

University of Colorado

FALL 2015

Tyler Alpern, MFA

Drawing for Non-Majors

ARTS 1012 280R

3 Credits

CU Libby RAP

Place and Time:

*Libby Hall Basement - Art Studio on Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:00pm - 3:20pm.

*Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays at 12:30 - 1 and 5:50 - 6:20.

*D2L for class and grade info, handouts and important links for demos or examples and assignment help.

*Check CU email daily for important LRAP messages, opportunities and occasional class bulletins.

Contacts:

Tyler Alpern 303 545 6955

Email: Tyler.alpern@colorado.edu

Web: D2L & www.tyleralpern.com/cu.html

Important Dates:

No CU Classes 9/1, 11/24-11/28. Class dates: 8/24 - 12/9.

Final Exam Period: LRAP Celebration of the Arts (12/9, 5:30pm)

Course Description:

This course is a basic introduction to the field of drawing in contemporary art studio practice. Students will make art using varied drawing techniques and understand the basic conceptual and intuitive modalities of two dimensional black and white art.

Course Projects:

This class is an exercise and experience rather than product oriented class. The goal is to learn how to see and draw, not to always make nice drawings. If you happen to create some wonderful drawings (which is almost certain) that is great, but not required. Just as a musician practices for countless hours, to learn to draw, you must practice by making drawings, heaps of them. You will make some really bad drawings. That is expected as part of the learning process. Learning to cope with and work with frustration is essential. If you do not make some bad drawings I will suspect that you are not willing to experiment and push yourself to learn more. This class will focus on creative exploration, development of technical skills and introduce a variety of drawing materials. We will work with three broad types of drawing: 1. Rendering, that is drawing that describe what is seen; 2. Drawings that visualize what is imagined; and 3. Drawings that symbolize ideas and concepts.

We will try a variety of exercises, some traditional and concrete, and others that are rather unusual and abstract. Some you will relate to and others you may struggle with or hate. Topics will include: Gesture, Line, Measuring, Shading and Volume, Perspective, Mark Making and Texture, Life Drawing, Composition, Style, Use of Materials and Generating Ideas from Your Imagination.

In addition to all assignments, **you are required to draw outside of class 3 days a week or more (at least one hour total per week)**, so use your sketchbook for this purpose and date each drawing. You are free to draw what you want in it. Also, develop ideas for independent projects in your sketchbook. You will have to complete projects in class based on your own ideas that you formulate outside of class in your sketchbook. Bring your sketchbook to class every day as you'll also use it to take notes. There will be some assignments that you complete outside of class in your sketch books. Those assignments are listed in the class schedule.

Performance Objectives:

Challenge yourself and try your best. If you do that, then you will be a better drawer and a more effective creative thinker and problem solver at the end of the semester than you were at the beginning, and in the process you will earn a strong grade that reflects your effort and improvement.

Performance and Grading Policy:

Your grade is based on effort, attitude and attendance, not ability. 2 points deducted for late work each period past due. Every class period is important and counts toward your final grade. Make-up classes or assignments (IF POSSIBLE) must be completed within 2 weeks and count up to 2/3's part credit.

COURSE TOTAL = 100 POINTS.

Sketchbook 10pts., Course Work/Homework 90 pts

Grading scale: 100-93= A, 92-90= A-, 89-87= B+, 86-8 = B, 82-80 = B, 70s = C, 60s = D, below 60 = F

Grading scale for art projects

- A full engagement in the process; use of the set parameters and suggestions
- B an interesting work that does not quite fulfill the requirements
- C adequate, reasonably competent; a mixture of strengths and weaknesses, partially fulfills assignment
- D poor in content, form, and mechanics, does not follow assignment
- F incoherent, disastrously flawed, or not turned in

Numeric grades: A = 90 - 100% points, B = 80 - 89%, C = 70 - 79%, D = 60 - 69%, F = 0 - 59%.

You should take risks and not worry about the beauty, success, or artistic ability of finished work, grades are only based on fulfilling assignment instructions and requirements. Assignments must be completed and approved to get full credit.

