



Introduction to Drawing for Non-Majors

Course Title: Introduction to Drawing for Non-Majors

Instructor Email:

Course Number: AD 10801

Last Updated: Fall 2026

Instructor Name:

Course Semester:

Course Description:

Introduces the student to the basic elements of drawing. Line, shape, value, and perspectives will be studied before moving on to the more complex use of color. Landscape and still life will be the source of subject matter for the semester.

Course Prerequisites:

No course prerequisites

Course Access:

This course will utilize Canvas as the central platform for accessing all course materials and communications. Students are expected to check Canvas regularly for updates, assignments, and other course-related resources. All announcements and important information will also be communicated through Canvas.

Course Goal:

This course offers an exploration of drawing as a creative and expressive practice. Students will learn technical skills, experiment with various media, and explore diverse approaches to composition and design. Emphasis is placed on developing visual problem-solving abilities, engaging in thoughtful critique, and analyzing artwork through discussion and writing. Students will also study influential artists past and present, and build a portfolio that reflects their growth, creativity, and personal voice.

Students will:

- Explore the different techniques and approaches in a variety of media.
- Solve composition and design problems to create interesting and varied compositions.
- Critique and evaluate your artwork as well as the artwork of your classmates
- Analyze the formal properties of an artwork through discussion and writing.
- Study and appreciate the major artworks of the past and present artists who work in the drawing/painting mediums.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the mechanics and principles of drawing combining drafting and freehand methods.
2. Provide the necessary skills to allow students to develop ability and confidence using the language of a two-dimensional drawing.
3. The majority of this class understands the materials, methods, and formal ideas of perspective and the illusion of creating three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional plane. Students will work from observation and some with the help of photographs.
4. Learn specific techniques, including measuring positive/negative space, line, shape, volume, and various methods of controlling value to create form. This class will focus on value of using pencil, ink, and colored pencil.

Learning Resources & Texts

No required texts

Assignments

Student learning will be evaluated through a variety of assessments, including written reflections, individual assignments, and sketchbooks. Classwork will consist primarily of sketchbook assignments and media studies. These assessments are designed to support engagement with course content and encourage thoughtful reflection on visual art and will be placed in the Classwork (40%) category. Projects are individual assignments emphasizing subject, medium, and technique. These assessments will be placed in weighted categories of either Project (60%) category.

Grading Scale:

In this course, both formative and summative assessments will be used to evaluate student learning at the end of each instructional unit. Formative assessments are activities and assignments that are designed to check on student understanding and to provide students with information about what they know well and what they need to practice. Summative assignments will appear in the gradebook under the **Classwork Category** and are weighted at 40%. Examples of graded formative assessments that *may* include but are not limited to:

- Technique/concept practice
- Canvas Discussion and Short Response Questions
- Worksheets
- Note Taking
- SWYK (Show What You Know)

Summative assessments compare student acquisition of content knowledge and skills against the state standards and benchmarks. Summative assessments will have a significant point value. All of these types of assignments will appear in the gradebook under the **Project Category** and make up a greater impact of the student's final grade than the individual formative assessments that are used to evaluate learning prior to the end of the unit. All summative assessments are weighted at 60%. Examples of graded formative assessments that *may* include but are not limited to: Studio Projects.

**Studio projects are thematic and subject to change.*

Course Evaluation:

Collegiate Connection students will be provided a course evaluation link through their school email at the end of the semester. This link will be to a form created and managed by the PFW Collegiate Connection office, all data collected is anonymous and will be shared with instructors and their departments at the end of the school year.

Academic Misconduct / Plagiarism / AI:

Academic Misconduct, including plagiarism (using other people's ideas/words and not giving them credit thus implying the work is your own original work) or using your own work from a previous course without the express permission of the instructor, is taken very seriously at any learning institution. It is taken very seriously in this class. Please be aware of what behaviors constitute academic misconduct ([See Bulletin, Code of Students Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct Part II. A.](#)) If caught cheating or plagiarizing, a student may receive no credit on the assignment and may result in an F for the course. Any instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Care and your Department Chair and may result in expulsion from the University. Additional potential consequences can be found under: potential consequences ([See Bulletin, Code of Students Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct, Part III. A.](#): i.e., failure of the assignment, failure of the course and/or dismissal from the university) of such behavior.

All submitted work must be the student's own original effort. Using AI to generate or complete assignments without meaningful personal input violates the school's honor code:

"I will act with honesty, kindness, and integrity in all situations. I will submit my own original work that represents my best effort. I will not provide my original work to others to copy or submit as their own."

Any misuse of AI tools—such as submitting AI-generated work as your own or sharing your work for others to copy—will be considered academic dishonesty.

Student Support Services

Purdue University Fort Wayne is committed to your academic and personal success. Visit the [Student Support Services](#) page for a list of student support services, including academic services, technology services, health and wellness, and support from administrative offices. For help with technology, including Brightspace, visit the [IT Services Student Technology Support](#) page.

If you observe and/or are made aware of student behavior that leaves you feeling concerned, worried, and/or alarmed, trust your instincts and say something. The CARE Team can assist with the student of concern, whether that's you or someone you are referring. Report the concern through the online CARE referral form. Please note that this form is not for emergencies. If you know of a student who is injured, is injuring themselves or others, or is threatening injuries to themselves or others, please call 911 immediately.

Your emotional wellness and mental health are important. If you have a mental health disorder, are struggling with your mental health, your stress overwhelms your ability to cope with it, or you find yourself needing emotional support, please talk to someone. If you or someone you know is in a mental health crisis situation, call 911 or go to the local emergency room. Otherwise, please reach out to our Center for Student Counseling (CSC). All currently enrolled PFW and IUFW students have access to free counseling at the center. To make an appointment to talk with a counselor call 260-481-6200 or email csc@pfw.edu.

Course Schedule

The first few weeks of the semester focus on Community Building, Creative Process, and Sketchbook Strategies. Other projects/topics are tentative and subject to change include:

- Expressive Drawing Strategies
- Sighting/Proportion/Perspective
- Critique and Formal Analysis
- Media Based Technique Studies and Projects
- Prompt Based Projects

Additional Information: