Course Syllabus

Spring 2015
Drawing is the backbone of visual expression, and through learning how to draw from observation and imagination, a conversation with the visual world we live in begins. Interpreting space and form through line and tone allows us to actively interact with and respond to what we see. Drawing also allows development of confidence and awareness in many other areas of study.

In this course, we will use primarily pencil, charcoal, and ink to study the fundamentals of drawing, including line, tone, proportion, and composition. In-class work will be supplemented by homework assignments, short texts in handouts, and a written response to work seen in person. Demonstrations of methods and techniques will be given along the way to facilitate understanding, and lectures and discussions, with examples, will introduce the main ideas.

The work we undertake in this class will be challenging, and it will also be enlightening and fun if approached with a spirit of exploration, creativity, and openness. Work hard, have fun, respect the studio and each other.

Course Description
This class teaches the fundamentals of drawing, with significant emphasis placed on working from direct observation. Students will learn the basic elements of drawing: line, shape, form, value and composition, and will be introduced to expressive means of drawing. Learning methods include class projects, demonstrations, assignments, journal-keeping and looking at art. A museum and outdoor field trip will enhance the students’ ability to put their own studio work in the context of the greater art world. The role of visual art as a tool for communication and expression will be explored. Out-of-class work is essential.

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate use and understanding of the basic materials and methods of drawing
- Demonstrate an ability to create and creatively solve a range of artistic problems
• Coordinate eye and hand to more accurately translate the 3-D world onto a 2-D plane
• Articulate a better understanding and awareness of artwork as a means of visual communication
• Use a basic vocabulary of visual language to engage in critical discussions related to art
• Experience local art resources first-hand
• Achieve confidence and competency in ability to evaluate and appreciate works of art.

Course Requirements
• Active Participation in class projects and discussions is essential.
• Students are expected to spend at least 3 hours per week working on projects outside of class. This includes weeks in which there is no class due to holidays, snow days or other reasons.
• Each week students will draw, write, collage and otherwise work to fill a creative journal as an opportunity to extend the creative scope beyond the classroom.
• Students are required to do a research/presentation project on an artist.
• Students will present a directed final project as a way of pursuing in greater depth element(s) of what is explored in class.
• A portfolio of all exercises, studies and formal projects produced during the semester will be submitted for mid semester and final critique.

Lessons
Teaching methods include demonstrations, lectures, discussions, slide talks, critiques and a field trip. The drawing process will be explored and developed in terms of: Line, Contour, Line Weight, Negative Space, Gesture, Composition, Value, One- and Two-Point Perspective, Proportion, Portraits, Texture, and Expression.

Materials required for the course (during the first week of class, may be purchased as a kit from Artist & Craftsmen, 540 Deering Ave, Portland, 207-772-7272):

18" x 24" Sketch Pad
9" x 12" Sketch Pad
2B Pencil  4B Pencil  6B Pencil
Graphite Stick
Pink Eraser
Grey Kneaded Eraser
White Plastic Eraser
Pencil Sharpener
Black Ink
Chinese Paintbrush
Vine Charcoal Set (5 piece)
Compressed Charcoal
Conte Crayon (sepia)
Cardboard Portfolio
Not included in the kit but also recommended or required:

- Can of hairspray to use as a fixative (no real fixative allowed)
- Cloth rags or Viva paper towels
- Artist’s or masking tape
- Ruler (18” or longer)
- Large binder clips
- Small hand mirror
- Colored pencils or other dry color media

Semester Calendar  Note: Separate Handouts will Be Given Each Assignment

For this class, you will be required to keep a sketchbook as well as working on in-class exercises and homework assignments. This sketchbook has to include drawing, but the content is entirely up to you. It can also be used as a journal and scrapbook, and written observations about drawing, and odds and ends you pick up, like photos, postcards, or xeroxes, should be included. I will be checking these sketchbooks from time to time, so make sure they are always up-to-date.

**Note:** This proposed outline is a guide to the semester, but scheduling and content changes may occur with notice. When changes occur in the syllabus, please notate them for future reference.

**Week 1 Jan 17**
Discussion: Syllabus, requirements, materials, and goals for the course discussed.
Line as a primary descriptive element in drawing. Space and volume via line.
Introductions via shoes and backpack drawing circle.
Watch “Embrace the Shake”
Exercises: “String Drop Draw” and “Look at Me”
Using paper and a pencil, draw each other in groups of two. Try to look at the paper as little as possible, and use an unbroken line. Blind contour drawing will follow. Script as “drawing”
Homework: Draw a self-portrait with the setting included. Lift your pencil as little as possible, and move it all around the room equally, not just within your face. 3 variations, one being a blind contour drawing. Another 2 to 3 drop/draws at home. Start sketchbook.
Begin “habits of observation”

**UNIT ONE: SPACE  Week 2-4  (Jan 24, 31, Feb 7)**

**UNIT 2: PLACE  Weeks 5-8**

**UNIT 3: FACE  Weeks 9-13**

**UNIT 4: EXPAND  Week 14 - 16**
**Rules and Guidelines:**
Keep ALL of your work, because it will be turned in at the end of the semester as a final portfolio.
Guidelines for this course require several hours of out-of-class work; if this requirement is followed you will see marked improvement in your work, which will be reflected in your grade.
No cell phone usage, including texting, will be allowed in class. You must turn off your ringer. If you anticipate needing to make or receive an important call, let me know before class.
Unless specified, homework assignments are due the week after they are given out.
Please feel free to contact me via e-mail at any time if you have questions or concerns about the class.

