

Basic Drawing

ARCH 201 W21

M / W 8:30 - 11:30

ONLINE only

Instructors:

Melissa Harris
amharris@umich.edu

GSI
tbd@umich.edu

GSI
tbd@umich.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ARCH 201 is an introductory freehand drawing course. The goal is to develop in you a linear approach to graphic formulation by cultivating an understanding of the line and its role in describing form. There is little difference between drawing and designing- both involve the articulation of formal information through a process of selection and editing. Both communicate through visual and material means. You will construct for yourself a way of behaving visually in varying situations.

We will consider drawing as a language where the line is the basic building block. There is no one way to make a drawing. Direct perception combined with thoughtful conceptualization can reveal unlimited approaches to a single problem. Observational drawing supplements our experiences to inform what we know is fact and what we believe is possible. Continual revision of our attitudes in light of new experience insures the application of imaginative thinking to formal principles of measurement and dimensional representation. The purpose is focused thinking where search is the means by which we may separate what is known from what is potentially realizable. ARCH 201 intends to arm you with the tools to converse within architecture and beyond.

CLASS ROUTINE

Class will begin with a brief review of homework and an introduction to the assignment to be completed that period. The long break between Wednesday and Monday classes will be devoted to further study of in-class exercises or occasionally subjects of your choice. There will be shorter assignments between Monday and Wednesday. It is strongly recommended that you use a sketchbook to maintain further studies of in-class work and personal exploration of class exercises.

Exercises are designed to structure and reinforce the relationship between your eyes, mind and hand. They help you confront specific hurdles in graphic communication that enable you to handle complexity as the semester unfolds. For this reason,

it is important that you stay current with the assignments and attend every class. This course will be broken into two segments. The first half deals with drawing as the root of any creative endeavor without bias for a particular art. Its essential aim is to develop an understanding of the line's role in drawing form. This course will hone coordination between your eyes, mind and hand so that your observational and speculative drawing becomes more deliberate. This skill will serve you in any future endeavor that involves visual ideation or description.

In the second half we will investigate the more particular role of the architectural line as both a symbol and the fundamental element of a tailored graphic language. The drawing subjects in the second half will require site visits and on-location drawing. You will be reintroduced to objects and spaces through common architectural drawing types. By combining experience with line as a basic unit and architectural drawing conventions, we will explore methods of looking and recording to understand and learn from the built world.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Grades will be issued based on all your drawings and class participation. Your portfolio should contain every drawing completed in class and for homework. You must have a portfolio in order to receive a grade. Protect your work and work cleanly. We will evaluate your portfolio using the following criteria:

- Understanding of objectives offered by each assignment,
- Craft of execution,
- Attendance and daily productivity,
- Your improvement.

Self-criticism will become a more confident aspect of your process as the semester proceeds. We will gauge this with every line you make. No incompletes will be given unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

- Participation and in-class work: 35%
- Homework: 50%
- Final project: 15%