

Drawing Studio

ART 2353C

Tuesday/Thursday

Periods 8-10 (3:00pm-6:00pm)

Location: FAD 101

Academic Term: Spring 2026

Instructor:

Nicholas Phitides (he/him)

Office Hours

By appointment via zoom or in-person

Nphitides@ufl.edu



Course Description

This course is designed for the development of drawing, design, philosophical and critical skills for making observational and expressive works in drawing media.

Learning Objectives

Through individual and collaborative projects, exercises and sketchbook research, students participating in this class will be able to:

- Accurately represent perceptions in 2D format
- Make informed choices in representation to promote the communication of content
- Apply knowledge of historic and contemporary sources in the development of content
- Use drawing and design skills to visually communicate abstract concepts
- Make informed choices in drawing tools and materials
- Apply a visual vocabulary of marks to achieve expressive outcomes
- Embody in critique uses of representation and translation through historic and contemporary precedents
- Describe one's own philosophy of drawing
- Critique works based on technical, aesthetic, and philosophical considerations
- Be conversant in the embeddedness of drawing in all art practices

Skill Sets

- Develop a full range of drawing skills and vocabulary of mark-making
- Accurate perceptual drawing
- Develop a thematic body of drawings
- Knowledge and application of 2D design principles
- Able to make informed choices and drawing tools and materials
- Develop critical vocabulary and research skills
- Develop understanding of the relationship between the history of art and contemporary art practice

Drawing Studio, ART 2353C

Nicholas Phitides, Spring 2026

Major Topics

- Elements of Drawing : line, shape, volume, value, space, texture, composition
- Principles of Art : balance, proportion, rhythm, emphasis and unity
- Drawing Practices : contemporary, historical
- Philosophies of Drawing
- Drawing Media : traditional, contemporary technologies
- Critical Conversations about Drawing

Required Textbooks and Software

Course reading materials will be available on E-learning or distributed in the studio. No textbook is to be purchased.

Quantity, Materials

1-2, 18 X 24 Strathmore Drawing Pad -white	1, large Kneaded Eraser
1, 18 X 24 Newsprint Pad	1, Tri-eraser w/refill
5 sheets, 22 x 30" Stonehenge Paper- White	1, large Art gum eraser
(optional) 1-2 sheets, 30 X 40" Stonehenge Paper – White	1, Artist Tape 1/2"
2 packs, Compressed Charcoal	1, X-acto knife and blade refill
2 packs, Vine Charcoal - Soft	1, Long Metal Ruler
1 pack, Vine Charcoal - Medium	1, Workable Spray Fixative
1 pack, Vine Charcoal – Hard	1, Pencil Sharpener
1 medium Charcoal Pencil	4-6, large bull clips
1 pack, Stick of Alpha Color – White	1, Portfolio for Transporting/Storing Drawings (24 x 36" or larger)
1 pack, Alpha Color Conte Crayon, Sepia	1, Box for drawing materials
1, Faber 12 Pencil Kit	
1, Black China Marker	Optional:
1, Water soluble Sketch Pencil 4b	Any other drawing media you would like to experiment with in some of the open sketchbook assignments.
1, Pelikan India Ink	
1, #4 Bamboo Brush	A Tube for transporting and storing 30" or larger drawings
1, medium Tortillions 5/16"	
1, Ball point pen	
1, Ebony Pencil	

Supplies may be purchased at:

- DickBlick : Online Art Supplier: <https://www.dickblick.com/>
- Michaels: 3644 SW Archer Rd, Gainesville, FL 32608, <https://www.michaels.com/>
- Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/>
- Jerry's Artarama : Online Art Supplier: <http://www.jerrysartarama.com/>
- Utrecht: Online Art Supplier: <https://www.utrechtart.com/>
- SoMa Art Media Hub: 435 S Main St, Gainesville, FL 32601

Evaluation

Work completed in Drawing Studio will be graded on specific criteria defined by individual project goals. However, all projects will be graded on their success in the following areas: **concept development, excellent design decisions,**

craftsmanship, risk-taking, experimentation, ambition, and meeting deadlines. These same guidelines apply to the sketchbook which must be finished within the specified deadlines.

