COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Intermediate Figure Drawing; ART 3200.505; TR 2-4:50pm
Jim Burton, Office 329
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-5
940-206-8367, james.burton@unt.edu

Course Description: (as found in the course catalog) Intermediate Figure Drawing, 3 hours. Human figure in compositions using drawing and painting media. Prerequisites: ART 2100.

Course Objectives: Throughout the semester, we will work to develop your personal style and objectives with regard to figurative art. During this course, you will be asked to first hone your representational drawing skills, and then stretch your understanding of what constitutes the “figurative” using your entire skill set. You are encouraged to experiment greatly, with the caveat that you can explain your actions in the parameters of figurative art. What does it mean to be a figurative artist? How far can that definition be pushed? How can you find your personal and singular artistic self within these parameters?

Structure: This course will be divided into two parts. The first part, nearly to mid-semester, will focus on a traditional understanding of observed figure drawing. You will further develop your own style, content, and conceptualism within the bounds of life observation. There are required drawings of the model (listed below), which will be started during class time and completed outside of class, if necessary.

At mid-semester review, you will outline in writing your planned direction of research. You are encouraged to stretch your ideas about figuration, and to experiment beyond the bounds of what is perceived as traditional stylistically, conceptually, and/or thematically. You are also encouraged to experiment with media, substrate, and style. You must, as well, be able to defend this work during critique, and to begin to accurately define your work in the context of the greater art world. We will have group critiques once every two weeks at this point in the semester to give you an opportunity to do so.

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, including appropriate materials used.
  • Use of class time—reflected in work ethic, attendance, and punctuality
  • Participation in discussions or group activities

You will be graded twice in this semester. You will receive a mid-semester and final semester grade.
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 unforced 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): The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course. If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with
the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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.

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 Midterm Drawings

1. 3 Fully Rendered Grayscale (black media on white paper), fully developed figures in their environment.

   I expect these to be on good paper, and completed to exhibition level.

2. 3 fully developed color renderings of the figure. Media optional.

   “Color” is broad. The color renderings can range from naturalistic, full color drawings to abstraction.

3. 2 full size portraits

   These can be in black and white or color, of two different models.

4. 3 figurative experiments (experiment with media, style, concept, and/or theme)

   We will discuss this individually as the project proceeds.

5. 4 contour line drawings of the full figure.

   Blind, continuous, and long and slow and modulated should be represented. Media open
I ___________________________(print) acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus. I understand the course structure, grading and attendance policies as well as the risk factor rating. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

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