



**EAST TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY

## **ART 316, ADVANCED DRAWING**

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

Tues/Thurs: 2:00 PM – 4:50 AM

Location: ART 201

**Instructor:** Brandon J. Hudson, MFA

**Office Location:** Wathena Temple Fine Art 221

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Office Phone:** 903-886-5450

**University Email Address:** [brandon.hudson@etamu.edu](mailto:brandon.hudson@etamu.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** within 48 hours

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Course Description**

“Making your unknown known is the important thing...” – Georgia O’Keefe

Advanced Drawing is designed to promote a self-motivated course of studio research in an open studio environment. We’ll examine your personal approaches in drawing, emphasize making visual and artistic decisions and developing a personal attitude towards visual expression. Guided by an understanding of content and form relationships, we will strive to move beyond the illustrative impulse towards new personal modes of representation.

In this course, you will have the opportunity to expand, experiment and build upon your existing drawing skills, strengthen the conceptual lines that thread throughout your work, and develop your experience regarding professional practices. Major components of this course include studio work, rigorous and enthusiastic use of a research sketchbook, applications to art opportunities, and multiple variations of artist statement writing. We will also explore the many historical and contemporary ways that other artists have explored and defined the medium of drawing while we investigate our own studio trajectories.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Philosophy of Artmaking through Drawing:**

*Students should be able to use drawing as a means (and foundation) to explore ideas and to develop a “voice”. This will be achieved not simply by creating assignments where students learn to develop rendered images from observations, but from creating opportunities and strategies for students to see the development of work that reflects their individual ideas and the facility and familiarity with materials and techniques that best express their thinking. There should be a developing understanding, as the students progress through the drawing courses, of the ways in which artists project and evolve a personal point of view through the various choices each artist makes in the quality of their marks, materials used, what is included and omitted from an image, placement within a composition, etc.*

## **Class Objectives**

- Ideate. Share. Create. Reflect. Repeat.
- Form a Cohort. Maintain an active learning environment with your Cohort, a peer to peer sharing, learning and support group. Share some personal details of your day or week, a general check in from each member. Discuss questions and observations about each other’s projects. Something you've learned from a reading, movie, project, a conversation, etc. that you want to share with your group. Your cohort will stay with you throughout the class. 3-4 people per Cohort.
- Keep a Journal/Sketchbook. Bring it every class and use it for sketching and writing. It will contain your story which will chronicle your processes, questions, conclusions, quotes and ideas. Your sketchbook will be a space for self-reflection over our many weeks together.
- Make Stuff. It is expected that you make more than one drawing per Project. Making 2-3 drawings developed from the same investigation becomes a “body” of work that can be discussed more thoroughly.
- Critique. Possess a willingness to discuss your process, as this is the best way to get to the conceptual premises of the work. This is a class that will emphasize the development of an individual language, an expansion of the materials and language of drawing, and an understanding of each student’s aesthetic development and implementation. The best way to achieve this goal is through critique.
- Your Cohort and group discussions will continue to grow deeper and richer with daily practice. Writing and sketching in your journal each class will further your personal awareness of your energies and artwork.

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# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## Attendance and Participation:

- Attending class and critiques is required. Even though this is an advanced study and numerous class days will be spent working individually on assignments, students cannot expect a satisfactory evaluation unless they attend class, and meet project and critique deadlines.
- It's likely that the majority of lecturing and instruction to the group will occur at sporadic times during the class periods, so tardiness or leaving early or taking long breaks will cause the student to miss out on relevant conversation and explanation.
- The majority of class will be filled with students working on projects and the instructor giving individual feedback as needed.
- If students are not present, and/or on time, students will be assigned an absence. Beginning with the second unexcused absence, your final grade will be lowered by one letter grade per absence, More than four absences will result in failure to meet the course objectives.
- We will be working together in the classroom. Make sure that you are on track between critiques.

## Materials

Textbooks: There is no mandatory textbook, but supplementary readings will be assigned throughout the semester.

Art Materials: You will be provided with some basic materials like paper and some drawing media, but it will be up to you to get additional materials, depending on the direction your projects go. See the list provided of recommended supplies.

## Evaluations:

- Due to the advanced nature of this course, students are expected to produce work of an advanced nature.
- Technical ability and content will both be factors in determining a grade for each project.
- During the semester progress will be determined by a number of class critiques. The critique evaluations will be based on participation and accomplishments.
- There will be a final evaluation of each student, and it will be determined by a final portfolio of the best works you make from the class. The instructor, in the presence of the student, will do this evaluation on an individual basis.

