

ART 3383C: Narrative Drawing
T/Th 12:00 pm – 2:50 pm
VA 206, 4 Credits
Fall 2012

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, and by appointment

Office Hours held in VA 113a (Prof. Broderick's Office/Studio)

“Now I look at things with different eyes than I did before I began to draw.” – Vincent van Gogh

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

Narrative Drawing explores the role of narrative, or storytelling, within the field of drawing and within the visual arts in general. Throughout the course, students will improve and expand their drawing skills. At the same time, students will work to develop their personal narrative interests, by exploring autobiography, cultural content, interdisciplinary connections, and other personally relevant content. As students develop their individual narrative sensibilities, they will also deepen their understanding of formal concerns. Students will develop the technical and conceptual skills that are critical to the drawing process, while also developing communication and critical thinking skills through research, writing, and critique. Learning activities will include drawing practice, lectures, and class discussion, along with outside assignments and research. Students will develop their abilities to construct, to interpret, and to discuss their own drawings, their classmates' drawings, and masterworks. Studio work in and outside of class, group and individual critiques, artist talks, gallery visits, and other campus events will be among the activities in which all students are expected to participate. Pre-requisite: ART 3522C – Intermediate Painting.

COURSE OUTLINE:

The semester will be defined by five major projects. Each project will have a number of individual steps, including writing, research, artmaking, and critique. You will work on each project in class and outside of class. The exact number of hours you spend will vary based on the project itself, as well as your level of ambition. You will begin each project with an initial brainstorming session. As your ideas become clear, you will develop and turn in a written project proposal. You will then continue your idea development and visual and scholarly research. These steps will build toward the creation of an intelligent, well-crafted, sophisticated drawing or series of drawings. The final phase of each project will be a written self-assessment of the project, which will be turned in on critique day.

Constructing and Image Collection

Starting today, you should begin to conduct visual research, collecting images that you find personally compelling for their *visual aspects*. Make your choices based purely on aesthetics, not on intellectual or emotional connections. A vast number of these images should be images of works of art, but you should also collect other sorts of imagery. Your goal is to be discerning—collecting only things that inspire and interest you *visually*. It is not necessary for you to know why you are drawn to each individual image. You will share your collection (or selections from it) with the class, and we will

work together to identify common formal and thematic elements in each collection. These observations will help lay the groundwork for drawings in which you begin to develop a deeper sense of personally significant subject matter and content, while also identifying the materials and processes that will best serve your creative priorities.

Project 1: Drawing Marathon Focusing on One Object / One Theme

This project will emphasize the process of drawing, as well as the role of visual metaphor. Each of you will make a large number of individual drawings in a short period of time. These drawings will focus on one particular object, exploring that form from as many directions as possible. In making a large number of drawings of one subject, strong visual and conceptual themes will emerge. We will identify these and capitalize on them, allowing you to continue to develop your personal interests, to identify your personal obsessions, and to set your personal priorities within artmaking.

Project 2: Drawing on Literature

This project will begin as you review several works of literature, select a work that resonates with you, and immerse yourself in it. You will develop a project that originates in your reading and understanding of part or all of a work of literature. You will use the process of idea and project development to explore the wide range of possibilities that exist as text and image relate to one another, as stories are composed and communicated, and as audiences are engaged and transported into and through a narrative.

Project 3: Cultural Context

This project will explore the idea of “narrative” in an outward-looking way. Each of you will identify personally compelling and relevant source material and influences from our/your culture. The goal is to find a point of departure that is relevant to your life within and beyond the studio, and one that is woven tightly into the very immediate time and place in which you are alive. You will develop a drawing project that participates in the conversation going on in the culture surrounding this point of departure. Your projects may be lighthearted in tone, gravely serious, or anywhere in between. You may advocate for, respond to, and/or rebel against established cultural norms, or you may propose new directions. Your chief responsibility will be to create a drawing or series of drawings that are successful works of art, as well as alert, responsible and interesting responses to your cultural context.

Project 4: Interdisciplinary Connections

This project will begin with research and reading in an academic discipline beyond the visual arts. You will conduct an exploration of one or more topics in another field of inquiry, reflecting and making notes in the process. You will then develop a drawing project that unfolds in conversation with, in relationship to, and in response to the discoveries you made and the knowledge you gained during your research. The resulting project will be rooted in the visual arts, while also weaving in form and content that originate in the other discipline. The result will be an example of interdisciplinary critical and creative inquiry.

Project 5: Focusing on Personal Narrative

This project will bring together all of the discoveries you have made and everything you have learned throughout the semester. You will work through extensive idea development to develop and propose a project that will tell viewers something very specific, complex, and interesting about who you are, what drives you, and what your passions and obsessions are as an artist and a human being. Your final project will be executed in an extremely ambitious traditional narrative format. You will have the option of creating an artist's book or a digital drawing (a web-based and/or animated project).

