

ENDS 116
SPRING '10
Dick Davison

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

116. Design Communications Foundations II. (1-4). Credit 3.

Introduction to design drawing using a wide variety of tools ranging from conventional drawing and drafting equipment to the latest digital graphic applications; a focused investigation of analytical drawing as it contributes to the design process; experience of a wide variety of drawing conventions intended to equip students to navigate a design process. Integrally related to ENDS 106. Prerequisites: ENDS 115 and concurrent enrollment in ENDS 106.

II. INTRODUCTION

You are living in a time that historians will likely call the electronic, or digital revolution. The computer is changing professions so rapidly that literature on various subjects is obsolete almost as quickly as it reaches its audiences. The design professions have been changed profoundly in this volatile environment, and in so doing; traditional ways of seeing are challenged by new means of making images. Software such as "AutoCAD" and "Revit" have eliminated hand drafting. Modeling software such as "Maya" and "3D-Max" have changed the nature of visual presentation. "Photoshop" has changed photography as radically as when motion was introduced to that discipline.

It is in the context of the relevance of any manual activity that we address the nature of drawing. In short, why draw? During this course you will find that drawing is arguably more valid as a design and imaginative medium than it has ever been. As the computer occupies an increasingly greater segment of the "art/design pie", the role of the artist/designer becomes increasingly focused; where do creative ideas come from? How does drawing interface with the computer in this new milieu? These and other questions will be addressed in this course.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

ENDS 116 should primarily focus on creating, within the student, an awareness of his visual world and empathy for expressing it:

1. observing and describing space
2. proportion: eye level, observing vanishing points in architectural space
3. observing and describing form and light
4. picture making: reading space, form, and light
5. drawing imagined spaces
6. maintaining clarity in imagined spaces: drawing systems (i.e. grids)
7. intro to color theory
8. design drawing and designing in perspective
9. exploring media
 - a) graphite, charcoal, pen
 - b) color pencil, watercolor, pastel
10. expanding vision; collage and mixed media

The purpose of media exploration in ENDS 116 is to generate in the student an awareness of the fact that the types of media one uses has a direct effect on the quality of spaces and forms which one perceives.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

Below is an outline of some subjects we will cover. It is not necessarily chronological or complete.

Free-hand perspective; organizing the real world ; "sighting" in one and two point perspective
Drawing objects: the sense of form and surface; drawing people/the figure
Space and volume: "seeing" space; capturing form
Picture making: making space work on a page
Light and color: value, "photographicness"
Color phenomena: color space, color "models"
Drawing in the landscape
Drawing from imagination: describing the imaginary world
One point perspectives
Two point perspective
Shadows; more on light, reflections
Drawing as design, design as drawing

V. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (grading)

Throughout the course, different projects will be weighted differently; a journal of drawings and studies covering a range of out-of-class assignments will be kept throughout the semester. Grades are awarded by merit; "A", "B", "C", etc. "C+", "B-", etc. are common and in borderline cases they can be significant.

*Late work is counted off a single letter grade and typically there is a 2 week widow to complete late work.

*There are usually about 10 "weekly" grades (40%), Two or three "major" grades (40%) and a final project, which will count as about 20% of the semester grade.

*Resubmittals can be made at any time throughout the semester. (A resubmittal is not the same as late work, and does not insure a raised grade).

*Semester grades can be reduced for "excessive absences"; 3 unexcused absences will usually cost a semester letter grade. I also reserve the right to modify the semester grade up to 5 points based on "collegiality"; that is class participation (or lack thereof).

*This is a project-centered course (no "tests" per se). Projects will run throughout the semester, which relate to the topics above.

Your attendance is critical to your success in the course. We cover numerous and varied topics and you will not want to miss a day!

VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Straight edge (to be discussed)
30/60 degree triangle and/or 45 degree triangle
18 x 24 drawing paper
smaller size drawing pad
pencils HB-6B
pens
charcoal pencils and sticks
erasers - kneaded
water color pencils
soft pastels (suggest 24)
fixative

TEXT: The required text for this course is:

Architectural Drawing: A Compendium of Types and Methods, Rendow Yee
optional texts:

Drawing from Observation, Brian Curtis
Architects Draw, Sue Gussow

VII. COSTS

There will be additional materials that you will need as we move through the course as well as some optional equipment that you may be interested in acquiring. This course should cost \$75 to \$150 depending on where you buy your materials, texts, what you already have, and the particular brands you buy. We will discuss this in class.

VIII. DISABILITIES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Student Services Building. The phone number is 845 1637.

IX. Aggie Honor Code -

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those that do."

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Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student automatically assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/

"On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given or received unauthorized aid on this academic work."