

# **Drawing From Nature I & II**

## **PAD 2045**

Purchase College, June 6th- July 23rd  
Mondays and Wednesdays: 1:00- 4:35  
Classroom Location: Visual Arts Building Room 2016

Instructor: Hilary Doyle  
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Designed for all levels, beginning through advanced, this course uses the Purchase campus and environment as it's subject. Students work with a variety of drawing materials, developing their abilities to observe and interpret "landscape". The class meets in the studio for the first session and during inclement weather. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to off-campus sites.

This course explores Nature as a source for discovery, intellectual investigation and inspiration for making drawings. Students will work mainly from observation of nature, which will strengthen their drawing skills and will heighten each student's ability to see more vividly. Some areas of focus will be: Form, Space, Perspective, Zoom in/Texture, and a specific focus of your choosing. Please keep in mind that this syllabus is subject to change.

### **STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP:**

- Visual language skills
- Further knowledge of the fundamental principles of visual form, line, value, perspective and composition
- Technical drawing ability and hand eye coordination
- Critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Research skills including the ability to analyze and synthesize visual information
- Responsibility to others and our community
- Respect, tolerance and openness to new ideas and ways of thinking
- To think independently and creatively
- An understanding of historical knowledge and events in the field
- A critical analysis of different art forms
- Visual literacy and the power of images
- Their own vision and unique artistic vision

### **PURCHASE COLLEGE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

The Purchase College Academic Integrity Policy <<http://www.purchase.edu/Policies/AcademicIntegrity.aspx>> explicitly forbids cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another person and the representation of them as one's own original work. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the definition of plagiarism and the acceptable methods of attribution.

Violation of any of the above may lead to formal disciplinary action and the following sanctions:

- Minimum Sanction: Failing grade on the assignment or examination. Maximum Sanction: Expulsion
- Recommended Sanction (First Offense): Failing grade for the course
- Recommended Sanction (Second Offense): Expulsion

Students who have any questions or doubts about whether any activity is academically permissible, should check with me first.

## IN THE CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

I expect two main things of each of you :

### **Be Present and Work Very Hard.**

- Please be on time, listen actively, and participate in class discussion and activities.
- Please turn off cell phones, beepers, etc. at the start of class.  
If you need such devices for personal obligations, please inform the instructor in advance and put these items on vibrate.
- Please return promptly from breaks.
- Laptops may not be used in class. Notebooks may be used for notetaking.
- *It is inappropriate to carry on conversations or pass notes during class*, as these are disruptive to the class and rude to other students and the instructor.
- *Arrive on time.* If you do arrive late, enter at the rear door, sit near the back; please do not interrupt the class by walking across the room. Over two late arrivals will be counted as one absence, and will lower your grade.
- Clean up the area around your seat **every time** you leave class – do not leave your mess for someone else!
- *When students leave and return again during class*, it is disruptive to the class and to the instructor. I have noticed this on workdays and I'm not going to say anything to you but it will reflect in your grade - So do not leave without telling me.

## GRADING

| COURSE REQUIREMENTS                                      | PERCENTAGE |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Attendance / Punctuality                                 | 20%        |
| Completion of Assignments/ Ambition                      | 40%        |
| Engagement and Participation                             | 20%        |
| Preparation-Having <b>all</b> materials needed for class | 10%        |
| Final Project                                            | 10%        |
|                                                          |            |

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Attendance Policy / Participation

- **Attendance and punctuality are expected for every class.**
- Attendance will be taken at every class.
- Your presence is vital for participation in varied learning activities and small group work.
- You are allowed one unexcused absence.
- Additional absences may affect your grade.
- Late arrivals or early departures may be counted as absences.

- **If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from classmates and submit assignments on time.**
- In fairness to others in the class, 3 absences equals failing the course.

#### Crit Days:

Assignments (and studies) should be pinned up and ready for discussion at the beginning of class. If it is not, it will be considered late. Each week late counts for 25 points off the grade for that assignment. I expect a high level of effort for each assignment. It is important to sketch, make studies, tests before completing ambitious drawings. Homework should take 4-6 hours a week.

Work Days: We will meet promptly on time on work days where I will take attendance before leaving. We will be working indoors and outdoors so bring all weather appropriate clothing, sunscreen and bug spray as we will be facing the elements. These days I will be guiding projects and coming around to give each of you to give individual feedback with the project. Make sure you come to class prepared with all the materials listed below.

