

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Florence
Course Title: Florence Sketchbook
Course Code: FL/ARTS 266
Total Hours: 90
Recommended Credits: 3
Primary Discipline: Studio Art
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: None



Description

This course promotes an in-depth understanding of the wealth of visual art available in Florence by drawing in traditional sketchbook form. Working directly from observation in the museums and the environments of the two cities, the student enjoys a protracted experience with individual works of art and architecture. A variety of drawing techniques and basic concepts of proportion, measurement, line quality and tonal rendering are taught so that skill and understanding of form are developed. As technical progress is attained, the course moves towards the development of personal vision regarding interest and subject matter; the sketchbook takes on the character of a visual diary. Students learn to observe and translate what they see in a free and spontaneous way. The course culminates with the presentation of individual final projects that are based on the sketchbook research done during the semester.

This is a studio art course. This course meets for a total of 90 contact hours.

Objectives

The course aims use the information available in Florence *in situ*, thereby allowing students to gain first-hand knowledge from original works. The objective of the course is to create a professional quality sketchbook that can be used as resource material and that has the personal imprint of the individual character of each student.

By the end of the course, the student has:

- An enhanced awareness of quality in visual art and an increased capacity to distinguish the difference between great, good and bad art.
- A more refined analytical sense that enables the student to see how the various parts of a work unite in a complete expressive whole.
- An improved critical sense regarding the art of the past in a contemporary context.
- An improved practical application of techniques

Course Requirements

This is an active studio course. The course of study is based, in part, on *in situ* drawing, utilizing basic drawing techniques gleaned from various texts. It is designed to be attractive to art and non-art majors, and

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especially informative for history of art students who wish to enrich their knowledge of the formal processes of visual art. Students are guided through each phase of the material. The course appeals to the analytical capabilities of the individual rather than the necessity for intuitive thought and innate artistic talent. It requires attention, diligence and a conscientious application of the material covered for its successful completion.

Students engage in periodic group critiques during which they share ideas about their progress. At the midterm and final parts of the term, they also have individual meetings with the instructor to present a portfolio and assess progress and achievement. During these meetings, the student is expected to present a cohesive body of work that reflects each facet of study and be able to verbalize his/her accomplishments and areas in need of improvement in a mature and objective manner.

Students are expected to use the methodology as it is presented to the best of their ability, and apply it with integrity. Since every session is a new encounter with technical and conceptual concerns, patience, maturity and a realistic overview regarding accomplishment are indispensable.

No previous experience for this course is necessary.

Methods of Evaluation

Each lesson will be dedicated to visiting and drawing in various museums, gardens and environments in the Florence and working "en plein air" on certain concepts and themes. Students will be urged to participate in interactive discussions. Students are expected to develop a high quality sketchbook that demonstrates an active participation. Evaluation is based on an ongoing assessment of the qualitative and quantitative nature of their work and the presentation of a final project (drawing) based on their individual research. General reviews are given at midterm and conclusion of the semester. An "A" grade represents not only knowledge of material use, but the ability to put into high relief an element of self initiative and theoretical development.

The final grade is determined as follows:

Sketchbook - museum and <i>in situ</i> drawing	70%
Final project presentation	30%

Primary Texts

Course Reader with excerpts from the following texts:

William Berry, *Drawing the Human Form*, New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co.

Bernard Chaet, *An Artists Notebook*, Arthur A. Levine Books.

Max Doerner, *The Artists Materials*, First Harvest.

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Outline of Course Content

Note: This course is divided into six major topics. This equals 2 to 3 weeks per section during the fall/spring, and 1 to 2 weeks per section during the summer when class sessions are longer and more frequent.

TOPIC 1 – Introduction to the course format and objectives. On site drawing as a method. Its characteristics, limitations and scope.

TOPIC 2 – Methods of drawing from observation. The measurement of angles and proportion of the parts to the whole of various geometric configurations. Simplifying form through the use of basic geometric constructions.

TOPIC 3 – Methods of drawing from concept. Form drawing based on preconceived geometrical configurations. Logical and illogical light sources.

TOPIC 4 – The human figure as researched through drawing from sculpture. Applying the already existing artist's synthesis as opposed to direct observation of nature.

TOPIC 5 – Grounds and instruments. Tinted paper and prepared surfaces. Pencil, pen and brush. Mixed techniques

TOPIC 6 – Observation and the development of conceptual and thematic considerations. Copy work and personal imagery.