

Fine 100: Fundamentals of Visual Art – Spring 2015 (Section 1)

Time: T/Th. 9:30-11:50 Location: ECH 1224A

Instructor: Paul Dignan

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Office Hours: by appointment

Introduction

Fine 100 introduces the elements of fine art practice in a studio environment. Through a series of in-class projects and outside assignments, students will primarily explore the fundamental processes and procedures of drawing as it relates to 2D, 3D and time-based media.

Important: This course is primarily for students who are considering a Fine Arts studio academic plan. Please see the Fine Arts academic plans concerning admission to upper-level studio courses.

Note: in this course we work with the nude/live model – if you require accommodation due to religious observance you must notify me immediately and/or within the first two weeks of class in writing.

Structure

The instructor will usually introduce topics with a presentation and students will use the balance of class time to complete studio assignments with guidance from the instructor. It is important that students manage their time in class wisely, since many projects will stem from conditions set up specifically for the studio (most commonly still life and life drawing). You should expect to spend a total of 10 hours per week, in class and outwith, on assignments and projects for this course. Project due dates will be assigned at the end of class. Additionally, the instructor and classmates will provide constructive criticism of various drawing projects and students will have the opportunity to respond to criticism of their work.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand and employ the elements of art: line, value, shape, space, colour, texture and form.
- Develop their critical skills as practitioners and viewers.
- Use experimentation as a strategy to discover new ways of seeing.
- Understand the difference between visual perception, concept, technical knowledge and application.
- Expand their knowledge of contemporary art practices.
- Explore drawing in relation to representation, abstract mark making and concept.
- Begin to develop a personal artistic voice.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated primarily on studio projects and outside assignments (including use of your sketchbook for prep work and note taking). There are no term papers or examinations in this course. Attendance is therefore mandatory to be successful in studio courses as most work stems from work produced during scheduled class times and constitutes a significant % of your final grade. Students are responsible for any information they may miss due to absence. Portfolios will be submitted at mid term, for *unofficial grading* and again at the end of term, for official evaluation. Portfolio guidelines will be issued prior to submission dates. Assignments may be reworked or redone and resubmitted at any time before the end of the semester for re-evaluation. The highest grade for any resubmitted assignment will be taken as final. All outside assignments will be weighted equally. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per class. Late penalties are not recoverable. In some cases, absence may be justifiable. Students are urged to consult the instructor when a medical or personal crisis has interrupted their studies.

Submission of Work for Evaluation

- Do not sign work on the front of the sheet.
- Print legibly, in pencil only, on the back of all work: name, course code, project title, due date, instructor's name. The instructor will not grade unidentifiable assignments. Late penalties will apply to unidentified work.
- Work using media that is easily smudged, such as charcoal, pastel and conté crayon, may be fixed or protected with a hinged sheet of newsprint to protect the surface of the drawing. Spraying of fixative must take place in the spray booth only. Proper ventilation must be used when applying fixative. Do not apply fixative at home. You may transport works with delicate surfaces to the studio spray booth by protecting the surface with a piece of newsprint.
- Do not roll work. **All work must be submitted flat**, in a cardboard portfolio.
- The outside of your cardboard portfolio must also be labeled with your name and course code.

Grading

***The instructor reserves the right to refuse to grade work she has not seen in progress in class.**

Note: Students planning on continuing in Fine Arts as a major or minor should save all of their work in from Fine 100. A portfolio presentation of first year work and a minimum average of 75% are required for pre-registration into second year studies in Fine Arts.

Grades

Grades are assigned according to the following parameters:

- 80-100: This grade indicates exceptional work that, to varying degrees,

demonstrates a thorough understanding of the issues presented in class. The work demonstrates a deep involvement on the part of the student, and could stand on its own aesthetic terms outside of the context of a school assignment. Excellent work.

- 70-79: This grade indicates notable work that, to varying degrees, shows that the student has understood the topic and has made every effort to fulfil the requirements of the assignment to the best of his or her ability. Good work.
- 60- 69: This grade indicates, to varying degrees, satisfactory work. The work may be successful on one level, but it fails on another. Furthermore, the work may reflect a good deal of effort, but it does not adequately address the topic at hand. Acceptable work.
- 50-59: This grade indicates, to varying degrees, barely adequate work. The work displays minimal effort and commitment on the part of the student and does not convey a sufficient understanding of the topic at hand. Poor work.
- 32-49: This grade indicates, to varying degrees, totally insufficient or incomplete work. Failure.

