

**California State University Northridge. Department of Art**  
**ART 124A – 08 (11190)**

**Basic Drawing. Spring 2021, Online TuTh 11am 1:45pm**  
Kent Familton, Email: kent.familton@csun.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment

**Catalog Description**

Introduction to basic drawing experiences. Graphic representation of objects stressed through a variety of techniques and media. Emphasis on form, structure, value, line, and systems of perspective and space. Available for General Education Subject Explorations: Arts and Humanities or Section C.2, Humanities for non-art major.

**Course Description:**

This course explores and applies the principles and components of drawing with an emphasis on form, value, structure, line, perspective, space and design. It is a college level introductory course to drawing that focuses on perceptual development through pictorial representation. It is designed for both art and non-art majors. No previous drawing experience is necessary.

It is also an introduction to the concepts and techniques of visual perception and invention. An understanding and analysis of the formal principles of drawing, the acquisition of technical skills, and the development of a personal creative vision are equally emphasized within the context of the class.

The basics of visual organization and the identification and use of two-dimensional visual elements are presented through classroom exercises and projects, lectures and images that will challenge you to explore, define and increase your visual vocabulary and expressive language – culminating in the development of your drawing skills and the power of observation.

Coursework consists of in-class work sessions, homework, and critiques. Completion of all assignments is essential as is attendance.

**Course Objectives:**

This class will expose students to ideas and concepts surrounding drawing. It will build confidence and prepare them for continued studies of art in upper division courses as well as provide a basic framework of visual literacy from which to explore other interests.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate their proficiency and understanding of basic drawing skills, two-dimensional concepts, materials and technique. These fundamentals will be presented within a contextual circumstance including cultural and historical concerns both past and present.

**Course Format:**

*Studio Work-* A variety of exercises and assignments will be given weekly. In class assignments will require additional work undertaken outside of class and should be returned according to schedule for critique and/or grading. It is important to pay attention to handouts and class announcements for specific due dates. Each student is responsible for the appropriate care and storage of assigned work throughout the semester. Presentation is paramount in this class, so you are expected to present your work in neat, good condition.

**Shooting images of your work.** Since we are strictly online for this class, you will be documenting your projects and submitting them to me via Canvas. I don't expect professional, perfect images but we can discuss how to best shoot your work with your phones to achieve decent results.

*Class Critiques-* Critiques give you an opportunity to share thoughts and ideas that are embodied in your own work as well as the work of your peers. Critiques allow you to see and experience various solutions while creating a forum for the group to present and discuss the different outcomes. Orderly and professional participation in this dialogue is crucial in your development as a visual artist. These critiques will be conducted virtually as a group, as small groups and/or one on one with me throughout put the semester.

**Sketchbook:**

Each student will need a 8" x 11" hardcover sketchbook. This will primarily be used for sketches and preliminary drawings and ideas for all projects both in and out of class. It will also be useful for notes during class lectures, presentations and discussions as well as any research. Online research will be required throughout the semester to familiarize students with various artists and their work.

**Assignments:**

All assignments need to be finished, presented and turned in on time. Late assignments will be accepted but shall be lowered one grade. Students will be required to work in and outside of class time to complete projects by the given due date. You will also be able to redo selected projects for a better grade.

**Grading Policy:** Calculation of final grade will be based on all assignments. Failing to turn in any assignment will be a 0 for that assignment.

Assignment grading:

A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	0% - 59%

Grading will also be based on:

- Cooperation and class participation
- Consistency of effort and attitude
- Degree of improvement and understanding
- Development of creative problem-solving skills
- Originality and creativity
- Quality of projects and assignment execution
- Quiz
- Response Papers
- Attendance

I encourage you to contact with me at any point during the semester regarding your grade and progress in the class and to go over any questions you may have.

#### **Attendance and conduct:**

Since this is an online class, criteria regarding absences and attendance have changed. For the most part, I expect everyone to be present for class Zoom meetings, demos and critiques. Normally, everyone is allowed three absences before your grade starts to be affected. If for some reason you can't attend any of the aforementioned virtual happenings, please let me know. I also want to stress that I am always available. Please email at any time me with any questions, concerns etc. regarding the class. I can also speak with you one on one via Zoom or arrange a phone conversation - whatever is best for you.

#### **University Withdrawal Policy:**

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from classes. Instructors have no obligation to withdraw students who do not attend courses and may choose not to do so. Withdrawal from a course after the first two weeks of instruction requires the signature of the instructor and department chair and is permissible only for serious and compelling reasons. **During the final three weeks of instruction, withdrawals are not permitted except in cases such as accident or serious illness where the circumstances causing the withdrawal are clearly beyond the students control and the assignment of an incomplete is not practical. Ordinarily, withdrawals in this category involve total withdrawal from the University.**

#### **Special Needs**

Student who need accommodations with testing, course content and activities may wish to review the Center on Disabilities website for detailed information on how to register and access resources for assistance. Please see instructor as early as possible in the semester regarding special needs and accommodations. <http://www.csun.edu/cod/>.

#### **Suggested Text** (not required)

*Launching the Imagination* by Mary Stewart

The text can be purchased at the Matador Bookstore. There is also a copy available at the CSUN library.

