



East Texas A&M University

Drawing I - ART 1316 02E

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

T/R 8:00 am - 10:50 am

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mary Beth King

Office Location: ART 114

Office Hours: By appointment, before/after classes

University Email Address: Mary.King@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Usually within 24 hours(unless weekend)

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

ART 316 02E Drawing I

Hours: 3

The development of perceptual and descriptive skills through an introduction to a variety of drawing media, techniques and subject matter.

Drawing as an Expanded Field

Drawing I: Foundations of Drawing

Drawing I introduces students to the fundamental skills, methods, and visual principles used to translate observation into two-dimensional form. The course emphasizes learning to see carefully and developing the hand-eye coordination necessary to communicate what is observed with increasing accuracy and confidence. Through direct observation, students will investigate line, shape, proportion, value, light, texture, form, positive and negative space, perspective, and composition. Exercises and projects will progress from introductory contour and gesture studies to more sustained drawings involving complex forms, spatial relationships, and carefully observed subjects.

Students will work primarily from life using graphite, charcoal, ink, and other introductory drawing materials. Regular sketchbook practice will reinforce classroom instruction and encourage students to develop drawing as an ongoing method of observation, experimentation, and visual thinking. Historical and contemporary examples will introduce students to different approaches to drawing and demonstrate how artists have used fundamental drawing principles across periods, cultures, and artistic practices. Individual and group critiques will help students develop the vocabulary necessary to discuss their own work and thoughtfully evaluate the work of others. By the end of the course, students should possess a strong foundation in observational drawing, understand the basic formal relationships that create convincing images and spatial environments, and be prepared for more expressive, experimental, and conceptually driven work in Drawing II.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of Drawing I, students will be able to:

1. **Apply the fundamental elements of drawing**—including line, shape, value, texture, form, space, and composition—to create visually organized drawings.
2. **Draw observed subjects with increasing accuracy**, demonstrating an understanding of proportion, placement, spatial relationships, and comparative measurement.
3. **Use line intentionally** through contour, modified contour, cross-contour, gesture, and other approaches to describe edges, movement, volume, and form.
4. **Use value and light to create three-dimensional form**, demonstrating an understanding of value relationships, light logic, highlights, midtones, core shadows, reflected light, and cast shadows.
5. **Represent convincing spatial relationships** through overlapping, scale, placement, atmospheric and linear perspective, and one- and two-point perspective.
6. **Develop effective compositions** by considering the relationship between the subject, picture plane, positive and negative space, focal areas, balance, movement, and visual hierarchy.
7. **Demonstrate competency with foundational drawing materials and techniques**, including graphite, charcoal, ink, erasers, blending methods, and appropriate drawing surfaces.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT & RESPONSIBILITIES

Please contact me via email. I respond to messages and emails usually within 24 hours or the end of the following business Monday through Thursday. Please do not expect a response over the weekend, holidays or after 5pm. All grades will be fully updated and shared after Midterms and Finals.

The instructor values your time, growth and effort and does their best to complete grading promptly. If there is more time needed than normal, I will let you know as soon as possible about the delay. Students are encouraged to ask questions during class time and to reach out when needed. Please contact me via email to meet during office hours or at an additional time. Please reach out as soon as possible if you need assistance, additional support or resources during the semester. I am here to support you in the class and my goal is for every student to succeed in the course.

MyLeo/D2L & Announcement

Please make sure to regularly check the D2L course announcements and turn-on notifications for the course in myLEO/D2L. It is the students responsibility to stay up to date with the course online.

PROCESS & STUDIO TIME

- Every step in the life of each assignment is important and valuable. Discussion with the instructor, classmates, and other sources is expected throughout the production process.
- Some projects will not be completed during class hours. Students are expected to make full use of class time for active studio work and to work outside of class on drawings, sketchbooks, research, and preliminary work.
- On average, a minimum of **six hours per week** (one hour of outside work per every one hour of class time) will be necessary to successfully complete the course.
- Participation, engagement, and discussion with the instructor and peers are important and expected when reviewing artwork, techniques, processes, research, and progress.
- This course will focus primarily on the production and critique of a series of drawings, studies, and expanded drawing projects. Projects may vary significantly in subject matter, scale, materials, processes, and time required.
- Project requirements, format, materials, and estimated time span will be given at the outset of each new project.
- Students are encouraged to use the drawing studio outside of class time, with respect for other classes, students, and professors' schedules.

SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND TEXTBOOKS

Students are responsible for bringing all of the necessary materials to be prepared for work in class on scheduled days. **Attending class without the necessary supplies or prepared surfaces will be an unexcused absence.*

Textbooks, Readings & Viewings

There are no required textbooks for this course. All required readings/viewings will be shared via D2L/myLeo. Online readings and viewings for the course include selections from content on Art21, MoMA, ArtForum, etc.

Required Materials & Supplies

Please see attached list of required supplies for the course. Additional supplies will be required as needed to complete assignments based on your own project goals, ideas and methods.

COURSE CONTENT & PROFESSIONALISM

Please note that this is a studio art course where professional, global, and varying perspectives on art and humanity are reviewed, discussed, examined, and shared in a respectful environment. Course content and artwork may be challenging, unfamiliar, or outside of your personal experiences and perspectives. Students are expected to engage professionally, thoughtfully, and respectfully with a wide range of ideas, approaches, materials, and viewpoints.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Drawing Projects:

Students will complete a series of major drawing projects exploring drawing as an expanded field through a range of conceptual, formal, material, and process-based approaches. Projects may include 2D, 3D, 4D, site-specific, installation, experimental, observational, abstract, and non-objective drawing practices. Any material, tool, process, or method of mark-making may be used when appropriate to the project and concept.

Sketchbooks & Preliminary Work:

Sketchbooks include notes, drawings, thumbnail sketches, studies, brainstorming, research, experimentation, reference materials, and other preliminary work related to the development of assignments. Every step in the process is important and valuable, and students are expected to document and develop their ideas throughout the semester.

Artist & Exhibition Research:

Artist research is required throughout the semester and will be incorporated into major projects and preliminary work. Students will also attend and document **at least two exhibitions** during the semester and consider the relationship between their own work, contemporary drawing practices, and the broader field of art.

Midsemester & Final Portfolios:

Students will submit a **Midsemester Portfolio** and **Final Portfolio** documenting their work from

the course. Portfolios will include professionally photographed or documented completed drawings, along with selected preliminary work, research, and process materials. The Final Portfolio should demonstrate the development of the student's work and ideas throughout the semester.

Critiques & Participation:

Students are expected to actively participate in individual and group critiques. Critiques are an important part of the drawing process and provide opportunities to discuss work, process, research, conceptual development, materials, and presentation using appropriate art vocabulary and terminology.

Professionalism & Studio Practice:

Students are expected to come prepared to work in class with required materials, research, preliminary work, and supplies. Professionalism includes preparation, active studio participation, time management, care of materials and studio spaces, craftsmanship, presentation, constructive critique, and professional communication.

ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENTS

Assignments	Worth / %
Drawing Projects	60
Sketchbooks, Preliminary Work & Research	25
Exhibition Research #1 & #2	5
Digital Portfolios (Midterm and Final)	10
Total	100 points / 100%

CRITERIA & RUBRIC FOR DRAWINGS & MAJOR PROJECTS

Technique & Use of Media – 30%

Assignment Objectives & Conceptual Development – 40%

Participation, Effort & Process – 10%

Creativity, Experimentation & Risk-Taking – 10%

Craftsmanship, Presentation & Formatting – 10%

GRADING

You will receive a final letter grade for this course. Grades are based on assignments, portfolios, critiques, research, preliminary work, participation, attendance, effort, technical and conceptual development, experimentation, and improvement throughout the course. Keeping a sketchbook and practicing drawing and mark-making outside of class will be beneficial to your development.

All major projects must be presented for critique regardless of level of finish and submitted to the designated D2L assignment. **Projects that are not presented for the scheduled critique will receive a 50% grade deduction.** Critique and process are an important part of each project, and work will be evaluated based on the development of ideas, consistency of effort, quality and quantity of work, technical and conceptual development, experimentation, and engagement with the course.

