

Spring 2026

Drawing Syllabus

Arts 2323

3 Credit Hours

This is an in-person course - attendance is mandatory

Professor: Megan Harrison, MFA

Virtual Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday by appointment, email me to set up a time.

Email: mharrison@tamusa.edu

do not use blackboard messages for this class

Meeting Time: Monday and Wednesday 11:00am to 1:45pm

Department Offering the Course: Arts & Humanities

Pre-requisites: None

Materials Required:

- See Materials List
- Reliable access to the Internet

Course:

Catalogue Course Description: This course is an introduction to drawing. Through the development of critical thinking and technical skills, students will learn how to visualize, create, and evaluate drawn images. Students will learn about the creative process, theories of attention and observation, the history of drawing and the role of art making in daily life. Techniques covered will include all basic aspects of drafting and depictions of space in 2D. There will be a series of creative and technical exercises, drawing projects, group critiques, slide lectures and technical demonstrations.

Course Overview:

- This is a beginning-level course. No previous experience is required. Each student is given the opportunity to develop their skills and perceptual abilities from the level at which they enter the course.
- The course introduces fundamental materials and techniques of drawing with a strong emphasis on drawing from observation. Examples of tools and media that may be used include artist pencils, conté crayon, charcoal, ink, and collage.
- The majority of coursework will be guided drawing exercises and complex drawing assignments, which students will complete both during class time and outside of class.
- Homework will include drawing exercises, articles, videos and notes assignments.
- You will work in small teams to critique the work made in class and practice visual analysis of artworks.
- There will be 5 drawing projects with accompanying exercises as well as one final project.

- Daily drawing and creative exercises will be included in homework requirements. It is expected that students will complete at least 3 hours of work outside of class time every week.

Course Objectives

This course will introduce and provide practice in:

- applying elements of art – line, value, texture, shape, form and edge quality.
- applying the principles of art – balance, scale & proportion, harmony & variety, dominance & subordination, movement, and economy.
- building compositions in response to a 2-dimensional picture plane.
- using visual imagination in response to observed stimuli.
- analyzing and evaluating works of art using fundamental vocabulary of elements and principles of art.
- Be able to discuss different drawings in critical, conceptual and art historical terms.

Core Competencies:

1. Critical Thinking: Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, inquiring analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
2. Communication Skills: Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. Team Work: Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
4. Social Responsibility: Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

Blackboard:

- All course material will be delivered through blackboard.
- All course work must be submitted through Blackboard. This includes submitting images of artworks completed in-class.

To help the semester flow as smoothly as possible:

- Be sure you have regular and reliable access to the Internet.
- Submit work early in case there are technical difficulties.
- Have the contact number for IT in your phone so that you can contact them as soon as you experience any issue. Know their hours of operation.
- Send me an email if there are any issues with the course on blackboard so that I can correct them quickly for you and your fellow students.

Contacting IT

<https://www.tamusa.edu/Information-Technology-Services/index.html>

IT Phone Number: (210) 784 – 4357

IT hours of operation

Monday through Friday: 8am - 8pm

Saturday: 8am - 12pm

Sunday: Closed

* This schedule changes on occasion. Check the IT website for most current hours*

Attendance Policy:

- Every absence will affect your final grade. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences, except in very specific instances as supported by TAMUSA attendance policies. You will be able to accrue 4 absences without penalty beyond the loss of attendance points.
- After 4 absences, each additional absence may drop your final grade by up to 5%.
- Students that have 7 or more absences are advised to drop this course to protect your GPA.
- You are only permitted a total of 6 drops without penalty in your undergraduate career. The 7th drop will be calculated as an F in your GPA. Be cautious about casually dropping classes.
- Arriving late or leaving class will affect your attendance score.
- Working on other class materials or not actively participating may be considered an absence.
- If you have multiple absences, missing assignments and are not responding to emails about your class standing, you may get dropped from the course for non-participation.

Late Work Policy:

- For the first half of the semester, projects will be accepted for full credit any time before midterm as long as the student is demonstrating a continued effort. In the second half of the semester, projects will be accepted for full credit at any time before our final class meeting (the last class before finals week), as long as the student is demonstrating a continued effort. *
- Time sensitive assignments, such as Notes, or work that require timely instructor feedback will not be accepted after the due date.
- NO EXTRA CREDIT - Complete the work that is assigned.

*Continued effort is defined as ongoing communication with the instructor and evidence of work being completed. Students will lose points for work that is incomplete, does not address the requirements of the project or does not demonstrate skills and concepts presented in class whether or not the student was absent.

Grading:

- Grades are based on the level of student engagement, how well the student met the parameters of each assignment and how well the student was able to incorporate instructor feedback in the completion of their work.
- Only work that is submitted through Blackboard will be graded.
 - Take photographs of all artworks and creative exercises you complete for this course and submit to blackboard.
- Work that was generated or assisted by AI will receive a zero.

Grading Scale based on percentage of points earned:

A 100% – 90%, B 89% - 80%, C 79% - 70%, D 69% - 60%, F 59% and Below

Grading:

****KEEP ALL OF YOUR WORK UNTIL YOU SEE A GRADE****

Percentage

Class Participation and exercises.....10%

6 Projects 90%

*Percentages may change depending on adjustments to course work.

Basic Expectations:

Art Studio Etiquette:

- A studio is a shared work space. Every student is responsible to ensure that at the end of each class all materials and equipment are put away, any trash or debris is cleaned from tables and drawing horses, floors are swept around work areas and furniture replaced to original layout.
- In order to minimize distraction during studio time keep socializing to a minimum and keep voices and music levels low.
- Personal electronic devices will be allowed to review course content and to listen to music during studio work time. Electronic devices used for phone calls, messaging, or surfing during class time is prohibited.
- No food or open drinks allowed in the studio.
- After hours studio access will be allowed for studio art students only - no guests allowed. You must adhere to studio etiquette as if class were in session.
- Failure to attend to these expectations will negatively affect your participation grade and may result in further disciplinary action.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to do their own course work. Simple cases of first offense cheating or plagiarism by an individual student may be handled by the instructor after consultation with the department chair. The student is usually confronted with the evidence in private and advised of the penalty to be assessed. The evidence will be retained for at least one full year. For more serious cases, such as those involving repeated offenses, conspiracy with other students or the theft and selling of examination questions, a report should be made by the instructor via the department chair and college dean to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Academic dishonesty is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct; therefore, the instructor may report any form of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Please review the Student Handbook for a complete description of the process.

AI Policy for Art Appreciation:

No Use of Generative AI Permitted.

Art Appreciation 1301 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another

person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity. Any assignment that is flagged for the use of AI will receive a zero.

January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. – No Classes
January 20	First day of class
February 4	Census date
February 23-March 6	Midterm grading period
March 9-March 14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
May 1	Last day to drop or withdraw from the University
May 4	Last day of classes
May 5	Study Day – No classes
May 6-May 12	Final exams
May 19	Commencement



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO