

DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Drawing 1

INSTRUCTOR: Mike Easton

Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Drawing 1 is a foundation course for all first year visual arts students. It is the first in a series of sequential Drawing courses required by the department for three or four consecutive years, depending on the student's entry level grade. This is a skills development course designed to strengthen and refine the student's Drawing abilities and observational capabilities. Emphasis is placed on hand/eye co-ordination, compositional balance, and the development of three-dimensional (illusional) space on a two-dimensional surface. This is accomplished through a series of studio and homework assignments that incorporate a variety of repeated concepts, processes, techniques, and media designed to refine the student's abilities and bolster their confidence in visual expression.

COURSE OUTLINE:

The students will be given a number of Drawing assignments that will introduce the importance of compositional placement within a two-dimensional format/surface along with the development of imagery (using various media) from observation. Students will be trained (through repetition) to recognize and understand the geometry of tangible objects and how to re-create the illusion of those objects on a two-dimensional surface. Beginning with the elements of line, shape, space, and value, the student is guided through varied assignments in image structure. Once the student has successfully mastered monochromatic image structure, color is introduced through dry as well as liquid media, tools and techniques. In this process each student is required to maintain a class room (portfolio) that serves as a continuous barometer of his/her progress and will be used in the evaluation of the individual's grade. Frequent and regular (critiques) are employed in an effort to re-enforce the student's ability to recognize the relative success or lack of success of ongoing work. The principles of art and the elements of design are emphasized in each and every assignment. The concept of artistic perspective is introduced repeatedly in each successive assignment throughout the course as well as an increase in the degree of difficulty of each visual problem to encourage refinement of the student's Drawing skills. A classroom textbook is used to provide visual examples and written explanations of various concepts and ideas.

CONTENT STANDARDS:

Six DCPS visual art content standards make up the core skills, concepts, and knowledge for the Drawing 1 course:

1. Techniques, Processes, and Media
2. Structures and functions
3. Subjects, Symbols, and Ideas
4. History and Cultures
5. Reflecting and Assessing
6. Making Connections

#### ARTISTIC (SKILL DEVELOPMENT) OBJECTIVES

1. Understanding correct compositional – balanced placement
2. Sharpening of hand/eye co-ordination in Drawing from observation
3. Sharpening skills in creating the illusion of space
4. Refinement of skills with various dry as well as wet media
5. Understanding the use of the elements and principles of art/design
6. Understanding the importance of using a sketchbook
7. Understanding and mastering the concepts of linear and atmospheric perspective
8. Understanding how use mixed media effectively
9. Learning to perceive with regard to aesthetics and art criticism
10. Maintaining a representative portfolio that represents progressive skill development

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Regular and prompt attendance, participation in (all) classroom assignments and activities/projects. Completion of homework, attendance of class and /or department enrichment activities as well as participation in the departmental portfolio review process. Regular incremental improvement in skill development as noted through the maintenance of a classroom portfolio. (The previously mentioned requirements shall account for 75% of the student's evaluated grade. - Tests, quizzes, and classroom critiques shall account for 25% of the student's evaluated grade.)

#### SUPPLY LIST (SUGGESTED)

- 1 sketchbook
- 3 ebony graphite pencils
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 2 kneaded erasers
- 1 (12 pencil) set of colored pencils (Prismacolor)
- 1 fishing tackle box (for holding collected tools and supplies)
- 1 palette knife
- 1 smock
- 1 assortment of acrylic brushes

*Items may be purchased at Utrecht art supply or any local craft store*