Students are encouraged to take artistic risks, experiment with materials and processes, and explore new approaches to drawing.

FINAL GRADES

A = 90–100%

B = 80–89%

C = 70–79%

D = 60–69%

F = 59% or Below

GRADING SCALE

A—Excellent Work: All requirements have been met and many have been exceeded. Work demonstrates strong technical and conceptual development, thoughtful use of materials and processes, experimentation, and continued growth. Critical and conceptual understanding is demonstrated through studio participation, research, and critique.

B—Very Good Work: Course requirements have been met. Work demonstrates competence in technical skills, materials, processes, craftsmanship, and conceptual development, with thoughtful engagement in the course.

C—Average Work: Course requirements have been adequately fulfilled. Work demonstrates satisfactory technical and conceptual development and participation in critiques, midterms, and finals.

D—Poor Work: Course requirements have not been adequately fulfilled.

F—Failure: Course requirements have not been fulfilled and/or there has been insufficient participation, preparation, or completion of assigned work.

Critiques

In addition to making artwork, students will develop a critical voice in relation to their own work and the work of others. Critiques are an important part of the studio process and will provide opportunities to discuss ideas, materials, processes, conceptual development, and presentation.

Attendance and participation during critiques is required. Even if a work is unfinished, it must be presented during the scheduled critique. Work or students not present for a scheduled critique will receive the **50% grade deduction outlined in the grading policy**. Critiques may not be made up.

Critiques will be conducted in a professional and respectful manner. Students are expected to participate thoughtfully, discuss their own work, engage with the work of others, and use appropriate art vocabulary and terminology.

Late Work / Make-up Policy

Critiques are an essential part of the course. **Even if a work is unfinished, it must be presented during the scheduled critique.** If the work or student is not present for a scheduled critique, the maximum grade the student may receive for that project is **50%**.

Late work for major assignments may be submitted **within one week of the original due date** with a **10% deduction from the assignment grade per day late**, unless the student provides documentation of an acceptable mitigating circumstance. Please see the ETAMU and Department of Art attendance policies for information regarding excused absences.

Late work for non-major assignments, including studio work, plans, research, exhibition research, sketches, and other preliminary work, is generally not accepted. Because these assignments support the development of major projects, students are expected to complete them before moving on to the next stage of the project. Please reach out to the instructor as soon as possible if unexpected or extenuating circumstances arise during the course.

Optional Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may be offered to the entire class during the semester. These opportunities are optional and will not negatively affect a student's grade if they choose not to participate. The instructor will provide the same opportunities to all students, and extra credit is offered at the discretion of the instructor. Extra credit is not available for individual assignments or on an individual basis. Students who have engaged in academic dishonesty are not eligible for extra credit.

A total of **5 points of extra credit** may be earned toward the student's final course average.

Grade & Course Questions

Please stay in contact and keep up with the course in D2L. Please ask questions well before an assignment deadline whenever possible. If you have a question or concern about a grade, please contact the instructor to schedule an individual meeting within one week of receiving the grade. Grades cannot be discussed via email. Grades cannot be adjusted based on personal need or desire, and all grades are assigned according to the criteria and policies outlined in the syllabus.

Class Participation & Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is expected and required. Art is a practice-based discipline, and the learning process requires active and dedicated participation. Attendance is taken during each class session at the beginning of class and/or after break. Students are expected to be present for each class and for the entire class period.

Students will receive a letter grade deduction for their fourth absence, and each additional absence. Being tardy for class equals $\frac{1}{2}$ of an absence. If a student arrives after roll has been taken but within the first 30 minutes, they will be counted tardy. If a student arrives after the first 30 minutes of class, they will be counted absent. Two late arrivals equal one absence.

Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments will occur at the beginning of class and will not be repeated for students who arrive late or have an unexcused absence. If you are late to class, you will need to notify me by the end of the class period to replace an absence with a tardy. In-class assignments missed may only be made up with official documentation of an excused absence under ETAMU policy. Due to the nature of critiques, they may not be made up.