I expect you to call in advance of each absence: 303 545 6955. Religious holidays can be made up at full credit if this procedure is followed: please let me know your plans for them in advance and arrange a make-up assignment. **Excused absences do not excuse responsibility for the work missed and are excused at the discretion of the instructor.** Excused absences must be made up or they become unexcused absences. You may be absent from one week of classes for personal, religious or medical reasons (excused absences) during the semester without your grade being affected if the work is made up in a timely manner. Since your class meets twice per week, this means you may miss 2 classes for personal or medical reasons; Any more absences than this will affect your grade by one grade increment; for instance, an A- grade will automatically become a B+, a B grade will automatically become a B-, and so forth. In cases of hospitalization or a death in the family, contact your instructor immediately to discuss options.

Your grade drops one letter every 3 unexcused absence, or 1/3 of a level with each absence for the first 3 absences. The 4th absence drops a full letter grade and 5 absences may earn a failing grade. One unexcused absence may be forgiven if a make-up is possible and completed in a timely manner. All other make-ups only earn partial credit. Some unexcused absences, depending on the nature of the class missed, may be made up for 2/3s credit within 2 weeks. **Emailing your instructor when you are absent and turning in homework digitally if you are absent can help mitigate absence consequences and reduce grade penalties.**

Three tardies, early departures, or excessive breaks equal one absence. Missing more than 15 minutes of a period also counts as a tardy. A bad attitude on a day when we try something you do not like or not following assignment directions,

not using good studio practices, failure to clean up your space, or texting during a lecture will count as an absence or a tardy. During Rush Week, penalties for missing all or part of a class, no matter the reason: illness or otherwise, are double. **Explanations are given at the start of each class so please BE ON TIME - even one minute late may be considered tardy.** "Those who are tardy will not receive fruit cup."

Your final grade for the course is tabulated by subtracting absence penalties from your overall point count. For example 85 points (B) minus 2 absences would earn a grade of C+.

Please continue coming to class even if you are unprepared, are missing a due date or falling behind. I understand how this sometimes happens and being in class is essential for the learning process and for me to help you one on one with your work or any obstacles and frustrations you are facing.

Extra Credit: You can earn up to 3 points extra credit OR make up a missed class by attending an approved LRAP or other special event with Tyler's permission.

Materials (Provided by LRAP):

One 18 x 24 pad of large drawing paper, sketch book, toned drawing paper, lots of soft rich black charcoal (not compressed) - often called "Char - Kole" or "Charcoal Pastels", vine charcoal, kneadable and white or black drawing erasers, 6B 2B H & ebony pencils, graphite sticks, ruler, conte crayons (black, reddish, white), ink, brush & pen, small cups, paper stumps, styrofoam peanuts, Small bottle of Odorless Turpenoid (not natural) or Gamsol, stiff cheap brush, any other black and white drawing materials you like such as markers, pens, grey tones, blending tools. We will not be working with color at all this semester.

Miscellaneous:

*You must wash and clean your desk after each class. USE RESPECT: for yourself, your classmates, the room and materials in it. Realize that a portion of your grade is your conduct in the studio. That includes safety issues, respect for the work of others and cleaning up after yourself.

* Given the nature of an art studio, wear clothes that can get paint and ink permanently on them.

*To avoid ingesting hazardous materials, eating and drinking in the studio is discouraged.

*No toxic chemicals or paints shall be disposed of in the sink.

*Use of headphones allowed only if completely inaudible to others and may be disallowed.

*Text messaging allowed only at discretion of instructor. Never during lecture or in front of guest. Cell privileges may be revoked.

**Communication is the key to success in this class. If there is anything of concern, see me, call or e-mail. Students with disabilities, language conflicts or having special circumstances during the semester should contact me early so that appropriate accommodations may be made. Requesting accommodation or allowances *after the fact*, or, *at the end of the term*, is NOT an appropriate solution.*

*The instructor reserves right to modify the calendar and assignments for the class.

*Class is likely cancelled due to any active fires in the Lefthand Canyon Area.

*"In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer (or artist) deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source." It is the student's responsibility to understand and avoid plagiarism. There are many, many sources available to assist the student in producing a properly-documented written or assignment. In addition to many resource books available at the library, there are excellent online resources, as well. Once such

resource is <http://abacus.bates.edu/cbb>. This site contains tutorials and examples. **Visual work should also be original and any source or inspirational material must be shown to the instructor to avoid plagiarism and a potential honor code violation.**

*Again: emailing your instructor when you are absent and turning in homework digitally if you are absent can help mitigate absence consequences and reduce grade penalties.

*“All berets must be worn on a slant. If your beret is not on a slant, you spend a night in the box.”