REQUIRED & RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Vitamin D: New Perspectives in Drawing, by Emma Dexter

An Illustrated Life, by Danny Gregory

How to Be an Explorer of the World, by Keri Smith

The Artist's Guide to Grant Writing: How to Find Funds and Write Foolproof Proposals for the Visual, Literary, and Performing Artist, by Gigi Rosenberg

Additional readings relating to the historical and contemporary practice of drawing, the creative process, and professional practices in the visual arts will be introduced throughout the term. Students will be expected to develop individual bibliographies of readings in the visual arts and related fields.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS:

ATTENDANCE:

This is an upper-division undergraduate course, and one of the goals of this is to prepare you for professional life. You should think of this class as a professional appointment—a job that requires you to arrive both promptly and consistently. Apropos of that, attendance will be carefully recorded daily. It is essential that you be present (in mind and body) and punctual. Coming to class late (10 minutes) three times is equivalent to 1 absence. You are permitted 2 absences without immediate consequences. A greater number may result in the lowering of your final grade by as many as three points (about one third of one letter grade) for each absence. You are responsible for the work that you miss when you are absent. Please take the initiative to get in touch with your classmates or with me to get up to speed when you are not here. Generally speaking, there are no excused absences. I realize that every student has other responsibilities or activities that sometimes interfere with his or her ability or desire to come to class. Please remember that your actions have consequences. Special exceptions, including religious observances and other exceptions that are officially recognized by the university, will be discussed and accommodated *in advance* and on an individual basis. Emergencies will be dealt with on an individual basis. Incomplete grades will be granted at the discretion of the professor, and only in the case of a grave individual emergency.

PREPAREDNESS:

Preparedness is absolutely essential. Coming to class without the appropriate materials and/or without having completed assignments makes it difficult for you to be truly “present,” that is, ready to work and to contribute to the class. Please come to class each day with the appropriate

materials, and having completed any out-of-class assignments. Doing so will ensure that you stay up-to-date with your responsibilities, and it will also contribute to the strength of your grade.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

If your life is influenced by a set of special circumstances that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know as soon as possible. If you anticipate missing class to fulfill duties as a representative of the university, if you are a student with a learning difference or a developmental difference, or if there is some other aspect of your life that may affect your ability to meet the expectations of this class, then please talk to me. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations to execute coursework due to a disability must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (SU 133, 7-3880) and follow all OSD procedures. It is your responsibility to take the initiative to ensure your success in this class. Please be proactive, and remember that your graduation depends on your success in this course.

CLASS PARTICIPATION & PROFESSIONALISM:

Participation is very important in studio and classes. You are expected to participate fully, actively, and professionally in class each day. This means that you work efficiently and effectively both individually and within small groups. You are also encouraged to speak up and to share your thoughts in discussion and critique. Discussions and critiques will provide a forum in which you will have the opportunity to articulate your ideas, to collaborate with your colleagues, to appreciate multiple points of view, to understand and explore complex concepts, and to learn from one another. Professional and respectful conduct is expected from everyone at all times. The use (even silent use) of cell phones is absolutely prohibited during class. Please turn these items off, and do not take them out during class. Each time your phone rings or vibrates in my class, your final grade will drop by two points. Each time I notice you texting in class, your final grade will drop by two points. In fairness, if my phone rings during class, everyone's final grade will go up by two points.

THE STUDIO ENVIRONMENT:

The studio should be a place that is productive, challenging, safe, and enjoyable. It is important to develop working relationships with your classmates and to discuss and support their work, as well as your own. You are responsible for cleaning up after yourself at the end of each work session, and we will also work together at several points during the semester to maintain the studio. In general, please make sure that your work area is tidy, and please do not leave any items (especially food items) behind when you leave the studio. Studio maintenance is part of the art-making process, and your participation in this process is expected and appreciated.

You may take breaks as you need them during class, remembering that productive use of time is essential for staying caught up with your work and completing assignments on time. You may listen to your iPod during times that are devoted to independent work. Please keep in mind that only you should be able to hear the music that you are listening to. If I am unable to get your attention while you are listening to your iPod, you may be asked to discontinue its use.

GROUP CRITIQUES & DISCUSSIONS:

There will be formal, announced critiques periodically throughout the semester, typically in conjunction with major projects. Occasionally there will be spontaneous discussions of projects in progress. Each student must demonstrate a sharpening of her or his critical looking, reading, and thinking processes through extensive, active participation in both the creative process and in the self- and group-evaluation process. One of our priorities in this course will be sharpening our abilities to look at, think about, and discuss a variety of topics in the arts in an informed, specific, and articulate way. Everyone in the class will be held to high professional standards during these discussions and critiques.

GRADING:

Grades are earned based on the quality of your work (your technical ability, your mastery of individual concepts, and your knowledge of course content), your effort and improvement over the course of the semester, and your communication skills (oral and written skills, along with participation). You will be graded based on your successfully completed projects (studio, writing, and reading assignments), your involvement in critique and discussion (and your ability to think critically during these times), and your professionalism (including preparedness, promptness, attendance, and academic conduct). While the specific expectations and evaluation procedures for each project will be discussed when each is assigned, it is also wise to keep in mind that "A" grades are reserved for excellent work, "B" grades characterize above average work, and average work will earn "C" grades. Below average work will earn "D" or "F" grades, based on the degree to which the work lacks intellect, effort, commitment, and/or awareness of the assignment. You must earn a "C" or better for this course to count toward your major or minor. Work that shows evidence of academic dishonesty will always earn an "F" for both the individual assignment and for the semester.

