ask a fellow student about what you have missed before coming to me!

Class Participation – This is my impression of your level of interest and participation. Do you ask questions? Do you point out things that you see? Do you share your experiences when those are germane? Do you follow instructions? Etc.

Progress – Have you improved, genuinely, over the semester. This does not mean that in the beginning of the semester you turned in only half the work and in the later semester turned in everything! It means you worked hard all semester and it shows through improved performance.

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Grading – Grading will be accomplished by combining grades from:

1. Quizzes on term definition/concepts/anatomy/if you miss a quiz the next one will count double. If you miss the last test or quiz the grade is “0” or “F”.
2. Classwork and Projects that demonstrate principles studied throughout the course. (Projects will combine and build on concepts on a progressive basis).
3. Homework sketchbook assignments

The “Petrosky” Grading System:

Project and quiz grading is built on the unit of 4 pts. On a quiz or project worth 4 points. Grades are as follows:

4 pts. = A, 3 pts. = B, 2 pts. = C, 1 pts. = D, 0 pts. = F

A-,A = outstanding; B-,B,B+ = very good; C-,C,C+ = average; D-,D,D+ = barely passing;

F = failure

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On more complex projects or tests grading of these will be on multiples of 4 pts. A complex project can be worth 8, 12, or 16 pts. Etc. In each case you will determine your grade by dividing your total points by the multiplier value of the project.

Example: Project worth 48 pts. Multiplier value = 12

You earn 48 divided by 12 = 4 which is an A

You earn 36 divided by 12 = 3 which is a “B”

You earn 24 divided by 12 = 2 which is a “C”

At the end of the semester I will add up total points, total multipliers, divide and that will be your grade. Recognize that my grading system is not based on percentages!

Example: The total end-of-semester points available is 840. The divisor is 210 (divisor obtained by dividing 840 by 4)

A total of 840 pts ÷ 210 = 4.00 which is an “A” for the class.

A total of 720 pts ÷ 210 = 3.43 which is a “B/B+” for the class

A total of 420 pts ÷ 210 = 2.00 which is a “C” for the class

Attendance, participation, etc. will positively or negatively affect your grade if you are borderline (2.89 C+ or B?). Do not attempt to “Game the system” by earning just enough points to earn a “D” and pass the class. I will fail or assign a “WU” to those that do not regularly attend the class and/or complete the majority of the work.

There are two cut-off dates for points given for completed work: Mid-semester for all work done previous to that to-be-announced date and the last date that will be announced just before the end of the semester. After the cut-off dates no late work or re-dos are accepted! No excuses are accepted! No exceptions!

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Do not throw away assignments. We will have periodic reviews of your work and progress. You must show me the graded work to receive a corrected grade in the grade book if I missed recording a grade. “Re-dos” must be completely redone and turned in with the original work to be considered for an improved grade.

To earn an A or A- in this class you must:

- Earn an overall grade of at least an A- on all mentioned work/exams.
- Meet all deadlines, no late work
- Have no more than three absences.
- Be on time to class and stay until excused.
- Have the required materials and be ready to work at the beginning of class.
- Take notes and/or sketch lecture material.
- Demonstrate at least a fundamental understanding of anatomical terms and concepts and use them in class.
- Be enthusiastic about the drawing journey!

To earn a B+, B or B- you must do the following:

- Earn an overall B range on the mentioned work and exams and do the other things mentioned above.

My Thoughts on Drawing

Drawing is a skill acquired through practice. True, some people seem to have a “talent” for drawing but in reality you would find that these people love to draw and they practice, practice, practice. They may have a little better eye/hand co-ordination, a more developed area(s) of the brain for this activity, etc. but they hone these gifts through practice. The best artist can always be better through constant practice. The opposite is also true, the best artist can get worse through lack of practice. Even the masters at the height of their fame, changed drawings as they worked and destroyed those that didn’t work! Don’t be frustrated by an apparent lack of progress. Like every other practice based learning activity, you will reach plateaus of achievement and it may be some time between plateaus, hang in there, keep at it and you will overcome the roadblocks. Drawing isn’t mysterious or rocket science, art is.

Classroom Behavior

This is a University class. Every so often we have someone who slips through the maturity screen and winds up in our class. I am a firm believer in the old concept that a college education should produce individuals, who are, among other things, considerate of others, tolerant, understanding, kind, in other words, gentlemen and gentlewomen (gentlepersons?). The fact that those terms sound so arcane should be telling. So, here’s

some general rules:

