

## **Problems in Drawing Art 060 01**

**Spring Semester 2010**

**Don Harvey, Instructor – [don.harvey@oberlin.com](mailto:don.harvey@oberlin.com); cell phone 216-548-9946**

This course is designed to develop skills and methodologies introduced in Drawing 040 and/or Drawing in Space. Emphasis will be placed on concerns of concept, image, material, and technique. Projects will explore the relationship of the human figure and cultural environment in a narrative pictorial context.

Group discourse about the work we undertake in class will be conducted in both informal and formal discussions. Group and individual critiques will happen regularly throughout the semester; dates of major group critiques are announced on the calendar of activities contained within this syllabus. Additional discussions will be structured around occasional assigned readings or visual research. It is an expected part of each student's performance in class that they actively participate in these assignments and discussions.

The assignments given are ambitious and will require work within and out of class in order to be completed by the deadlines.

### **Grading and Evaluation**

Your semester grade will be based upon your success in completing class assignments. Beyond that, the following factors will be taken into consideration in determining individual portfolio grades, mid-term and final grades: your degree of mastery of the conceptual and technical issues presented in each assignment; your diligence and determination in working out ideas in your drawings and in working through technical problems; your willingness to push yourself past your comfort zone in order to find alternate, and perhaps better, solutions to problems you are working on; your ability and willingness to make critical judgments about your own work; your participation in critiques and class discussions.

Work must be turned in on assigned due dates in order to receive full credit unless you make arrangements with me in advance. I will work with you on this, but you must take the initiative on your own behalf. I will make the final determination as to whether or not a request for an extension is justified.

You will be required to submit four portfolios during the course of the semester and to complete a brief research project. A point system rather than letter grades will be used for evaluation of these assignments. Each of the four portfolios will be worth 22 points, the research assignment will be worth 8 points. Adjustments for excessive absences (see below) will be made on the final semester grade, not on individual portfolio grades.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. Arriving to class on time and working until the end of class are also mandatory. Unexcused absences in excess of three will result in your semester grade being lowered one letter grade for each additional absence. Documented illness, mishap and death in the family are the only reasons for which absence will be excused. Four late arrivals or two early departures from class in any combination will be calculated as an absence. An unexcused

absence on the date of one of the critiques announced on the calendar of activities in this syllabus will be counted double (as two absences).

**Attendance is required at the final critique held during finals week.**

### **Materials List**

Materials used in this class may include: pencil, colored pencils, charcoal, graphite, ink with pen or brush, watercolor used as a drawing medium, collage, monotype with water-based inks, digital media to supplement any of the above.

It is expected that work produced in the class stay within the realm of drawing and be primarily on paper, although a student may propose alternatives for specific projects if it enhances the concept being worked upon.

I anticipate that most students in the class will already have a variety of drawing tools from earlier classes and these should be used as a starting point for materials for this class. Additional materials can be purchased as the need arises.

Some specialized drawing tools and papers will be purchased from the course fees and supplied to the class.

Models are scheduled for only Unit Two, but will be available upon need and request throughout the semester.

**There will be a materials fee of \$50.00 per student assessed for materials and models.**

### **Calendar of Activities:**

**Unit One** – February 10 to March 1 – *Record of a Journey You've Never Taken* assignment; a series of drawings on a theme developed individually by each student; assignment details given separately.

**Crit – portfolio due** - Wednesday, March 3

**Unit Two** – March 8 to 17 – *Figure drawing tune-up*; four class sessions of concentrated work with a model.

**Crit – portfolio due** – Monday, March 22

**Unit Three** – March 24 to April 19 - *What You Carried With You and What You Left Behind* assignment; a series of drawings on a theme developed individually by each student; assignment details given separately.

**Crit – portfolio due** – Wednesday, April 21

**Spring Break**, no classes on March 29 and 31.

**Unit Four** – April 26 to May 12 – *You Become Your Culture, Your Culture Becomes You* assignment; a large-scale, mixed media drawing; assignment details given separately.

**Crit – portfolio due** – Finals week meeting.