A- = 90 – 92	A = 93 – 100	
B- = 80 – 82	B = 83 – 87	B+ = 88 – 90
C- = 70 – 72	C = 73 – 77	C+ = 78 – 80
D- = 60 – 62	D = 63 – 67	D+ = 68 – 70
F = 0 – 60		

ASSIGNMENTS:

Contributions to class discussion and critique, completion of out-of-class assignments, and professional development of works in progress are part of each project grade.

Project #1: 20 points

Project #2: 20 points

Project #3: 20 points

Project #4: 20 points

Project #5: 20 points

Total: 100 points

LATE WORK:

Prompt completion of projects is essential for academic and professional success. It is essential that all assignments be turned in on or before the due date. Late work will be accepted at my discretion. The minimum deduction for late work will be one full letter grade per day.

ACADEMIC HONOR:

We are all members of a scholarly academic community. This is a community of professionals, and our interactions with one another should be characterized by tolerance, respect, and understanding. Professional behavior will be expected of everyone in this class. Standards of professionalism will be applied to conduct in class, as well as to the completion of class assignments. All work should be original to the student who turns it in. All research should be used appropriately and documented properly. Any and all forms of unprofessional and/or dishonorable conduct will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade in the class and/or the perpetrator's removal from the class. For example, any instance of cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an automatic F in this course. For more information: www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Honor_Code.pdf

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH ME:

You will find that, in order to get to my office, you must pass through an active classroom (VA 113). If you would like to see me while a class or a meeting is going on, please proceed quietly, but confidently through the classroom. My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus, and my teaching schedule is posted on my studio door. I am generally on campus and available to you throughout the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays (from morning until evening). I am also on campus on selected Fridays, and I am available to you at this time, especially if we make arrangements in advance. I am generally not on campus on Mondays and Wednesdays (I spend these days working in my studio in Jupiter). I check my e-mail about twice a day during the week, and sporadically on weekends. I am committed to your learning and your progress, and I want each of you to do well, not only in this class, but in everything that you attempt. If you would like to speak to me, please stop by my studio during office hours, e-mail me, and/or schedule a meeting with me. When you email me, please always do so from your official FAU e-mail address.

INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS & CRITIQUES:

If you would like to discuss your progress in this class at any time during the semester, I am happy to do so. Just let me know that you would like to schedule a meeting, and we will sit down and arrange a time. It is important in this class (and in all classes) for each student to take individual responsibility for his or her performance. Please get into the habit of taking initiative when it comes to making sure that you succeed. I am happy to arrange meetings to discuss works in progress, project ideas, questions you may have about assignments and/or readings, and questions you may have about your grade, or, more importantly, your progress in the class. Please bring your work(s) in progress, as well as any other relevant materials, to these discussions.

CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Please be aware that our campus has resources available which can help you to succeed. For instance, the library conducts instructional sessions in research skills. The counseling center offers workshops about everything from study skills, to time management, to test anxiety, in addition to one-on-one counseling. The center for writing excellence offers help for writers at all skill levels—these services will be of particular use to you as you work your way through the

writing assignments in this course. Make your tuition dollars work for you by taking advantage of everything that the university has to offer.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

Although there is not an explicit list of required materials, you should plan on investing in a variety of drawing materials over the course of the semester. As you develop your projects, make a point of thinking about the impact of your chosen materials. Make thoughtful decisions about which materials and methods will be most appropriate for each project. Be sure to bring your toolbox and your sketchbook to class each day (unless otherwise noted).

WHERE TO GET YOUR SUPPLIES:

Jerry's Art-o-Rama in Deerfield: (954) 427-6264, in the Hillsboro Square shopping center
Utrecht Art Supplies (1-800-223-9132) www.utrechtart.com
Pearl Art Supply (1-800-221-6845 x2297) www.pearlpaint.com
Daniel Smith (1-800-426-6740) www.daniel.smith.com
Dick Blick Art Materials (1-800-828-4548) www.dickblick.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Aug. 24: Last day to add/drop without fees
Aug. 31: Last day to drop without getting a "W" on your transcript
Sept. 4 (week 3, Tue.): **Project 1 Due**
Sept. 25 (week 6, Tue.): **Project 2 Due**
Oct. 12: Last day to withdraw without getting an "F" on your transcript
Oct. 16 & 18 (week 9): Prof. Broderick travels to SECAC Annual Conference in NC.
Oct. 23 (week 10, Tue.): **Project 3 Due**
Nov. 13 (week 13, Tue.): **Project 4 Due**
Nov. 22 – 25: **FAU is closed for Thanksgiving.**
Nov. 29 (week 15, Thu.): **Final meeting 10:30 am – 1:00 pm: Project 5 Due**
Dec. 10: Grades are due (I will post your final course grade online no later than this date).