ART 204S  Drawing: Media and Expression    Spring 2018

Professor Peggy Cox
Office: Thompson Clark 301
Office Hours: M. W 9:30-11:30. Friday by appointment only.
Communication: campus email only  pcox@westminster.edu    phone: 7266 TC office

Appointments: make 24 hours in advance and I will confirm. Use email for all communications.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students will be taught how to expand the definition of drawing beyond the conventions of copying reality. Exploring unusual combinations of media and using unconventional drawing tools will help dispel preconceived ideas about what drawing or art is and encourage more creative thinking about what art can be.

A primary goal for all studio art courses is to move students away from verbal to an image based language. Form (design) and materials (media) are introduced as the starting points for each project. We will rely heavily upon thematic ideas. Students must also consider that the materials used and how they are used can contribute to the meaning. Art can be just about color, marks, texture and not “mean” anything. This is called non-objective art and is an excellent way to learn design. Students will invent their many of their tools, materials, and supports upon which to draw. Once comfortable with invention and breaking down barriers, new media can be creatively merged with visual references and ideas.

COURSE STRUCTURE
Class time will consist of work sessions for demonstrations, learning techniques, planning compositions, and critiques. Project ideas will be discussed in group formats as well as individually. There will be class time allocated to work on some of your assignments. However, most of the work must be completed outside of class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
- Working on a series of images around one topic or theme
- Explore and create new drawing media
- Explore media as content
- Develop an understanding of basic design
- Develop a sense of personal expression through projects
- Expand critical thinking skills through critiques

By the end of this course, a student should:
-- have an understanding of compositional design
-- be able to analyze and critique art using the concepts and terms of the discipline
-- have an appreciation for various techniques and designs
-- improve incoming technical skills
-- have a greater appreciation for the work ethic required of creative endeavors

CRITIQUES and PARTICIPATION
Class discussions and critiques are critical to the success of your coursework. Critiques are analytical discussions about your projects in terms of understanding the assignment, skill sets, and problem solving. These discussions will introduce art vocabulary for which you will be responsible. Students will present critiques of their own and other students’ work.
Art criticism is an organized system for looking at and talking about art. If you look at a work of art without thinking, little can happen. If you think carefully and consider what you see, perceptual skills will be enhanced. Individual life experiences will affect how you respond to art. Because of the diversity of backgrounds and experiences, no two people will have a similar response. You will create written evaluations as part of your assessment experiences.

Participation also comes in the form of class work/practice sessions. When a new technique or media is introduced, we use class time for trial and error. I do not repeat these demonstrations unless it is for the entire class. Most assignments require compositional prep work to study the best approach to a given problem and is part of the project grade. This also rewards a student who is prepared for class. Students who explore ideas beyond just what is expected will be more successful.

GRADES

There will be a minimum of 5 images created with a maximum of 10. Preparatory work will be included with grades.

**GRADES WILL BE ASSIGNED AS FOLLOWS:**

A
Clear and complete understanding of the concepts introduced through the assignment. Exceptionally creative thinking and production with unique applications of concepts in solving problems. Sensitive use of materials and tools. Excellent craftsmanship. Extensive participation in class discussions. Excellent work habits.

B+
Good understanding of specific concepts and use of materials/craftsmanship as introduced through the assignments. Creative application of these concepts in solving problems. Shows some improvement, but most areas could all be improved with more effort or paying closer attention to craft and/or instructions. Strong participation in class discussions and critiques. Good work habits.

C+
Average understanding of the concepts. Acceptable application of project concepts in solving problems. Some understanding of materials and tools. Tendency to repeat design or technical errors that have been previously pointed out. Frequent or repeated use of clichés after they have been pointed out. Little personal/aesthetic growth. Average craftsmanship with obvious flaws. Being content with “good enough” work. Limited participation in class discussions and critiques with quality of contribution low and or inappropriate.

D+ Incomplete work, incorrect methods per assignment, or little understanding (or lack of interest in learning or improving), concepts in problems. Unimaginative and poor application of these concepts in solving problems. Standard and sloppy use of materials and tools. Little or no class participation. Continual use of clichés in work and discussions. No personal or aesthetic growth.

Project failure: copying work directly from a published source including the internet, having another student work on your project.

**PROJECT EVALUATION:**

**Design and Presentation:** the assigned formal design elements and principles of organization are effectively/creatively integrated to maintain the unity of the artwork.

**Concept:** the design and technique work in unison to convey your idea or the projects’ assigned goals

**Craft:** a clear proficiency of required techniques, level of completion, the project’s condition/presentation is neat and professional
Commitment and effort: a demonstration of self-motivation, perseverance, analysis and revision demonstrated. A willingness to explore critical comments, pushing beyond requirements, level of improvement (after the first project). This can be demonstrated by your response to working critiques prior to grading and keeping a visual record of your work with photographs.

Things that CAN affect grades

⇒ Turning in late work. The grade will drop one full letter for DAY, not class period, that it is late. EX: A drops to A-
Exceptions are if you have a documented excuse.

⇒ No project will be accepted for a grade after two class periods past due date
Exceptions are if you have a documented excuse.

⇒ Plagiarism will result in project failure.

⇒ Having a classmate do your work or putting your name on someone else’s work is considered cheating. It will result in project failure and will be reported to Dean of Students.

⇒ Work done in or for other courses will not be accepted.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Students are expected to attend all sessions.
**After missing 2 classes, your final grade will be lowered by 2% per day missed up to 6 misses.

After missing 6 unexcused classes, you automatically fail the course.

If you are late or leave early by 30 minutes, you are considered absent. Attendance is taken randomly.

Attendance will be recorded on my.westminster.

In the case of illness, it must be documented by the campus nurse or other professional and presented to me immediately upon returning to class or it will not be accepted. If you are legitimately ill, I will get you caught up with class work. If you are attending conferences with other professors or interviewing for graduate school, please have your professor or advisor notify me.

Sporting events: are excused if your coach has notified faculty of a game. PRACTICES are not excused.

Do NOT ask if you may be excused or email me that you are going to miss a class. Do NOT email me to send you information about missed work or ask for project information in advance because you plan to miss a class. If you had an unexcused miss, it is the student’s responsibility to contact another student about material covered.

At the beginning of class you should be in the studio with the necessary materials out and ready to work.

STUDIO ACCESS: A current Titan card registered with security is required for entrance only during the semester of your course. Not having or loss of a card is not an excuse for late work or missing an assigned task. The studios are open 7:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. PLEASE remember and respect the fact that there are residents one floor above us if you are working late.

Accessibility Statement
Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact the Director of Disability Support Services, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall. Phone 724-946-7192

Terms of this syllabus are subject to change and students will be notified in writing of any changes.