*Keep studio clean please, respect the space.*

**Evaluation:**
Evaluation will take place during ongoing individual critiques, and during class critiques.
Student performance will be based on four criteria:

- **Idea:** Effectiveness of a student’s analysis, discovery, and interpretation of the specific requirements of the assignments.
- **Craft:** Development and improvement of skills relative to the nature of the materials and specific requirements of the assignments.
- **Involvement:** Attendance is required. You are expected to arrive on time and be ready to work in the studio each day we meet. Bring materials you need; plan ahead. You are expected to remain the entire class time and make productive use of your energy and classroom studio space. Beyond attendance, active participation in group discussions is expected. Everyone has the potential to bring something unique to class.
- **Improvement:** Degree of individual development of understanding.

Class Work........................................ 50 %
Homework....................................... 30 %
Participation................................. 20 %

Please review the following descriptions of letter grades, which come from departmental guidelines. Doing what you are asked to do (showing up on time, completing assignments, etc) is the minimum, not the maximum, of what is expected from you. I will provide you with an unofficial mid-term grade after a midsemester portfolio review.
Class attitude and participation can also raise or drop your grade. You will be graded by the following method: Classwork, 50%; Homework, 30%; Participation, 20%. Please see note on attendance; you will be marked down if your attendance is not sufficient.

As noted above, the criteria for evaluation include: thorough completion of assignments; level of self-challenge, time and effort spent; quantity and quality of work produced;
understanding of concepts covered; and growth and development of aesthetic sensibility. Grades will be assigned as follows:

**A** The highest level of commitment, effort and enthusiasm, demonstrated by working independently and carrying through ambitious and challenging projects. All assignments are complete, often taking more than the expected three hours per week.

**B** A high level of effort and enthusiasm. The student demonstrates a sincere level of commitment and a devotion to learning the skills of the class. All or most assignments are complete.

**C** Average work. A sufficient level of achievement in quantity and quality of work. Some assignments are incomplete or rushed.

**D** Deficiency in commitment and accomplishment. Many assignments are incomplete.

**F** Extreme deficiency in commitment, understanding and accomplishment. Very few assignments are attempted.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is crucial to avoid missing the content we cover each class time; what we do is experiential so make-up work cannot be of the same quality of classwork. In art classes, the students learn from one another as well as from the instructor, and group critiques are essential. More than 2 absences will result in a progressively lower grade, and more than 3 could possibly result in failure. Three consecutive absences without contacting the instructor constitutes withdrawal from the course and an “Academic Failure”. Contact the instructor and classmates for make-up or work as needed.

**Art Concentration at SMCC**

SMCC now offers a Liberal Arts Associate’s Degree with a concentration in Visual Art. This major should enable graduates to transfer directly into four-year colleges as a junior-year art major, or into an art school. If this interests you, contact Jeff Badger at jbadger@smccme.edu.

**End-of-Course Evaluation**

In order to gain access to final course grades, students must complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal site. Students can access the course evaluation report beginning two weeks before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs 24 hours after the last day of classes each semester. Instructors will announce when the online course evaluation is available.

**ADA Syllabus Statement**

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call 207-741-5798. If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is
available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual’s accommodations.

**SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy**

This policy identifies the cost per page for black and white as well as color printing in varying page sizes. Specifics of the policy are outlined below:

**Per Page Costs**

Each semester students receive a $20 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The cost varies depending upon page size and whether printing is done in black and white or color.

a. There is a $0.10 per page fee for standard 8.5” by 11” black and white documents.

b. The reverse sides of duplex (double-sided) documents are free.

c. There is a $.50 per page fee for standard 8.5” by 11” color documents.

d. There is a $.20 per page fee for 8.5” by 14” (legal) or 11” by 17” (tabloid) black and white documents.

e. There is a $1.00 per page fee for 8.5” by 14” (legal) or 11” by 17” (tabloid) color documents.

Duplex charges (printing on both sides of a page) work in the following fashion: One page is $0.10, two pages are $0.20, three pages are $0.30, and four pages are $0.40, etc. The flipsides are free, but another sheet of paper is $0.10. Please be aware that a document with any color at all (when printed to a color printer) will by default be printed in color. You are responsible for setting the print job to print black and white if you do not need color. For directions, please go to the IT Help tab in My SMCC.

**How does it work?**

The College’s pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general access labs, library printers, the Academic Achievement Center, Noisy Lounge and technology labs). Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the Printing Balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the department should contact the HelpDesk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up.

**Refunds**

Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student’s account.

**Why is SMCC charging for printing?**

The pay-for-print system is an effort to control escalating printing costs. Charging for printing helps offset the increasing cost of supplies and encourages students to conserve resources. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help tab on My SMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the HelpDesk at 741-5696 or send an email to helpdesk@smccme.edu.

Be sure to log OUT of the system when you’ve finished your printing, to prevent unauthorized access to your account.

**Add-Drop Policy**

Students who drop a course during the one-week “add/drop” period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

**Withdrawal Policy**
A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the fall and spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Enrollment Service Center (no phone calls, please). The designation “W” will appear on the transcript after a student has officially withdrawn. A course withdrawal is an uncompleted course and may adversely affect financial aid eligibility. Failure to attend or ceasing to attend class does not constitute withdrawal from the course. There is no refund associated with a withdrawal.

**Plagiarism Statement**
Adherence to ethical academic standards is obligatory. Cheating is a serious offense, whether it consists of taking credit for work done by another person or doing work for which another person will receive credit. Taking and using the ideas or writings of another person without clearly and fully crediting the source is plagiarism and violates the academic code as well as the Student Code of Conduct. If it is suspected that a student in any course in which s/he is enrolled has knowingly committed such a violation, the faculty member should refer the matter to the College’s Disciplinary Officer and appropriate action will be taken under the Student Code of Conduct. Sanctions may include suspension from the course and a failing grade in the course. Students have the right to appeal these actions to the Disciplinary Committee under the terms outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.