Art 201: Visual Concepts II
Spring 2010
Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11:50

Elise Richman
Office Hours: W 4:30-5:00, F 10:30-12:30 and by appointment
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Visual Concepts II is an investigation that will expand on previous drawing and 2-dimensional design experience. Further instruction on skill building will be fused with conceptual inquiries and critical analysis. Emphasis is placed on consideration of the interplay between the intellectual, expressive, and physical aspects of the creative process. Furthermore, an examination of contemporary trends in art will influence the themes and approaches explored in the course.

Course Objectives

- Hone perceptual and technical skills.
- Broaden the possibilities of how drawing is defined and what drawings can communicate.
- Understand the interdependence between form and content. In other words, explore how the methods, materials, and means of organizing a work of art’s structure convey meanings that can have expressive, political, social, and/or cultural implications.
- Inspire further research and creative pursuits.

Course Overview

- **In Class Exercises:** A series of exercises to be completed during class will serve to familiarize you with a variety of media, improve drawing skills, and enhance application of formal and conceptual concerns.
- **Major Assignments:** More sustained, extensive assignments are an important element of the class. Each of these projects will culminate in a class critique. Research, gathering of imagery and materials, preliminary sketches, and a written component will contribute to the completion of these assignments.
- **Group Critiques:** Several group critiques will be held to encourage the discussion of each student’s work. These will be student run critiques that I will facilitate. Critiques are a vital part of the course and everyone is required to attend and expected to participate in them. All assignments are due on the day of the critique and no make up critiques will be given.
- **Readings, Lectures, and Videos:** We will explore the work of other artists and art theories/movements. Exposure to contemporary art and ideas will enrich the class by broadening our perspective regarding the purposes of and approaches to making art.
• **Papers:** The papers in this course will take two forms: proposals for independent projects and an analysis of an established artist’s work.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Assignments</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Class Exercises and Homework</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>10%</td>
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All assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments will lose one letter grade for each day that they are late. Assignments will not be accepted more than three days late.

**Expect to spend 4-8 hours a week on homework.**

Students will be evaluated on:

- Engagement during class
- Participation in class discussions and critiques
- Creative investment in assignments
- Conceptual understanding of assignments
- Demonstrated effort
- Artistic development

**A 93-100%, A- 90-92%:** Excellent understanding of concepts, creative, strong work, total engagement in artistic process, and demonstration of notable progress

**B+ 87-89%, B 83-86%, B- 80-82%:** Very good work and consistent engagement in the artistic process

**C+ 77-79%, C 73-76%, C- 70-72%:** Good/average work, uneven engagement and participation in class

**D+ 67-69%, D 63-66%, D- 60-62%:** Poor work and lack of engagement in class

**F 59% or lower:** Failure to grasp goals of course and/or **five or more absences**

**Attendance**

Attendance is critical to your success in this class. You must come to class on time.

*Excused Absences:* Only four excused absences are permitted per semester. Five absences, even excused will result on a WF (withdrawal/failing grade).

*Unexcused Absences:* Your grade will be lowered by one letter after your first two unexcused absences

*Lateness Policy:* Three tardies are the equivalent of one absence. A tardy is defined as 5-15 minutes late. If you are more than 15 minutes late for class is counts as an absence.

*Inform me immediately if you must miss a class.*
Art Department Attendance Policy

The art department values sustained and productive interaction between participants in every class session. The department perceives a direct relationship between the student’s involvement and the quality of his/her work and therefore, encourages full participation and regular attendance.

The department supports this basic attendance policy: (in courses where attendance is taken), one week of unexcused absences will lower a student’s grade by a whole letter. Two weeks of unexcused absences results in a WF, a withdrawal/failing grade. Excused absences are defined as documented medical or family emergencies. It is the student’s responsibility to submit acceptable documentation in a timely manner. Unexcused absences include but are not limited to minor illnesses, oversleeping, interviews, weddings, vacations, and traffic problems.

Studio Environment

- The classroom is a shared space. You must clean up after yourself on a daily basis.
- Do not cut directly on the drafting tables. The back of your drawing pads works well as a cutting surface.
- Do not cut painted paper with the paper or mat cutters.
- When using wet media such as ink and acrylic paint, cover the tabletops with Kraft paper.
- Lidded beverages are allowed in the studio, however food is not.
- Socialize outside of class.
- Turn off cell phones before class begins.

Course Outline

Week One-Four (1/20-2/10): Perception and Abstraction

Hone perceptual skills by drawing from observation and engaging in the process of abstraction by lifting, reconfiguring, and organizing elements of figurative drawings.

1/22: Mike Johnson and Ted Vogel opening reception in Kittredge Gallery, 4-6 pm

Week Five-Seven (2/15-3/3): Visual Narratives

Explore issues of race and representation by translating Suzan-Lori Parks play, “The Death of the Last Black Man” into a diorama.

3/3: Lisa Sweet opening reception, Kittredge Gallery, 4-6:00 pm

Week Eight-Ten (3/8-3/31): My View From Here: Visual Languages as Landscapes
Combine forms of mapping and the illusion of landscape space to create a visual expression of a personally significant place.

3/8: The Vancouver Problem Panel, 7-9:00 Schneebeck Concert Hall (required)

No Class 3/15-3/19, Spring Recess

Week Eleven, Twelve, and Thirteen (4/5-4/19): Interior/Exterior: Altered Book Project

Manipulate a provided book to create a conceptual and visual relationship between a “book and its cover.”

Week Thirteen-Fifteen (4/21-5/5): Figure Drawing

During these three weeks there will be a model in the classroom. We will hone drawing skills, revisiting different approaches to drawing such as gesture, contour, organizational line, and tonal studies with a more complex subject.

4/22: Senior Art Show Opening Kittredge Gallery, 5-7:00

Final Project: Historical Narratives due: Monday May 10, 8:00-10:00 am.
Art 201
Materials List

**Acrylic Paint**
Naphthol Red
Quinacridone Rose
Cadmium Yellow
Phthalocyanine Blue
Ultramarine Blue
Titanium White (150 ml)
Mars Black
India Ink

**Brushes**
#1, #4 Round
#4, #8, #12 Flat
Sumi Ink Brush #6

**Dry Media**
Char Kole Box
Soft Compressed Charcoal, 2 sticks
Soft Vine Charcoal
Graphite 2B, 4B
White and Black Conte Crayons

**Paper**
18”x24” Drawing Pad
Notebook Sized (11”x14 or so) sketchbook
18”x24” Newsprint Pad
1-2 Sheets Watercolor Paper
20”x30” Illustration Board

**Miscellaneous**
Palette
Water Container
Palette Knife
Tape
Exacto Knife
Scissors
18”-24” Metal Ruler
Erasers: Staedler and Gum

Supplies for this course will cost around $175.00

Additional materials may be required.

Art Supply Stores

Artco
5401 6th Ave Ste 401
Tacoma, WA 98406
Phone: (253) 759-9585

Tacoma Art Supply
1552 Jefferson Ave., Suite 101
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 444-2341
info@tacomaartsupply.com

Utrecht
1124 Pike Street
Seattle, WA 98101
Phone: (206) 382-9696

Daniel Smith
4150 First Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98134
(206) 223-9599

Artist and Craftsman Supply
809 Northeast 45th Street
Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 545-0091