CU POLICIES:

*Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

*Teaching faculty shall make every effort to accommodate all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or other required attendance, provided they notify you well in advance of the scheduled conflict. Whenever possible, students should notify faculty at least two weeks in advance of the conflict to request special accommodation. In this class 3 hours of outside work completed to the instructor's specifications and satisfaction must be submitted within one week of any missed class. Classes missed without prior notification may not be considered nor will excess travel days.

*All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder enrolled in credit or non-credit classes are subject to the Honor Code for academic matters. This includes, but is not limited to, the main campus, Continuing Education, and Study Abroad. The existing school/college ethics committees will continue to be at the forefront of academic integrity by addressing academic integrity issues specific to their schools/colleges. The Honor Code Council and the Campus Ethics Committee will work closely with the individual schools/colleges ethics committees to promote academic integrity on a campus-wide basis. As students of a self-regulating profession, the students of the University of Colorado School of Law will maintain, administer, and implement its long-standing Honor Code, and will submit all records pertaining to violations to the Honor Code Council Office. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Honor Code are available on the Honor Code website: <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

*The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

*If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

***Students with disabilities, language conflicts or having special circumstances during the semester should contact me early so that appropriate accommodations may be made. Requesting accommodation or allowances after the fact, or, at the end of the term, is NOT an appropriate solution.**

Drawing Class Plans - Subject to change

Class 1: Introduction, Brainstorming Activity.

Class 2: Art Supplies at Guiry's: *2404 Pearl (24th and Pearl) Downtown. 2:15pm!*

Sketchbook Activity 1 (SB1): 1 hour of drawing from your imagination

plus

Sketchbook Activity 2(SB2): brainstorm 20 different ideas for drawing and document them with thumbnail sketches and text.

Class 3: Measuring/Rendering - Pencil (Pe), Large White Drawing Pad (DP), Er.

Purpose: change of approach from previous class, to begin to learn how to accurately render what is seen.

4pts. Sketchbook Activity3 (SB3): Do a measured drawing of an interior space. HW: Read Measuring Handout on D2L.

Class 4: Measuring Continued - Pe, DP, Er.

Purpose: to practice and better learn the techniques of measuring and to begin to incorporate the varieties of line quality. **3pts**

Class 5: Line Quality - All drawing materials (All), Ink, NP or DP.

Purpose: to make more interesting, expressive yet understandable drawings by expanding the range and variety of line; to be able to draw from the imagination; to train the hand. **3pts. SB4: Do a drawing with 5 distinct and different types of line, using line to clarify form and space.**

Class 6: Cross Contour - Pe, NP or DP.

Purpose: to use line direction (and later mark making) to describe the three dimensionality of a form on a flat surface. **4pts. Homework: Finish all assigned forms, 3 different but successful: sphere, cube, pyramid, lumps, cylinders & cones - both hollow and solid. Place some forms in a variety of different spaces. EXAGGERATE curves, spacing and line quality.**

Classes 7-8: Line Project

Purpose: To consolidate skills learned so far and apply them to a creative, finished artwork based on an idea already developed in your sketchbook. **4pts.**

Class 9: Composition - Pe, Er, Ch, NP.

Purpose: to find creative content, draw from the imagination and examine compositional possibilities. **3pts.**

Class 10: Formula Shading - Ch, Pe, Er, DP or NP.

Purpose: to learn how to craft the look of 3-dimensional space on the flat 2-dimensional surface of paper using value and logic. **3pts. SB5: Draw 3 3d forms of your choice and render each once with Formula Shading and once with Cross Contour Lines Homework: Finish all assigned forms: sphere, cube, pyramid, cylinders, cones, lumps to get full credit.**

Class 11: Formula Shading and Measuring - Ch, Pe, Er, DP.

Purpose: To integrate the ideas of measuring and rendering with formula shading; combining what you see with conventions to communicate what you know. **3pts.** **Turn in and discuss HW and choose one idea to develop.** **HW for Class 12, Bring a large, interesting object to draw.**

Classes 12 -14: Formula Shading and Measuring - Pe, Conte, DP.

Remember to bring to class a large, interesting item to draw. Purpose: To learn new techniques to create a finished, portfolio quality drawing on toned paper using conte. **9pts.** Sketchbooks due Class 13. **HW: Come to Class 15 prepared with 3 ideas to draw of a scene that expresses near and far in daylight.**

Class 15: Atmospheric Perspective & Graphite Techniques - Graphite, Gamsol, stiff brush, White Conte, Stump, DP.