In Class Drawing Assignments – 40%

Outside/Homework Drawing Assignments – 40%

Toolbox Project/Sketchbook- 15% (5% for Toolbox Project)

Active participation/engagement – 5%

Materials

Kits containing some of the required materials for this course can be purchased from the department for **\$100.00** on Thursday 7 May from 9:00 a.m. (credit card or debit/cash only - no cheques, watcard or Amex). Bring all your materials to class on Thursday 7 May . **It is the responsibility of each student to replenish supplies in their kit as materials are used up. After getting your kit, check to see that it is complete, using the supplies list included with the kit. Be sure to keep your receipt in case you are missing anything. You will also need to purchase a drawing board - \$5.00 from the tool crib using your Watcard.**

Communal Fee

Communal fees support the purchase of consumable supplies, special tools, instruments, woodshop, visual resource library, photography and media equipment, instructional support items, computer hardware and software. In the interest of fairness, all students enrolled in each communal fee paying course are entitled to equal access to facilities, supplies and equipment, in class and during open studio times. Additionally, all students benefit from the instructional materials provided to faculty and support staff, and from the use of A/V presentation equipment, all of which are funded in part by studio fees. Even though a student may choose not to use the studios—perhaps because of access to

equipment elsewhere—studio fees must be paid by all students to equally support the courses. The communal fee for FINE 100 is **\$25.00** for which you will receive a pair of safety glasses, wooden pegs for the drawing easels, and wood for your Toolbox Project, wire for the wire sculpture as well as brown kraft paper for drawing exercises. This fee is paid in cash to Sharon Dahmer who will come into the studios to collect the fee on a date set by the instructor.

Wood Shop Milestone

In order to be admitted to the second year studio courses, each Fine Arts student must complete the wood shop milestone in conjunction with **The Toolbox project**. This practical project in wood construction will introduce the essential tools and basic techniques of woodworking, skills that are necessary in the studio program. Adam Glover and Rick Nixon will give each student an introduction to the wood shop facilities during scheduled class hours, according to a previously determined schedule. The student will then complete the project under their guidance during class on Tuesday 19 May or Thursday 21 May. The project must be completed by Friday 22 May at 3:30 p.m. – there will not be any other opportunity to complete this project other than the two dates listed above. If you miss these dates – you will fail the project.

Protocol

- Classes begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. Information will not be repeated to latecomers during class time.
- During life model sessions, studio doors will close promptly just before the model begins to pose. Latecomers will not be admitted until the break period.
- Dangerous and toxic substances will not be used in the studio.
- Music will not be played during lecture or studio work periods. Students may listen to personal CD or cassette players during extended work periods, but not during class and the instructor will not take responsibility for any information students may miss while listening to a personal audio device.
- Cell phone conversations will not be tolerated in class. Cell phones must be turned off before class.
- Students must leave the studio in a clean and orderly condition for other users.
- Use assigned lockers for storing artwork and materials.

Access

Students may use ECH 1224A whenever there is no class or other activity scheduled. The main doors to ECH are locked at 10:00 p.m. Access to the room after hours is via the coded door on the south side of the building by the classroom. The instructor will provide the access code at the beginning of the semester. **For security reasons students must not divulge access codes to others.** When working after hours, we recommend that students use a buddy system and keep the doors to the studio closed and locked behind them. Use the Walk Safe and Ride Safe services when working late. Lockers are located in ECH #1112. You must share a locker with a colleague. You can purchase a lock from our department shop - located across from the wood shop.

Activities

S.O.F.A. (the Fine Arts Student Organization), in conjunction with the Department of Fine Arts, periodically organizes field trips and activities that may be of interest to you. Watch for announcements of the on bulletin boards throughout ECH. Check billboards for times and dates of Visiting Artist presentations and UW Art Gallery exhibition openings.

UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS AND LINKS:

Cross-listed course: Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity: Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Other sources of information for students:

[Academic Integrity website \(Arts\) Academic Integrity Office \(uWaterloo\)](#)

A more realistic example of plagiarism in the context of this course would be to submit work that is not your own or to submit work that you completed previously for another course.