When a class is missed, it is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed and what is expected from classmates and D2L.

Administrative Drop Policy for Attendance

If a student has been absent for 40% or more of the course at the midterm/midpoint of the semester, they may receive an administrative drop from the course and will need to retake the class when they are better able to attend and successfully complete the course.

Studio Expectations, Safety & Policies

Students are expected to maintain a **clean, organized, safe, and respectful studio environment**. Follow all safety instructions for materials, tools, equipment, and processes, and ask the instructor before using unfamiliar equipment or hazardous materials.

Please do not dispose of paints, solvents, chemicals, adhesives, or other hazardous materials in sinks or regular trash. Use designated disposal containers and clean your workspace at the end of each class.

Wear appropriate clothing and protective equipment when necessary. No smoking, vaping, or eating is permitted in the studios. Drinks should be kept in closed, spill-proof containers and away from artwork and equipment.

Cell phones, headphones, and other personal devices should not interfere with class activities, demonstrations, discussions, critiques, or studio work. **Headphones may be used during independent studio work**, but should be removed during lectures, critiques, demonstrations, introductions, and class discussions.

Students are expected to contribute to a safe and productive studio environment and to care for shared spaces, equipment, and materials.

End-of-Semester Studio Clean-up

Students are required to attend and participate in the end-of semester studio clean up on the scheduled class date during class hours. Failure to attend and participate in final clean-up will result in a one-letter-grade drop in your final grade. In addition to contributing the clean-up and maintenance of the shared studio spaces, you are responsible for cleaning your work area, storage area, any checked out materials, and hazardous materials area. You are to remove all stored work and materials from both storage and your lockers before the end of the semester.

Final Day to Remove Work and Materials

The final day to remove any work or materials is the last day of Final Exams. Any artwork or materials left after this day cannot be stored for you and will be disposed of the following day.

Studio Storage & Lockers

It is suggested that students use a locker in the studios to store supplies. You will need to bring a combination lock and share the code with your instructor. There will be a drawer for larger flat works provided in the flat files in the 2D room may be used to store artworks currently being worked on, but students should be aware of the potential for damage, vandalism, and theft when storing work in public areas. Please do not leave materials out in the studios, and be aware of the potential for damage, theft, etc. Please take work home when completed as storage is limited.

AI Course Policy

Generative AI & Student Responsibility to Document Authorship

Generative AI is not permitted in this course for writing, artwork, or other course assignments unless specifically allowed in an individual assignment. When permitted, AI may be used only in the manner and for the purpose outlined in that assignment and may not replace the student's

original creative, conceptual, or technical work. Undocumented use of generative AI as original student work constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

All submitted work must be the student's own original work. Students are responsible for documenting their creative process and maintaining evidence of authorship throughout the semester. This is particularly important for digital, hybrid, experimental, and process-based work.

Students are expected to document the process and development of their work, particularly when working digitally or through processes that may be difficult to document after completion. Documentation may include sketches, studies, photographs, process documentation, digital files, layers, screen recordings, time-lapse recordings, or other evidence of development. Process documentation may be requested by the instructor at any point during the course.

Writing & Editing Tools

Students may use **Grammarly or similar AI-assisted software for final proofreading, revision, and editing only**. These tools may not generate or substantially rewrite student writing. Use of these tools should be documented and noted with the corresponding submission when applicable.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus and course schedule is subject to change with notice. Any changes will be announced via D2L.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you are having difficulties with the course material or content, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulties please contact the program technical support resource (ie Adobe or Brightspace) or the ETAMU Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L/Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.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

Students participating in sports or other University activities can be excused from the Departmental policy if they have made arrangements with the instructor to address missed class-work BEFORE the scheduled event. A schedule of the days they are planning to perform or play must be provided at the

beginning of the semester or at least a month before their first planned absence. Excessive absences may result in the student being administratively dropped from the course.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce 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:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.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

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/) <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce 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.

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 A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

ETAMU AI Use Statement

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.