UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Fall
Course Prefix: 3240
Course Title: Head Drawing

Year: 2025
Course and Section #:001
Credits: 3

Course Description

Develops proficiency in rendering the human head in a variety of approaches and techniques. Addresses geometric and planar construction, proportion, lighting, features, and expression.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:
☐ General Education Requirements
☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
☒ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program
☐ Open Elective
Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Chris Young

Student Learning Outcomes

1 Explore head drawing processes as a means of self expression;
2 Relate key portrait drawing readings to image making;
   Evaluate effectiveness of processes and techniques through regular
3 critiques;
4 Define visual concepts in personal work;
5 Apply advanced understanding of drawing processes.

Course Materials and Texts

Materials
Drawing board
Newsprint or drawing pad 18" x 24"
Toned paper
Graphite and charcoal pencils
Sandpaper block or mechanical sharpeners, kneaded and white erasers

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy
Grading Criteria
In class work / attendance and participation: 150 points / 10 per week
Out-of-class sketchbook / 130 points / 10 per week
3 finished drawings: 150 points
When I evaluate your drawings I consider the following:
• Technical problem solved: Primary emphasis is on developing an accurate
understanding of artistic anatomy and form.
• Craftsmanship: This deals with the competence of how you use your materials.
• Draughtsmanship : After all other considerations, the fundamental aesthetic skill is
based on mastering drawing. This is not only observational facility, it embraces the
beauty of line and the power to create compelling drawings.
Grading Scale:
A >94% A- >89% B+>86% B>82% B->79% C+>76% C>72% C->69% D<69%
Everyone is at different levels of talent and ability and so I will expect progress on a relative
basis. Due to the subjective nature of art and my own biases, I will largely base my evaluations
on the time put forth in effective and attentive study. We will conduct class critiques where you
will appraise each other's work and progress.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments
N/A

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion
Course Description
Nothing is more complex than drawing the human head. The subtleties of structure, form and
proportions are a perpetual challenge to students and professionals. The observational
skills and structural understanding acquired through the careful and attentive study of the
human head, will apply to any artistic work.
In this course we will begin with the major masses of the head, drawing their shapes, contours
and proportions. We will study the skull and simplify the anatomical musculature that gives the
face it's individuality and expression. There are nine dominant facial features that we will break
down and become familiar with. We'll particularly focus on the intricate, interlocking shapes of
the eyes, ears, nose and mouth.
With the structural information in mind, we will then learn to draw the head in space, drawing
in different perspectives and directions. There are a few systems that we will practice that will
help us begin to lay in a believable head. There isn't one perfect approach - you will find that
you will be more comfortable with one than another and eventually utilize them all.
After we master a linear block-in, we will finish our course drawing portraits on toned paper,
using values to define the forms. I will emphasize a classical approach that starts with shape
moving to proportion and then value.
In addition to our in-class drawing activities, you will be expected to study provided tutorials
and diagrams and, through a sketchbook, show evidence of the principles and concepts to be
mastered. Anatomical memory comes through repetition and hours of careful drawings. To
realistically have an artistic career, I believe we need to be skilled in three modes of drawing life
drawing, drawing from reference photos, and drawing from our imagination. The

sketchbook will be an opportunity to practice the last two on your own time.

Out-of-Class Assignments

Out-of-class drawing will parallel in-class studies, giving you the opportunity to apply concepts more extensively. A separate sketchbook will be used for these homework assignments and will be uploaded to canvas weekly. Three "finished" drawings, more elaborate in medium and complexity will be required and will be described as the course progresses. Concerning head and portrait drawing, there really are no short-cuts and this class will require at least four hours outside of class, as well as the five hours spent in-class (per week).

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Drawing, painting, thinking, ideating, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Bard, Dall-e, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Organizing your thoughts

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat.
- Completing work that has been assigned to you.
- Composing, drawing, or digitally painting entire parts of your project including thumbnail sketches, comp sketches, or completed work.

You are responsible for the information and creative output you submit based on any AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

Any student work submitted using AI tools should indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting.

Using Remote Testing Software

☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis

protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation
UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.
To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a specially dedicated space for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.