Fine Arts and Plagiarism and Copyright

The offence of plagiarism as defined by Policy 71 (Student Discipline) includes visual and aural plagiarism of works of art (drawings, photographs, graphics, video, sound, ideas, etc. conceived/made by other artists). The rules of conduct that apply to text-based work at the University of Waterloo also apply to work completed for studio-based assignments and research. There are two issues to consider with visual and aural plagiarism: ethics, i.e. expectations related to academic integrity as outlined in Policy 71; and copyright infringement, for which you could also be legally liable. Plagiarism and copyright infringement occur when you create an artwork that is substantially similar to the original source. For example, making a drawing in pencil based on a photograph that you find in a magazine may constitute plagiarism and be an infringement of copyright.

Please take note of the following points:

- ▪ All work submitted for evaluation must be your own. If the submitted work is determined not to be your own, the Academic Discipline Procedure of Policy 71 will be invoked.
- ▪ If you use any visual or aural material, such as images from the internet, magazines, books, websites of other artists, or from any source that can be cited, you must acknowledge/cite those references. Failure to do so will be deemed a violation of academic integrity and possibly an infringement of copyright and the Academic Discipline Procedure of Policy 71 will be invoked.
- ▪ If you are using visual or aural material that you have not made yourself, **you must make an appointment with your instructor/s to discuss the ramifications of using 'found' or 'appropriated' material.**
- ▪ Any original images used as the basis for any work you create – whether manipulated digitally or manually, or otherwise incorporated or appropriated for your work – must be properly cited, and must accompany your final work at the time of submission or evaluation.

A note on copyright free and Creative Commons:

Resources are available in the public domain that are identified as copyright free or that fall under licenses from Creative Commons. Public domain is a term used for works that are not protected by copyright law. If an image is in the public domain then you are allowed to use it—to copy it, to manipulate it and to distribute it. Works identified as Creative Commons allow varying degrees of use. In this case, the authors decide how you can use their images.

Helpful Links:

1. CARFAC (Canadian Artists Representation / Le front des artistes canadiens)
<http://www.carfac.ca>

2. Wikimedia Commons and Flickr have databases of digital files that are available for use. However, you need to check the conditions of use as they vary: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page; <http://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>
3. The Copyright Act in Canada was recently amended to reflect the current digital landscape. To find out more about the “Copyright Modernization Act”, check out: <http://balancedcopyright.gc.ca/eic/site/crp-prda.nsf/eng/home>
4. The following is a conversation that occurred on the US-based site, Copyright Advisory Network. It answers some of the basics related to US Copyright, images and fair use: <http://librarycopyright.net/forum/view/1456>
5. The following document defines works in the public domain for United States as of January 1, 2013: <http://copyright.cornell.edu/resources/docs/copyrightterm.pdf>

Workplace Safety:

As in all studio courses, it is expected and required that all students abide by all the relevant safety rules as set out by the University and Departmental WHMIS training (see below). It is further required that all students adhere to the rules that have been established to promote a safe, healthy and pleasant working environment.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

WHMIS:

All Fine Arts students must have WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) certification in order to use the studios and to graduate from the program. If you do not have WHMIS certification at this time, you may be prevented from using the studios. Rick Nixon (the Fine Arts Technician) has observer status; he can access your records to determine if you are properly qualified to use our resources. Recently, student WHMIS training has undergone a complete overhaul. Training delivery has moved from a classroom to an online format in UW – ACE, incorporating video and an evaluation requiring a minimum mark of 75%. The course takes about 45 minutes. Students require a UW email address (Quest Account) in order to access UW - ACE. The online WHMIS training course can be found at the Safety Office website at: http://www.safetyoffice.uwaterloo.ca/hse/training/whmis_courses_students.htm. In order to use the studio facilities, students must show proof of having completed WHMIS training to Rick Nixon. Recently certified students of the online course must show proof

of completion by printing off the last page of the online test.

- Please make sure that you pay attention to the date set for "cleanup" during this time period - you must pick up all your work and empty your locker before Monday 10 August as this is "Trash Day" - the day on which any work and materials still left in the studios and lockers will be thrown out.

- Trash day is Monday 10 August!!

The Fine Arts Undergrad adviser is Bruce Taylor extension: 35358 ECH 1210, bruce.taylor@uwaterloo.ca. Please check Bruce's office door for office hours.

On 1 July 2015 – the Fine Arts Undergrad Adviser is Cora Cluett – extension: 32599 and office 1211, ccluett@uwaterloo.ca. Please email Cora to make an appointment for Fine Arts Advising.