#### **Suggested Reading:**

*A Primer of Visual Literacy*, Donis A. Donis

*Art Fundamentals, Theory and Practice*, Ocvirk, Stinson, Wigg, Bone, Cayton

## Art Supply Stores

-**BLICK**, 11531 Santa Monica Blvd. West Los Angeles 90025 (310) 479-1416.  
<https://www.dickblick.com>

-**Carter Sexton**, 5308 Laurel Canyon Blvd. (818) 763-5050. Open for limited in person shopping.

-**Cheap Joe's**. <https://www.cheapjoes.com> (I have never purchased from them, but a former student gave them a great review).

## Materials List

- Hardbound sketchbook (8" x 11")
- Newsprint pad (**18" x 24"**) Any brand. Recycled ok. 50 or 100 sheet pad is good.
- Strathmore Drawing pad (**18" x 24"**) Strathmore 400, Canson, usually 20 sheets (approx)
- Drawing board with clips – 23" x 26". Approximate size (that will fit your paper)
- Two paper stumps/tortillons (one small/one large or a cheap set)
- Vine Charcoal (Small pack – soft and hard. Two packs total)
- Compressed charcoal sticks: soft or medium pack
- Charcoal pencil set (soft, medium, hard and white) Find a cheap 4 pack.
- Graphite Pencils – Range: 6H, 4H, HB (or F), 2B, 6B
- One colored pencil
- Chamois cloth
- Erasers- **Three** Kneaded erasers and one vinyl Staedtler or Pink Pearl eraser
- Fine Line Black ink pens- tip sizes #005 micron; #1.0 micron; #3 brush or graphic. (three total - or any pack you can find with three or four)
- One Black PrismaColor Premiere Double Ended – Broad/Fine marker (*preferred*) **or** comparable, high quality black marker – (AD Marker Tri Nib **or** Copic 100 Black.)
- 12" or 18" ruler
- Pencil Sharpener (preferably with shavings catcher)
- Scotch 1" Blue artists tape
  
- Sandpaper block (*optional*)
- Utility Knife or Snap Off Knife or Xacto Knife (*all optional*)

*Above items (sandpaper and knife) will be useful if you want to learn how to correctly sharpen your pencils by hand. I will be giving a demo.*

- Workable Spray Fixative: one aerosol spray can for finished charcoal drawings (*optional but suggested*).
- Art Bin (*optional*)

*Below is a list if you shop online at Blick:*

DRAWING PAPER PAD - 18" x 24", 24 Sheets Strathmore 400 Pad.

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/10316-1009/>

**OR**

Blick Studio Drawing Pad - 18" x 24", 30 Sheets

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/10314-1049/>

The Strathmore is more expensive and higher quality than the Blick brand. Any brand is good as long as it says, "drawing paper". **Must be 18 x 24 inches.**

NEWSPRINT PAD, 50 sheet, 18" x 24" Any brand or:

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/10311-1049/>

MASONITE DRAWING BOARD 23" X 26" (with clips and rubber band)

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/22945-1002/>

SKETCH BOOK hardcover blank white paper - 8.5" X 11"

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/11879-1085/>

GRAPHITE DRAWING PENCILS: 4H, 2H, HB, 2B, 4B - five total. Any brand.

**OR**

Blick Studio Drawing Pencils - Set of 12 (great value if still on sale for \$10.57).

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/22220-2009/>

SET BLACK FABER-CASTELL (or other brand) ARTIST PENS/Fineline pens - set of 4

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/20759-2029/>

One Black PrismaColor Premiere Double Ended

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/prismacolor-premier-double-ended-art-marker-black/>

One COLORED PENCIL (red is good).

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/22063-3161/>

Compressed Charcoal - Assorted, Pack of 4 General's Compressed Charcoal.

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/22921-2001/>

PACK VINE CHARCOAL, Winsor & Newton Vine Charcoal - Soft, Box of 3

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/22989-1002/>

PACK VINE CHARCOAL, Winsor & Newton Vine Charcoal - Medium, Box of 3

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/22989-1003/>

CHARCOAL PENCIL set. (4 pencils in pack)

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/20418-1009/>

VINYL ERASER

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/21002-1000/>

KNEADED ERASER - buy a few

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/21502-2820/>

METAL RULER, 18", non-slip back

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/55952-9318/>

DRAFTING/BLUE TAPE, 1" (either or below)

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/23082-1036/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/24123-1001/>

CHAMOIS SMALL

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/03462-1001/>

Gray Paper Stumps - Assorted, set of 12 (you won't need 12 but it comes in a pack)

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/22943-1412/>

OR

Loew-Cornell Blending Stumps - Assorted Sizes, Pack of 5

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/22866-1059/>

Pencil Sharpener (if you don't have one). Pick one or:

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/prismacolor-pencil-sharpener/>

### **Suggested items:**

-Sandpaper Block (*optional*)

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/sandpaper-block-1-x-4/>

-Utility Knife or similar cutting tool (*optional*)

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/alvin-utility-knife/>

*Above items will be useful if you want to learn how to correctly sharpen your pencils by hand. I will be giving a demo.*

-Spray Fixative. (*optional*) Any brand. Will protect your charcoal drawings so they won't smudge.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/krylon-workable-matte-fixatif/>

-ECONOMY PORTFOLIO 23" X 31" for carrying drawings (*optional*)

(Since we are online this semester, you won't be traveling with your drawings or supplies).

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/15125-2052/>