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- Do not talk when I am lecturing or a student is responding to, or asking a question.
- **Turn off** cell phones and pagers during class time. ***Absolutely no cell phones out when the model is posing!!!*** If there is an emergency that requires you to stay in contact for a particular class let me know. Refrain from text messaging in class, I may/will deduct 4 points from your point total for each instance of “texting” during class.
- Those who arrive first have their selection of seats. There are no reserved seats. If you want to sit somewhere particular then come early and get your seat.
- You may move your seat in any direction as long as you are not obstructing the view of someone who has already settled in. Do not block pathways.
- Store all of your “stuff” under or in front of your drawing horse. Keep walkways between benches and rows clear so that I and your fellow students can walk amongst the benches.
- Try not to block other’s view of the model or set ups.
- You may use a headset/CD player/I-Pod, etc. as long as we don’t hear your music. Take off the headset and listen to lecture/comments. I may bring in specific music for a session, my choice.
- No food (Salads, Hamburgers, Pizza, Potato Chips, etc., no sounds or smells!) in the classroom, at all, ever! Water, soda, coffee okay but be careful.

Respect the Models!

Our models are our most prized drawing resource. They are, quite literally performers, teachers and our subject matter. Like any human being, but especially performers, they respond well to appreciation and respect and don’t respond well to the opposite.

Address them by their name, never criticize them directly. Address your criticisms to me in private. Never touch the model.

Required Textbooks are:

Launching the Imagination, Mary Stewart, ISBN 0-07-287873-8*

Classic Human Anatomy, Valerie L. Winslow, ISBN-13:978-0-8230-2415-5

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Materials:

1. Tackle box or other container to carry supplies
2. 18" x 24" drawing board or two clamps if you use classroom boards
3. Smooth newsprint (18" x 24")
4. @5 sheets of tracing paper (18" x 24")
5. Sketchbook #1 (white paper, 11"x14")
6. Tone paper sheets (later in semester) Canson Mi-Teintes charcoal papers, 19 1/2 x 25 1/2" mid-value colors (Grey, Blue, Tan). Strathmore, Ingres or Fabriano OK
7. Graphite pencils: HB, 2B, 6B
8. General charcoal pencils, HB, 6B and a white charcoal pencil if you don't want, or can't get a white Conte Crayon Pencil.
9. A couple of sticks of compressed Charcoal.
10. Colored Pencils: A few Prisma Color Erase, Dark value colors
11. Willow or Vine Charcoal – one small package
12. White pencil: Carb-Othello, Derwent "Chinese White" (#72)
13. Erasers: kneaded rubber, magic-rub
14. X-acto knife with #11 Blade
15. Sandpaper - #100
16. Chamois
17. One sheet of cold press Water Color Paper 140 or 200 lb 22 x 30"
18. Pelikan Fountain Pen, any color ink
19. Inexpensive watercolor brush
20. Plastic container for water (ie old food container – yogurt, salsa, etc.)
21. Inexpensive portfolio to contain drawings
22. 9 x 12" Sketchbook.

Bring all required materials to class as instructed. You cannot complete assignments without the necessary materials. Not being prepared with materials will result in a tardy entered on your attendance record. It's your responsibility to be prepared. I do not provide materials! If you must borrow materials from a willing and kind classmate, remember to return the materials! That which is borrowed with no intent to be returned is stolen!

Art Supply Stores

Carter Sexton M – Sat 9 - 5:30 p.m.
5308 Laurel Cyn. Blvd.
N. Hollywood
818-763-5050

Continental Art Store M – F 9:00 - 7 p.m.
7041 Reseda Blvd. Sat 10:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Reseda
818-345-1044

Dick Blick (Formerly The Art Store) M - F 9 - 8 p.m.
44 S. Raymond Ave. Sat 9 - 7 p.m.
Pasadena Sun 10 - 6 p.m.
626-795-4985

Pearl Art Supplies Inc. M - Sat 9:30 - 8:30 p.m.
1250 S. La Cienega Blvd. Sun 11 - 6 p.m.
Los Angeles
310-854-4900

Swain's M - F 9 - 7 p.m.
537 N. Glendale Ave. Sat 9 - 5:30 p.m.
Glendale Sun 10 - 5 p.m.
818-243-3129

Aaron Brothers M-S 10am-9pm
10151-B Reseda Blvd Sun. 10am-6pm
Northridge, CA 91324
(818) 349-4830

In addition, there are many discount art supply companies on the Web. Watch the shipping costs!

www.DickBlick.com

www.UtrechtArt.com

www.jerrysartarama.com

www.RexArt.com

Art 124B Contract

I have read the syllabus for Drawing I, and I am fully aware of the Objectives, Requirements, Evaluation Procedures, Attendance Requirements, classroom behavior standards, my responsibility for learning, keeping updated on changes in the calendar or assignments, and the Instructor's Office Hours. I know and am especially aware that late work is unacceptable and will lower my final grade.

I realize that excessive absences may result in dismissal from class and/or no credit (failure). I will be responsible for dropping this class if I find I am unable to attend.

Date _____

Student Signature

Student Name (Please Print)

Student Phone and e-mail (to be used in emergency only)

Student Address City Zip Code