Purpose: to learn how to create a sense of deep space by examining the many kinds of changes that occur over a large area or space and integrating them into graphite drawing using multiple techniques. **5pts.** Due by class 18.

Classes 16 -17: 1 Point and 2 Point Perspective - Pe, Er, DP, Ruler.

Purpose: to learn how to effectively make the size of objects recede into the distance, control point of view and review line quality. **6pts.** **SB6: 20 thumbnails documenting ideas for future projects**

Class 18: 3 Point Perspective - Pe, Er, DP, Ruler.

Purpose: to learn how to and appropriately use of 3 point perspective and review atmospheric perspective. **3pts.** (50 points to date) **Homework: Have 3 ideas worked out that you are excited about trying for a finished drawing that includes perspective.**

Classes 19-20: Perspective, Shading, Imagination - Choice, DP, Ruler.

Purpose: to create a finished work and to combine the elements we have studied individually so far; to do creative work and to get personal help on particular and individual drawing problems. **6pts.** **HW: 3-4 hours to finish drawing.** Due by class 23. **SB7: Sketch the same idea in 1, 2, and 3 point perspective and from a variety of different eye levels.**

Classes 21-22: Positive/Negative space and shapes - all materials

Purpose: To incorporate design elements to make visually compelling compositions and use emphasis to communicate importance. **10pts.**

Class 21: Duality lecture & line duality project

Purpose: to learn how to express meaningful content in a visual language and how to use mark making to express content. **4pts**

SB8: Do each: Transformation, Substitution, Juxtaposition.

Classes 24 - 26: Photo Portrait - A large, clear photo that has a likeness to a person, a Xerox copy of that photo, ruler, Pe, Er, Stump, DP. DUE class 25: *Line/Mark Project, and any other assignments not yet graded.*

Purpose: to learn how to use a photo to develop a new and unique work of art, not to merely copy it but enhance it; to learn how to achieve a likeness, 3-dimensionality, add an artistic stamp, and how to sustain a longer drawing. **10 pts.**

HW: Finish Drawing to portfolio quality. Must have: likeness, an invented element, unique composition based on minimum 10 thumbnails, Due by Class 27.

SB9: brainstorm 10 different compositional variations for each of 3 different ideas for your final project and document them with thumbnail sketches and text. Due by Class 26.

Classes 26-29: Final Project: Cubist Shading - DP, your choice of media.

DUE CLASS 27: *Sketchbook and Portrait*

Purpose: to use shading as a creative and graphic rather than logical or technical element, to develop a sustained drawing as a work of art, to encounter and solve problems individual to the artist and to gain independence, to use a visual narrative content, must be 15+ hours of work. **10pts**

Final Exam Period: LRAP Celebration of the Arts (date and time TBA)

1: 8/24 **2:** 8/26, **3:**8/31, **4:**9/2, **5:** 9/9, **6:** 9/14, **7:**9/16 , **8:** 9/21, **9:**9/23, **10:**9/28, **11:**9/30, **12:**10/5, **13:**10/7, **14:** 10/12, **15:**10/14, **16:** 10/19, **17:**10/21, **18:** 10/26, **19:**10/28, **20:**11/2, **21:**11/4, **22:** 11/9, **23:**11/11, **24:**11/16, **25:**11/18, **26:** 11/30, **27:** 12/2, **28:**12/7, **29:** 12/9 **NO CLASS: 9/7, 11/23-25. ** Final: LRAP Celebration of the Arts (12/9 530 pm)**

Extra Credit: *Select* LRAP & University Events, 3pts or one absence forgiven.

Many assignment handouts and instructions can be found online at:

<http://www.tyleralpern.com/handouts.html>

Drawing Questionnaire Name:

Answer all.

1. What are SB assignments?
2. How much time outside of class should be spent free drawing in the sketchbooks each week?
3. Where and when does class meet next?
4. What is considered plagiarism in this class?
5. Where can I find more information about the class and assignments online?
6. How does missing a class affect your grade?
7. How do you make up for a missed class?
8. Where and when is your “final exam period” for this class?
9. About how many points do you earn in a typical class period and many points comprise the total grade for the class?
10. Task: Draw and describe 20 thumbnail sketches of different ideas for drawings.