COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Beginning Figure Drawing; ART 2200.505
Jim Burton
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Course Description (as found in the course catalog): 3 hours. Visual observation of the figure and interpretation through various graphic techniques. Prerequisites: ART 1500 and 1510.

Course Objectives: This course will provide direction to the student in the area of life drawing. Students will learn basic anatomy and will begin to develop an understanding of the way a figure inhabits space, and will be able to successfully reproduce this space in two dimensions. The outstanding goal of the course is to learn academic, realistic representation of the figure. Therefore emphasis will be on accurately rendering the figure on the page in proper proportion. However, good compositions are imperative, and conceptual matters will be taken into consideration, as well.

Structure: Our course will be divided into two halves, the first of which will emphasize proportion, observation and scale. In the second half, we will apply those aspects to more thoroughly finished drawings, which will be stylistically unique to each student.

In addition to completing drawings, you will begin to develop a critical voice in regards to your own work and the work of others. We will critique drawings regularly, though not every assignment will require a critique. **Attendance during critiques is absolutely required and will not be excused.** Learning to speak effectively and knowledgably about art will be a critical part of this course.

I may occasionally require Gallery and Museum Visits during the semester to Dallas and/or Fort Worth. You will be given at least two weeks notice to make travel arrangements. You will write a short review of the artwork seen during these Gallery trips. Looking at art will be integral to your growth as an artist, and will help make your art relevant to our time. You are encouraged to go to all gallery openings.

Evaluation and Assessment: Drawings will not be graded as products in a vacuum. The grade given for each drawing assignment will reflect several qualities involved in the course of its production. These include, when appropriate:
- Accomplishment of any stated parameters
- The level of ambition taken to the project
- A commitment to craftsmanship at the highest level possible
- Use of class time--reflected in work ethic, attendance, and punctuality
- Participation in discussions or group activities

You will receive a midsemester and a final portfolio review, during which you will be graded.
Specific grades will be issued as follows:

A (90-100): Outstanding level of production and ambition, exceptional commitment to tasks, and significant, active class participation.
B (80-90): Above average production and ambition; notable, if inconsistent, commitment, and uncoerced class participation.
C (70-80): Completion of assignments with the least possible effort and investment, minimum dedication to tasks, and meager class involvement.
D (60-70): Less than acceptable completion of tasks or performance.
F: Failure to accomplish even the minimum expectations of the course.

Attendance: Attendance is a crucial part of this course, as demonstration and interaction with myself and your classmates will provide information and considerations otherwise unavailable. Also, class time missed in working toward a project can be very difficult to make up and will affect your participation grade during that unit. Attendance will be taken at the start of class. Ten minutes after the start of class, as student is considered tardy.

Policy Statement:

Three absences will be allowed during the semester. Further absences, without significant mitigating circumstances (which will require documentation), will each result in the lowering of the cumulative grade by one letter grade. Should this process make passing the course a technical impossibility, you will be dropped from the course. Three failures to arrive on time and prepared for class (tardy) will be the equivalent of an absence.

When a class is missed, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed and what is expected of you. If you come to me, I will catch you up as best I can without affecting my responsibilities to the rest of the class. If you get the missed material from classmates, you are accountable for all information, whether they tell you or not.

Late Work: Work that is not submitted on time will devalue one letter grade per class period following the original due date. If an absence occurs due to mitigating circumstances and prevents the completion of work, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor at the next class session to arrange a new due date. Any new due dates set will be subject to the same policy.

American Disabilities Act (Disability Accommodation): Please notify the instructor if you have a disability that requires accommodation. You must also register with the UNT Office of Disability Accommodation in the University Union, room 322. The School of Visual Arts Accommodation Policy is available on request in the main office in the Art Building, room 107. Further questions or concerns regarding accommodation can be addressed to the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Michael Drought, the SOVA Accommodation Liaison Officer, Art Building room 111.
**Course Risk Factor:** According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category 2 course. Students enrolled in this course may be exposed to some significant risk factors, but are not likely to suffer serious bodily injury.

**Storage of Materials and Work, and Studio Rules:** It is strongly suggested that students get a large locker on the third floor of the art building to store supplies. It is not safe to leave materials in the drawing studio...**they will be stolen.** In addition, SOVA does not provide long-term storage of work.

There will be no smoking, eating, or drinking allowed in the classroom. **The use of cellphones and headphones is strictly forbidden in the classroom.**

While critiques may become heated, personal attacks will not be tolerated. Honesty will be appreciated and encouraged about artwork and concepts, but negative comments about individuals themselves are unnecessary and counterproductive, and offending parties may be asked to leave critique. Art is personal, and the need to discuss personal themes may arise, so we as fellow artists must walk a thin line during critiques. Keeping a mature, thoughtful head will be a must for students in this class.

**Center for Student’s Rights and Responsibilities:** The student is reminded of his or her rights and responsibilities, both academically and personally, as a student at the University of North Texas. For a full elaboration of these issues please see www.unt.edu/csrr.

**CoVAD Emergency Procedure:** In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your teachers and act accordingly.

I reserve the right to make changes to anything about this class, including requirements, schedule, assignments, etc., at any time during the semester. All changes will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to be in class to hear possible changes and adjust accordingly. No excuses for failure to adjust to changes in this course will be heard.
Required Materials:

- Newsprint pad-24” x 36”
- Drawing pad-24” x 36” if available
- Vine Charcoal, soft
- Compressed “Char-Kole” (brand name, available at HMS and Voertman’s)
- “Tear away” Charcoal pencils
- Conte’ black, white, red
- Black lumber crayon
- Pencils, varying weights
- Roller ball pen
- India Ink
- Bamboo Brush
- Plastic ink cup
- Drawing board
- Drafting tape
- Gum Erasers
- Pink pearl erasers
- White vinyl erasers
- Kneaded erasers
- Blending stumps, various sizes (optional)
- Blending chamois
- 3 sheets White Rives BFK
- 3 sheets black pastel paper
- Spray Fixative

Throughout the semester, I will add other materials to the supply list as we need them. If you wish, you may add other dry media and drawing surfaces (butcher paper, for example) to your supplies, and will be able to experiment a great deal during the second half of the semester. You will be expected to replenish any materials that are running low before class begins each day.
Art 2200 Beginning Figure Drawing  

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I have read and understand the contents of the syllabus for the above course, including the course risk factors. I am responsible for following all regulations for this course as outlined in the syllabus.

Print name__________________________

Sign name_____________________________________, Date______________

Email_________________________________________