LSA 182— Drawing Studio

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to materials, techniques and elements of drawing. Students will create freehand drawings based on a variety of subjects and themes, including life forms, common objects, imagination and the built environment. Both representational and abstract qualities of drawing will be addressed. Emphasis will be placed on seeing accurately and developing a working process, which embraces process, form and content. Students will be introduced to the critique as a means of constructive evaluation for projects.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Gain a general knowledge of materials and techniques used for drawing

Build a vocabulary of art terms

Develop skills and visual tools to communicate ideas

Enhance visual awareness by understanding the mechanics of seeing and interpreting visual information

Appreciate the creative process and its role in solving problems.

Develop a habit of observing and recording personal ideas in a sketchbook/journal

Learn to critique and rework drawings as needed

Create a personal portfolio of progressively more competent images

TEACHING METHODS

The semester will be divided into the following blocks of focus: Line, shape, texture, value, color, and composition. Each block will explore specific elements and various techniques for expressing those elements. Drawing problems will become progressively more complex. Each week will also cover supporting aspects of creative thinking. Class time will include short lectures, demonstrations, readings, field trips, critiques, and studio drawing time. Resources will be drawn from science collections, campus architecture, and the surrounding landscape. In addition to classroom exercises and assignments, each student will keep a journal/sketchbook, which will be used for personal expression, text and class notes related to each week’s topic. Text readings will provide inspiration and background. There will be group and ongoing individual critiques and formal portfolio evaluation at the end of the semester.

ASSESSMENT

Final grades will be determined by:

60% Portfolio of completed assignments and selected classroom work (evaluated on technique, content, craftsmanship, presentation, and personal progress.\*

10% journal/sketchbook including notes from text reading and class

10% attendance and professionalism (based on the student’s motivation level, attitude toward class, participation in class discussions and critiques)

20% personal progress and effort as evidenced in student’s development and final portfolio

\*Assignments will become more complex as the semester progresses. Student’s personal progress will be a strong consideration in the evaluation of the final portfolio, which will include all completed portfolio drawing assignments and selected classroom exercises and homework assignments. There will be periodic checks of each student’s sketchbook during the semester, and the sketchbook will be turned in with the final portfolio at the end of the semester.

COURSE CALENDAR

LSA 182 Drawing Studio

LINE: *Three weeks*: Exercises in contours and line qualities to heighten observation and cultivate creative thinking. Materials and ergonomics will also be presented. Topics covered: Pure and modified contour line, cross contour line, simple view finders, thumbnail sketches, enlarging a drawing using a grid, hatching techniques.

SHAPE: *Two weeks*: exercises in form, figure-ground relationships, positive and negative spaces, geometric and organic shapes. Topics covered: positive and negative space, simple one and two point perspective, layering and definition to suggest depth.

VALUE: *Two weeks*: exercises using value to describe form, recognizing light sources and introduction to the human figure. Topics covered: proportions of the human face and figure, drawing from the model, value scales, rendering techniques

COMPOSITION: *One week*: Understanding the elements of composition to organize the picture plane. Topics covered: divine proportion, Gestalt, symmetrical and asymmetrical balance, radial symmetry.

TEXTURE AND PATTERN: *Three weeks*: Exercises in use of texture to create form and interpret surfaces, and using pattern to create visual interest. Topics covered: looking for patterns of light and dark to render texture, how pattern creates rhythm and movement in a composition.

COLOR: *Two to three weeks:* Exercises in color relationships, how to mix color, and how color can enhance composition and expression. Topics covered: The difference between the Additive System of using color and the Subtractive System, Color terminology, Monochromatic, Analogous, Complementary, Split Complementary, and Triadic color schemes.

Round up and Review: *One week*: Tying up loose ends, reviewing and reworking portfolio drawings, techniques of professional presentation of two dimensional designs.