#### Attendance and Late Penalties

- If you are sick **you must bring a doctors note**
- Over 2 absences are grounds for failure. Each unexcused absence drops your grade 10 points
- 2 late arrivals/tardies equal one absence (leaving to get something counts as a tardy)

#### Cleanliness:

Please always cover the floor and walls with plastic drop cloths when doing messy projects indoors

## TITLE IX MANDATE

While at some point you may feel comfortable in sharing any personal incidents of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment (i.e. stalking, domestic violence) with me, please understand in advance that the law requires that I report such incidents to the College. Since I cannot hold such information confidentially, I instead recommend that you seek assistance at the Counseling Center or Health Services where employees hold legal confidentiality. They can advise you privately on possible next steps and appropriate resources. The Counseling Center can be reached at: (914) 251-6390; you can also find more information at [www.purchase.edu/counselingcenter](http://www.purchase.edu/counselingcenter). Health Services can be reached at: (914) 251-6380.

## DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES

Students with documented physical, learning, psychological and other disabilities are entitled to receive reasonable accommodations. If a student needs accommodations, he or she must first register with the Office of Special Student Services; please call 914-251-6390 or email [accommodations@purchase.edu](mailto:accommodations@purchase.edu).

You can find a description of special student services provided by the Counseling Center at:

<http://www.purchase.edu/Departments/SpecialStudentServices/>

Moodle is ADA compliant; you can find the accessibility at:

[http://docs.moodle.org/dev/Moodle\\_Accessibility\\_Specification](http://docs.moodle.org/dev/Moodle_Accessibility_Specification)

#### Your Purchase Email Account:

*Regular use of your Purchase email account is required*, so you please check your e-mail regularly. You must keep your e-mail account active and make sure there is room for incoming messages. Not checking your e-mail regularly and messages not received because your mailbox is full are not excuses for being ignorant of materials and assignments sent by e-mail.

Go to <http://studentservices.purchase.edu/> to activate your account.

## Moodle:

- An on-line course management system called Moodle will be used for assignments, announcements, and learning resources used in this course.
- All students are required to participate in the Moodle assignments; it will be assumed that all announcements on this site have reached you, so be sure to check it frequently.
- Go to [www.purchase.edu/studenttutorial](http://www.purchase.edu/studenttutorial) and review the Moodle tutorial, designed to help you become familiar with how to use Moodle.
- To access your course in Moodle, first set up your Purchase email account if you have not done so already; log in with your Purchase username and password at <http://moodle.purchase.edu>; (do not put "@purchase.edu"). Your course will appear on the left side of the page under "My Courses."
- Set up your profile: "Profile" button from the Administration box on the left side of our class page; select the "edit profile" tab at the top, upload a profile image, which is very important for our online community; you can also add other biographical and personal info about yourself and personalize course tracking features.
- For technical/email assistance, CTS: (914) 251-6465 or [Helpdesk@purchase.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@purchase.edu).
- For Moodle specific questions, email [TLTC@purchase.edu](mailto:TLTC@purchase.edu).

## CLASS SCHEDULE

| DATE                                    | TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | DUE ON THIS DATE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Day1<br>Monday June 9 <sup>th</sup>     | Into to Syllabus<br>Slide lecture: Form in Nature<br>Charles Darwin, Ernst Haeckel, Louise Bourgeois<br>1. We will all go outside to find one object to draw from inside on a large sheet of Charcoal paper (provided in class)                           | HW:<br>1. Decide your topic of focus<br><br>1. Make 6 observational drawings of individual nature objects in space. Each one should be at least 16 X 20 inches<br><br>1. Bring extra soft vine charcoal, 16 X 20 inch charcoal pad with white paper or equivalent, Clipboard, |
| Day2<br>Wednesday June 11 <sup>th</sup> | Work in class                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Have all materials:<br>Bring extra soft vine charcoal, 16 X 20 inch charcoal pad with white paper or equivalent, erasers, Clipboard                                                                                                                                           |
| Day 3<br>Monday June 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Crit day/ Slide lecture on Negative and positive space:<br>Georges Seuratt, David Hockney, Dawn Clements<br><br>We will work outdoors from observation using charcoal focusing mainly on shapes in negative space first and adding positive space in last | Due: 6 observational drawings of individual nature objects in space. Each one should be at least 16 X 20 inches                                                                                                                                                               |

