

Session 1: December 26–30, 2011

Beginning Studio Drawing

DRAWING 401 001; Reg #: 177

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Sean Ward

This course offers students an introduction to drawing as an organizer of thought, feelings, and image-making. Students investigate a range of contemporary drawing materials and methods and explore essential elements of 2D design. In addition to developing fundamental skills, students discuss ways to research their ideas, bring more meaning to their work, and develop strategies for staying connected to their practice. Trips to the Art Institute of Chicago and presentations on contemporary artists supplement the studio experience. *This course is recommended for beginning students or those wanting to improve current skills.*

Description:

We will use the definition of the words draw and drawing as a basis, concept and perspective for this class.

Draw as a verb means, 'to cause to move in a particular direction by or as if by a pulling force, pull drag'. 'To bring, take or pull out from a container or a source' is another definition of the word draw but are also actions that we will use and examine through writing, observation and discussion. We are looking to bring an experimental understanding of drawing towards yourself and your art. Traditionally people think of drawing or to draw meaning to create an observational drawing with pencil or charcoal on paper that looks like the thing looked at, 'to compose or create a picture in lines'. It can also mean 'to sketch (someone or something) in lines or words', not necessarily a representation, but an impression of that thing, object or event.

Drawing is usually considered the thing, the finished product of the action "to draw". It can mean 'the act of a person that draws' - not necessarily with pencil and paper! 'A sketch, plan or design' which doesn't necessarily have to be made with pencil, charcoal or paper yet again! And it is also in reference to luck, like something decided by a drawing - like the lottery.

What we are going to do in this class is use these abstract ideas and definitions of the words 'draw' and 'drawing' through writing, discussion, video, photography and traditional drawing exercises to understand the possibilities inherent in our thinking and our actions in this medium that represents the beginning of and the resolution of a piece of artwork.

Readings:

Day 1: Circles, Ralph Waldo Emerson's Circles

Day 2: Viewing Copies: On the Mobility of Moving Images, Sven Lutticken

Day 3: Learning from Little Haiti, Gean Moreno & Ernesto Oroza

Day 4: Lygia Clark: In Search of the Body, Guy Brett

Day 5: Against Interpretation, Susan Sontag

Class Guide:

Day 1 Line/ Circle/ Unseen/

- Writing Prompt
- Discussion: How can we describe something (feelings, an idea, etc.) without illustrating it or writing it out? The difference between the line and the circle, and the power of observation through drawing, video, photography and patience.
- Presentation (Museum Visit, Trip, Walk) Find an artwork that moves you in the museum and interpret it into a drawing and a piece of writing.
- Drawing Exercise: Drawing from memory of this object - pair up and stretch a piece of paper on the wall. Blindfolding your partner and using your written description of the artwork from the museum recite it to your partner - he or she draws what they hear in the description.

Homework: Read -Circles, by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Day 2 Video/ Composition/ Collage/

- Writing Prompt
- Discussion: Questions about the reading Circles by Emerson.
- Presentation (Museum Visit, Trip, Walk) Visit Poussin's painting "Landscape with Saint John on Patmos" to talk about composition and unity of an image.
- Video Exercises: Tutorial on the use of video and photo cameras. Collect 5x 5 minute continuous experiments (still, follow, tilt, pan, and zoom) each must have no breaks. Keeping in mind our discussion of Poussin's composition. Upload them on the computer.

- **Drawing Exercises:** Collage and Composition, create 5 - 10 drawings by filling up the sheet of paper in pattern, marks, values but do not try representing anything such as figures, objects, etc. You will then keep 2 of your own and trade with other students your drawings until you have a new assortment of drawings. Using scissors, tape and glue you will reconstruct these drawings in collages keeping in mind once again our discussions on composition. (Watch Jack Smith and the Destruction of Atlantis documentary in the background)

Homework: Read -Viewing Copies: On the Mobility of Moving Images, Sven Lutticken

Day 3 Photography/ Document/ Invention/

- Writing Prompt
- Discussion: Questions about the reading Viewing Copies by Lutticken
- Presentation (Museum Visit, Trip, Walk) Watch video of Ernesto Oroza interview.
- Photo Exercises: We will go on a short walk in search of inventions, collages and objects in reuse within the landscape of Chicago. We will also create temporary installations and drawings in the landscape - using our camera equipment we will take photos and document our experiments and experience. Collect a few objects or things to bring back to the classroom.
- Drawing Exercises: We will create our own inventions through drawing, collage and writing, using our found objects, things, and photographs as sources of inspiration. You can include them or draw from them to create this. If you are having trouble, write out a situation that you have experienced and what you wished was there to be used to solve the problem. The drawing should be accompanied with a small piece of writing about what this thing is used for - it doesn't have to be of this world or literal or have to actually work properly.

Homework: Read -Learning from Little Haiti, Gean Moreno & Ernesto Oroza

Day 4 Cut/ Space/ Action

- Writing Prompt
- Discussion: What do you think makes something art?
- Presentation (Museum Visit, Trip, Walk) Museum visit to see Brancusi and Giacometti. Discuss how these sculptures cut and build space. Presentation on Gordon Matta-Clark and Franz West

in the classroom. Talking about translation from 3D into 2D and vice-versa.

- Drawing Exercises: As a class we will create a list of action/doing words. Using these words we will take hold of the clay and create a small sculpture that we feel is a reflection of three of these words and that draw in space. The sculptures will be a basis for a close traditional observational drawing.

Homework: Read -Lygia Clark: In Search of the Body, Guy Brett
Bring in music that you feel represents your sculpture.

Day 5

- Writing Prompt
- Discussion: How has any of the exercises influenced your thinking about art?
- Presentation (Museum Visit, Trip, Walk) We will take our sculptures for a walk. Using our video and photo cameras we will document this journey. Placing them in the environment, the outside world. We will need to partner up for a third person perspective to shoot yourself interacting with your sculpture. We will take our videos/photos and create a video/slideshow cued to our favorite song.
- Drawing Exercises: We will cue your videos to the music you brought in. We will finish up any drawings, sculptures and collages we feel are not resolved.

Homework: Read -Against Interpretation, Susan Sontag
(this is a farewell and good luck reading!)

Materials:

- Notebook/ Sketchbook (all students are required to have one to sketch in, write in, and think in, something easily transportable)
- Drawing: pens, pencils, charcoal, roll of white paper
- Digital Video Cameras
- Digital Point-n-Shoot Cameras (if students have smartphones that can do both video and photo, even better)
- iMovie
- Adobe Photoshop
- Water-based clay
- Found Objects