Mohawk Valley Community College

**Utica and Rome, New York**

**Course Outline**

FA 103 Figure Drawing 1 P-6, Cr-3

**Course Description:**

This is an introductory course in drawing the human figure, focusing on the body’s geometric and anatomical structure. Classroom work consists of drawing from the live model and plaster sculpture casts. A hierarchy of form, working from general to specific, is emphasized. Studio work is supplemented by lectures and critiques on the principles of accurate representation of the human form in pictorial space, including gesture, proportion, anatomy, and light on form.

Studio Laboratory Fee: $20

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

* Demonstrate knowledge of art terminology through analyzing and evaluating of works of art during class critiques and discussions
* Draw a diagram of a head using the 5 eye cube proportion system which accurately depicts the placement of the features and major skeletal landmarks
* Analyze the structure and proportions of heads in various positions from art historical references
* Draw the head box in perspective from various angles which accurately applies the rules of perspective to the skull block
* Create a drawing of casts from sculpted facial features in which the geometric structure and planes are clearly rendered
* Create a linear drawing of a portrait cast which accurately describes the proportions, pose, and structure of the subject
* Create a drawing from an upside down slide of a portrait which replicates the tonal range and patterning of shadow shapes in the subject
* Create a tonal drawing of the portrait cast lit from one direct light source which accurately depicts the tonal range and placement of the light, half-light, core shadow, reflected light and cast shadow
* Create a linear portrait drawing from life which utilizes construction lines to accurately describe the position of the head in space and major planes
* Create an atmospheric portrait drawing from the model lit under form lighting that accurately renders the light and shadow in the subject
* Draw from imagination a diagram of the rib cage and pelvis blocks in front side and three quarter views using center lines
* Complete a drawing of a sculpture cast starting from a well-proportioned and structured linear description of the major masses and modeled through accurate rendering of light, half-light, core shadow, reflected light and cast shadow.
* Create drawings of simplified, architectonic figures from imagination and life
* Create several gesture drawings in charcoal from life, utilizing sweeping lines that emphasize rhythm and the gestalt and include accurate representations of the action of the pose and relationships of the major masses through lines of axis
* Create a sustained gesture drawing in which mass is built up through wrap around contour drawing.
* Create contour drawings from the live model that naturalize the geometric model and accurately describe the proportions, alignment of the major masses, weight distribution, and forms of the body
* Create a contour drawing of a foreshortened figure from life utilizing sighting techniques cross-sections, lines of axis, and overlaps.

**Major Topics of Study:**

The Structure of the Head:

* proportions and geometric structure of the head
* major skeletal landmarks
* the head in space (foreshortening, proportions, and structure)
* geometric structure, facial features and planes
* the logic of light on the major planes

Portrait Cast

* structural drawing
* internal and external contour
* proportions, pose, and planes
* sight measuring
* tonal range and placement of the light, half-light, core shadow, reflected light and cast shadow

The Portrait from life

* achieving a likeness through particular characteristics of model
* use of construction lines to accurately describe the position of the head in space
* analysis and depiction of major planes
* linear lighting
* form lighting

# The Reference Figure

# posture and alignment of the major masses

* proportions of the 7 ½ head figure
* skeletal structure and bony landmarks
* geometric concepts/ perspective and the figure
* introduction to anatomical terms

The Cast

* the Classical paradigm: form conception/grouping/compositional ideas/poses
* major muscle forms of the torso and extremities
* geometric structure/ major planes
* accurate rendering of light, half-light, core shadow, reflected light and cast shadow

The Figure from Life

* gestalt construction of the figure: subordination of detail, rhythmic line to unify parts/ relationship of masses
* centerline of gravity and distribution of weight
* the major masses and muscle groups (focus on the torso)
* the foreshortened figure: cross-sections, lines of axis, and overlaps

Reviewed July 2023