The course grade for each student will be evaluated on the basis of:

- The completion and success of all in class and out of class exercises and drawings
- Completion of all assigned readings and discussions
- Attendance
- Participation in all assigned activities
- Research – the conceptual tools you employ to inform your practice
- Technical competence, craft, and inventive use of materials
- Presentation – all work should be presented in a finished and professional manner
- Effort, hard work, and a diligent, consistent effort toward excellence ● Active participation and discussion

75% Projects and Assignments

60%	In class exercises and drawings
15%	<p>Final Portfolio - High quality, well cropped and well labeled photographs of all drawing projects are expected in addition to submission of actual drawings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classes will include exercises and/or work on more developed drawings that may occur over several class periods. ● Final Portfolio consists of 8 drawing projects. High quality photographs, no smaller than 1920 x 1920 pixels, and labeled (StudentLastName_Draw1_.jpg) will also be submitted on canvas

15% Sketchbook

15%	Sketchbook – Homework projects and individual artist research on contemporary drawing are due weekly at the beginning of class. Weekly exercises will be posted on e-learning/canvas.
-----	---

10% Participation

10%	Participation includes attendance, arriving at the studio on time, ready to work, with materials, studio clean up, following health and safety guidelines, and active participation in critiques and class discussions. *Participation grades will be determined and submitted on canvas at midterm and then once more at the end of the semester.
-----	--

Grading Policy

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Grade Point	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0

%	100-94	93-90	89-87	86-84	83-80	79-77	76-74	73-70	69-67	66-64	63-60	59>
---	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-----

Specific criteria for grading includes: **adherence to the assignment parameters, research/studio practice, concept development, formal resolution, and craft/presentation.** Late projects will not be accepted.

A: Excellent – Extremely well-presented exceptional work. Excellent work demonstrates a full realization of the project, and goes the extra mile. This ‘extra’ should be the student researching projects by looking up artists mentioned in lectures, 1:1 conversations, and critiques. Going above and beyond resembles the characteristics of enthusiasm in the subject, curiosity, , and a desire to learn and grow as an artist.

A-/B+: Very Good – Very fine work, almost superlative. Goes beyond merely solving the problems and shows the students understanding of the assignment and skills.

B: Above average work – Well-presented work. Work demonstrates a sound and competent realization of the ideas put forth in each assignment. This work conveys an understanding and intelligence, which would only be lacking in the ‘special’ characteristics mentioned in ‘A’, above. Participation in critique, attendance, and enthusiasm apply throughout.

B-/C+: Satisfactory – A bit above average. Slipping in levels of originality, craft, and presentation. The works do not succeed as unified wholes or statements, yet effort was made.

C: Needs improvement – Well-presented, average work. Average work meets basic objectives and expectations of the project or assignment with some creativity and technical competence. Average work lacks a competent, comprehensive understanding and craftsmanship could be further nurtured.

C-/D+: Unsatisfactory – Problems are addressed but there is much room for improving skills and further developing concepts. Basic craftsmanship skills and depth of idea development are neglected and appear careless.

D: Below-average work – Extremely poor and/or half-finished work with no care or attention to the assigned problem or presentation.

F: Inadequate work – When one stops attending class and stops communicating with the instructor. This is a severe grade and is usually given in severe circumstances.

For more information: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> Students must earn a grade higher than C- to earn credit toward their major.

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

As a studio course your attendance and active participation is required. Studio courses require intensive work and diligence, therefore you are expected to attend all classes. Attendance is not just about being physically present; active participation in studio days, class discussions, and critiques are equally important. You are required to work/participate the duration of the scheduled class period/ Late arrivals and leaving early will be marked. Attendance is not just a requirement; it is an investment in the development of individual skills and the overall success of the class.

Studio Day Policy

Studio Days are opportunities for students to have in class work time on projects. Attendance on these studio days will be required, as regular attendance is essential and ensures that students have the opportunity to engage in a collaborative studio environment, receive immediate feedback through 1:1 conversations, benefit from hands-on experiences, and participate in discussions. This attendance policy is designed to create a positive and supportive studio environment while acknowledging the importance of consistent participation. If this policy requires revision, changes will be communicated to the students in advance by the instructor.

Late/Make-up Work

All projects, reading responses, and research projects must be completed on time for full credit. Due dates are announced in class and posted on canvas.

- Late work is not accepted (unless with prior approval from the instructor due to an excused absence).
- If the timeline states that a project is due at the beginning of class, turning it in at the end or after class is considered late
- You must have work finished before the start of class on critique days or your work will not be critiqued.
- It is the student's responsibility to turn in all work on time.

Cell phones and other devices

Silence all devices before entering the classroom. Students may use headphones during studio work days only.

Communication

Communication is a demonstration of responsibility and commitment. If you are experiencing challenges whether they are personal, health-related, or related to the course material, communicate with the instructor for possible accommodations and additional support. Communication opportunities are available via email, in class, or during office hours. Additionally, students are responsible for regularly checking their school email accounts and E-Learning course site for any information, deadlines, or updates. The instructor will be prompt in any communications with students, responding within a 24 hour period.