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- My plan and hope is to have you present one of your finished works in a group exhibition in one of the Art Department's galleries, and possibly in a gallery space outside of the school.

Specifically, all assignments are evaluated and considered under the basis of:

- How well you grasp the concept of the assignment.
  - The depth of your involvement in the assignment, as seen in your work (energy and concentration).
  - The amount of time and effort devoted to the work, as seen in your finished project (caring).
  - Skill and style development (craft and technique).
  - The aesthetic quality of the assignment.
  - Conceptual and expressive development (visual intelligence, power of perception and creative sensitivity).
  - **Improvement.**
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## **Grading System:**

Late work is not accepted and will result in the loss of that percentage of the final course grade.

The work in this course is categorized in the following way:

**Mini Assignments** – work you do mostly in class from prompts I provide to help come up with new ideas and experimentation

**Sketchbook Checks** – graded several times to see your progression & development of ideas, your research, exploration, notes, and brainstormings.

**Main Projects** – you will have 3 critiques of your main projects where you will work on your own themes/concepts and go about it in different ways with sketches/research to support your finished work. The 3 projects can relate to each other, or be 3 different ideas you want to try. The media you use for these can be open to going beyond drawings on paper with support of your ideas/research and discussed with me.

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## **CRITIQUES**

In addition to completing actual artworks/drawings, you will begin to develop a critical voice about your own work and the work of others. We will critique assignments periodically, with shorter projects having shorter critiques. Attendance and participation during critiques is essential. Learning to speak effectively about art will be a critical part of this course. Critiques will be carried out in a professional manner. Persons late for critique will receive a letter grade drop in their assignment. Even if an artwork is unfinished, it must be shown during critique.

## **CRITIQUE DECORUM**

*Critiques are an essential component of this studio course. We will overview critique procedures in class, as well as collaboratively develop guidelines for expectations and goals. Parties may be asked to leave critique if their participation does not meet the expectations or standards of decorum. Art is personal, and the need to discuss personal themes may arise, so as fellow artists we must be considerate and conscientious during critiques. In addition, the artist receiving the critique will be expected to use the advice and criticism. It is expected to keep a sketchbook/notebook during critiques to write and keep notes.*

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

**A** = Performance of the student has been at the highest level, showing sustained excellence in meeting all course requirements and exhibiting an unusual degree of intellectual initiative.

**B** = Performance of the student has been at a high level showing consistent and effective achievement in meeting course requirement.

**C** = Performance of the student has been at an adequate level, meeting the basic requirements of the course.

**D** = Performance of the student has been at less than adequate, meeting only the minimum course requirement.

**F** = Performance of the student has been such that minimal course requirements have not been met.

## **Assessments**

**Main Projects: 50%**

**Mini Assignments: 20%**

**Sketchbooks: 15%**

**Participation (Crits, Attendance and Cohorts): 15%**

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# COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

## Course Specific Procedures/Policies

**Due Dates:** All assignments, discussion, and projects are due at the beginning of class on the due date unless I express otherwise.

**Coursework:** All work must be completed during this semester for this course only.

**AI usage:** Although AI has valid and important contemporary uses, the use of AI in this course will not be permitted to complete coursework without the instructor's permission. Any use of AI should be discussed with the instructor in advance and will be determined on a case-by-case basis if there is an important rationale for its use to complete coursework. If AI is utilized without the instructor's express permission, it will be considered academic dishonesty.

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

Please contact me through email: [brandon.hudson@tamuc.edu](mailto:brandon.hudson@tamuc.edu)  
You may stop by my office at Wathena Fine Arts 221, but appointments are encouraged to make sure I'm there.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY AGREEMENT FORM

The Art Department's Health and Safety Handbook can be found at the following:  
[https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/department/art/documents/DOA\\_Health\\_Safety\\_Handbook.pdf](https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/department/art/documents/DOA_Health_Safety_Handbook.pdf)

All students enrolled in Art Courses need to read through the Handbook, specifically in the area their class is in (Drawing, Painting, Photo, Ceramics, Sculpture, Printmaking, Viscom), and submit their signature in the agreement form found at this link:  
<https://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/ArtLabPolicy>

This is required for all studio courses by the first week of class.

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance

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# UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

## Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook:

<https://www.etamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2024-2025-Student-Guidebook-1.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

## ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/13.99.99.R0.01ClassAttendance.pdf>

## Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

## Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: <https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services>

## Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

**Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 911.**

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

## **ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at ETAMU, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center

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events and confidential services, please visit <https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center>

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

SEE COURSE CALENDAR ON D2L PAGE

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