|                                        |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Day4<br>Wednesday<br>June 18th         | Work in class: theme negative/ positive space                                                                                         | HW: 6 observational drawings of spaces in nature objects in space. Each one should be at least 16 X 20 inches                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Day5<br>Monday June 23rd               | Lecture: Perspective<br>Da Vinci, Vermeer, Gerogia Okeefe, James Castle, Vija Celmins                                                 | Due: 6 observational drawings of spaces in nature objects in space. Each one should be at least 16 X 20 inches                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Day 6<br>Wednesday<br>June 25th        | Work in class: Perspective                                                                                                            | HW:<br>Slide Presentations Due<br>What's your specific area of focus pertaining to Nature for your final? See topic list for ideas<br>Students will give 5 minute slide presentations on their topic of choice showing 15 photos they have taken of their topic                                                                                                                                              |
| Day 7<br>Monday<br>June 30th           | Slide Presentations due: What's your Topic/ specific area of focus pertaining to Nature<br><br>Work in class: Zoom in/ Foreshortening | Due: Slide Presentations Due<br>Students will give 5 minute slide presentations on their topic of choice showing 15 photos they have taken of their topic, and at least 2 physical objects that have evidence of the subject. (example: if your subject is fear or insects you may bring in an insect chewed log, if your subject is sky you may bring binoculars, or a mirror etc...think outside the box!) |
| Day 8<br>Wednesday<br>July 2nd         | Slide Presentations (second half of class)<br>Work in class: Zoom in/ Foreshortening                                                  | Due next week:<br>Perspective Drawings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Day9<br>Monday July 7th                | Work in class: Your Topic of choice                                                                                                   | Make 6 drawings pertaining to exploring your topic from one vantage point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Day10<br>Monday<br>July 14th           | Crit:<br>Work in class: on Final (be ready with at least 3 ideas)                                                                     | Due: Make 6 drawings pertaining to exploring your topic from one vantage point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Day 12:Wednesday<br>July 16th          | Work in class: Final                                                                                                                  | Final Project: Using the topic you presented as your prompt- activate at least 6X 8 feet of wall space using your area of focus and drawing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Day 13:Monday<br>July 21 <sup>st</sup> | Work in class: Final                                                                                                                  | Final Project: Using the topic you presented as your prompt- activate at least 6X 8 feet of wall space using your area of focus and drawing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

|                                   |                    |                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                   |                    |                                                                                                                                             |
| Day 14:<br>Wednesday<br>July 23rd | Due: Final Project | Final Project: Using the topic you presented as your prompt- activate at least 6X 8 feet of wall space using your area of focus and drawing |
|                                   |                    |                                                                                                                                             |
|                                   |                    |                                                                                                                                             |

***NOTE: Syllabus and course schedule are subject to change.***

### **Drawing Materials Needed:**

4h, 2b, 4b, 8b graphite pencils  
 3 erasers (2 kneaded erasers and 1 white Staedtler plastic eraser)  
 walnut ink  
 watercolor brushes at least 4 varying sizes (Princeton Synthetic Brush packs are Great + one 3 inch wash brush)  
 flower palette  
 large water cup (ex. large yogurt sized cup) for water  
 23" x 36" clipboard for drawing  
 white Artist's Tape (not Blue), 1" wide  
 extra soft vine charcoal  
 compressed charcoal  
 chamois  
 pencil sharpeners  
 acetate (for stencils)  
 x-acto knives  
 spray fixative  
 push pins  
 a paper portfolio large enough to contain 20" x 30" artwork  
 16 x 20 or 14 X 17inch wet media pad  
 11 x14 inch Drawing pad (Strathmore Brand, 400 Series)  
 1 notebook/sketchbook to write ideas and notes/ jot down artist's names  
 a metal yardstick with measurements on it (clean/new)  
 60 inch Tube (for storage)  
 Glassine Roll (Borden and Riley) 60 inches for storing artwork (take good care of your work)  
 Combination Lock for your locker  
 20 X 30 inch Stonehendge paper (may be provided)

(you may only use water-soluble wet media in this class: walnut ink, india ink, watercolor, gouache. Never acrylic, or oil. It is not allowed in our classroom.)

Choose a Nature related Topic to study:

You will present this topic in a lecture and use it as the subject of your work for your final  
Try and be specific

Choose one area that is your own Focus: that you will use as the topic/lens for your own projects in class:

Power  
Ugliness  
The Sublime  
Insects  
Fauna  
Plants  
Sticks  
Mushrooms  
Geology  
The unknown  
surfaces  
pine cones  
sand  
dirt  
violence  
fiction  
gaps  
cracks  
Drips  
Holes  
Circles  
Squares  
Amorphous shapes  
Dots  
human remains  
bones  
holes  
parasites  
microscopic  
thin  
dead  
alive  
trees  
forests  
tangles  
webs  
eggs  
birds  
grasses  
texture  
underneath  
decay  
houses (non man-made)  
nests  
cocoons  
balance  
rodents  
ferns  
water  
weather  
Inside  
hidden

Underneath  
As far as the eye can see  
below  
above  
bees  
clover  
fiction  
creepy  
slimey  
mysterious  
dream like  
surreal  
horror  
open spaces  
quiet  
silence  
reflections  
puddles  
lakes  
clouds  
fish  
horizons  
tree stumps  
urban nature  
light  
the sun  
dusk  
night  
stars  
flowers  
fog  
streams  
hidden spaces  
erosion  
mountains  
the ocean  
the sky