Hazardous Waste Satellite Accumulation

Each student will be asked to complete a H&S student waiver form (which will be given to you and signed during studio). SA+AH facilities have an area designated for art materials/hazardous waste pickup. This area should NOT be used for art making. Bins and storage containers utilized in this area should NEVER be moved or used for any other purpose. When in doubt about the safety or disposal of your art materials, please speak with faculty. A Handbook of Hazardous Wastes Disposal, Health and Safety is posted in the studio for consultation as well.

Lockers and Storage

The SAAH is not responsible for items in lockers. Please watch for posted signs on lockers regarding their use.

Each student must share a locker with three students. You are responsible for keeping the locker form attached AT ALL TIMES to your lockers. Lockers will be cleaned out at the end of each semester. When storing materials, you must write your name on everything with a black marker, the course you are in and the instructor's name. The SAAH is not responsible for items left in classrooms.

Studio Use

Please read and respect studio use guidelines posted in classrooms. Do not pour solvents down sinks. Fixative must be sprayed in the FAC 2nd Floor spray booth * NO exceptions.* Each student is responsible for assisting in studio clean-up. Your instructor will assign you a duty at the end of each class. The classroom should be organized at the end of each class 10 minutes prior to the beginning of the next class with the help of all students enrolled in the course. No food or open drink containers are allowed in the studio.

Shared Studio

Always leave the studio clean. Regardless of the condition you find it in, we request that you leave it clean for the next person. Remember to place all work in progress on the storage shelves. Leave the work tables clear and clean. This is a shared workspace, and we all need to be diligent together to keep it an immaculate and productive environment. Clean-up throughout the duration of the course and at the end of the semester will factor into participation for the course.

University Academic Policies and Resources

All links to UF Academic Policies and Campus Resources can be found at:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Course Schedule (tentative)

E-learning/Canvas: will include announcements, weekly calendar and due dates, topics of the week, projects/sketchbook assignments, course materials/readings, office hours/class zoom link.

WEEK #1 January T/13 & R/15	Introduction. Review class syllabus. In-Class Drawing: 30-minute drawing, Still Life Sketchbook #1: Visual Chronicles
WEEK #2 January T/20 & R/22	In Class Drawing: Gesture, Contour, Cross Contour, Positive and Negative shapes Sketchbook #2: Line, Mass and Scribble Gesture
WEEK #3 January T/27 & R/29	Portfolio Drawing#1: Cross Contour Tree Sketchbook #3: Line, Mass, Contour and Scribble Gesture
WEEK #4 February T/3 & R/5	Critique: Cross Contour Tree In Class Drawing: Analyzing positive and negative space Sketchbook #4: Value Scales (1 charcoal, 1 in graphite)
WEEK #5 February T/10 & R/12	In Class Drawing: Glass and Fabric/ charcoal toned paper and other exercises Sketchbook #5: Out of Class Drawing; Composition/thumbnailed sketches/using a viewfinder
WEEK #6 February T/17 & W/19	In Class Drawing: Perspective Portfolio Drawing #2: Perspective: Outdoor Courtyard (in class and homework) Sketchbook #6: Experimenting with linear perspective
WEEK #7 February T/24 & R/26	Critique: Perspective In Class Drawing: Exploring Surface, Texture, Materiality Sketchbook #7: Texture and Light
WEEK #8 March T/3 & R/5	In Class Drawing Portfolio Drawing #3: Value, Texture, Light (Fur and Bone Drawings)
WEEK #9 March T/10 & R/12	Critique: Fur and Bone Drawings In Class Drawing: Diagonal Energy Still Life and other exercises Begin research on artists list for final exploring the series project
SPRING BREAK	
WEEK #10 March T/24 & R/26	Portfolio Drawing #4: Illuminated Self Portrait Sketchbook #8: studies on body & facial features
WEEK #11 March T/31 & April R/2	Critique: Illuminated Self Portrait In Class Drawing: ink paper bags/atmospheric perspective Portfolio Drawing #5: Dynamic Tension/Atmospheric Perspective- The Jungle Drawing/Sketchbook #9

WEEK #12 April T/7 & R/9	In Class Drawing: The Jungle Critique: The Jungle Begin Portfolio Drawing #6-8: Approaching the Series (in-class and homework)
WEEK #13 April T/14 & R/16	Portfolio Drawing #6-8: Approaching the Series (in-class and homework) DUE M/13: Sketchbook #8: Research for final series project
WEEK #14 April T/21 & R/23	Portfolio Drawing #6-8: Approaching the Series (in-class and homework) Critique: Exploring The Series Mandatory Clean-up
WEEK #15 FINALS WEEK April T/28	All final work and portfolio PDF uploads are due on canvas (due dates on e-learning)