

ART 1316.001 Drawing 1**Madison Branch, MFA – Instructor of Art****ARC170–Tue/Thurs 1:00PM-3:50PM****Spring 2026****Email: mbranch@uttyler.edu*****Classes begin Jan 12, 2026 and end May 2, 2026****Course Description**

This course is an introduction to drawing; students will become familiar with materials, general techniques, and methods used in drawing. Students will develop their skills of observation and learn how to effectively interpret three-dimensional information to paper. In this course students will be introduced to the concepts and media involved in contemporary drawing. Students will cultivate their vocabulary to participate in art critiques and conversations.

Course Expectations

The primary focus of Drawing I is the refinement of technical skills in observational drawing, using a variety of mediums. The instructor will introduce specific techniques and assignments, and students will present completed works during regularly scheduled critiques. Participation in critiques, completing works on time, and active discussion is expected of every student.

Students may expect to spend at least 5-6 hours per week working in the studio and drawing outside of class time in regularly scheduled sketchbook assignments.

Textbook

Drawing On The Right Side Of The Brain, Betty Edwards (NOT REQUIRED)

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Technical Proficiency- Students will be able to create technically proficient works of art.
2. Conceptual Proficiency- Students will be able to create technically proficient works of art.
3. Interpretation of Artworks-Students will be able to explain how formal or conceptual elements function in works of art.
4. Historical Context-The student will be able to contextualize works of art in relation to art history or contemporary practices.
5. Document Works-Students will be able to document works of art for the purpose of archiving, application, and presentation.
6. Disseminate Research-Students will be able to disseminate research through exhibition participation

Artificial Intelligence

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code.

Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased.

Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UTTyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, the use of AI is NOT permitted. Any use of AI will result in a ZERO for the offending assignment.

Attendance

Because this class requires daily participation, your attendance is vital. Three absences are allowed, excused or unexcused; each absence after three will result in a drop of the student's letter grade. ABSENCES ON DEMONSTRATION OR CRITIQUE DAYS ARE NOT ADVISED. Any work or information missed due to absence is the responsibility of the student. Critiques are especially important class dates; absences during critiques will result in the loss of one letter grade on the assignment being critiqued.

Punctuality is as important as attendance, and students must stay for the duration of the class. Students are expected to arrive early and be prepared for class by the scheduled start time. Arriving late or leaving class early will be counted against the student's attendance.

Students are encouraged to inform the professor prior to any scheduled absences, and to email/call the morning of any unexpected absence.

Absences

As required by SB 412, passed by the 88th Legislature in 2023, students who are parents* are to have excused absences for their children's medical issues, be allowed to make up missed assignments or assessments, have additional time to complete assignments as the institution allows for a student with a temporary medical condition, and provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for which the student has an excused absence. (*SB 412 defines students who are parents as students who are the caregiver for a child 18 and under.)

Student Absence for University Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Grading Criteria

Staying on task: Students are required to work in class every day, as well as work on assignments outside of the regularly scheduled class time.

- Understanding the concepts of each assignment 25 points
- Proper use of techniques/Craftsmanship 25 points
- Composition 25 points
- Presentation – participation in critique, neatness, timely completion, progress 25 points
- Total 100 points

Any late project will receive a zero. If you have an excused absence for the day a project is due, you may turn the project in on the FIRST DAY of your return along with the appropriate written documentation

Final Grade Criteria

- Completion of assigned projects (in class and homework) 70%
- Sketchbook/Vocabulary (averaged) 20%
- Portfolio 10%
- Total 100%

Numeric to Letter Grade Translation: 100 – 60% = A, 86 - 80% = B, 76 - 70% = C, 66 - 60% = D, 56 - 0% = F

For final grade assessment, students must turn in digital copies (via email or flash drive) of completed assignments to compose the final portfolio created during the semester. Format for files will be addressed later in the semester.

The professor will not provide constant updates on grade status, but students are welcome to periodically discuss their progress with the professor or check Canvas.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance is mandatory. Follow the Attendance Policy.
2. The student is expected to arrive to class on time and stay for the entire class period. It is recommended that students arrive five to ten minutes early to set up for class.
3. Students disrupting the classroom will be asked to leave the classroom.
4. Participation in class is expected. Attendance and participation are crucial for successful completion of this class.
5. Questions and discussion are encouraged.
6. The student will come to class prepared with required materials.
7. Timely completion of classroom and homework assignments is required.
8. Students will be expected to attend all gallery openings and any art lectures (unless excused) if applicable.
9. The student will maintain a SKETCHBOOK AND PORTFOLIO. Final projects will be presented at Final Critique.
10. Participation in class critique and portfolio reviews is expected. Your opinion must be substantiated with clear, accurate and relevant information.
11. At all times the student will maintain a respectful and professional attitude in class and while discussing the works of your peers.
12. The student can expect to spend 5-7 hours per week out of classroom on sketchbook and assignments.
13. The student is encouraged to explore and research subject matter outside of class, in order to aid in the growth of discussion and use of terminology.
14. Students are required to clean up and put away supplies that have been used during the class.
15. Students will follow all safety procedures and sign an Art Safety Agreement after completing a safety training course offered by the instructors and reading: Department of Art After Hours Studio Policy.

Classroom Etiquette

- Arrive on time and stay for the duration of class
- Actively participate in all class activities.
- Stay on task
- Don't be disruptive
- Keep all cell phones silenced
- No headphones, ear buds (unless I have given permission to use.)
- No computers
- No sleeping
- Stay home if you are sick

Communication Etiquette

I am here to help you and I want each of you to do well in this course! Though I do not have set office hours, I am always happy to meet with you immediately before or after class. If those times do not work for you, please feel free to contact me to schedule another meeting time.

The best way to contact me is through email or the Canvas Inbox. I will check and respond to emails during the workweek, Monday through Friday, 8 am - 5 pm. I will do my best to answer promptly, but please allow 24 hours for a response. If you contact me through email, please use formal email etiquette and use your UT Tyler student email address if you wish to get a response.

Facility Access G Studio Safety Training:

Studio facility access is for enrolled students only. Students are required to use appropriate safety equipment (PPE) and practice safe operation procedures when using any hazardous equipment or materials. All students must successfully complete the safety training(s) and quizzes on Canvas and complete an Art Safety Agreement before after hours access to the complex is granted. Failure to adhere to the terms of the Art Safety Agreement will result in the loss of studio facility access.

If you have questions about the studio safety training, please contact me or email darnold@uttyler.edu for further information.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

For your safety, you must follow all safety requirements established by the department and university. It is required that you provide your own Personal Protective Equipment for use in studio areas. This equipment includes: dust mask with at least a N65 rating and attached filter, safety glasses, ear protection, gloves, closed-toe shoes, and appropriate clothing. Failure to use this equipment while working may result in the loss of studio privileges.

Materials and Chemicals:

Any additional materials or chemicals not included on the course material list must be approved by the faculty member in charge of the area where the chemical (material) will be used prior to the material/chemical being brought into the studio. Students are responsible for notifying the studio technician of any new materials/chemicals the day they are brought to the studio in order to ensure that the appropriate safety data sheet is on file and in the SDS binder.

Labels for any new, approved chemicals brought into the art studios must include the following information when they are transferred to a new container or if the original chemical label is damaged: Name of chemical, date chemical was opened, and any basic hazards associated with the chemical. Labels are located in each studio and must be filled out and adhered to the container immediately.

Student Resources and University Policies

Please see the Getting Started G UTT Syllabus module in Canvas for a full list of student resources and university policies.

*This syllabus is subject to change

**See UT Tyler's academic calendar for all important dates.

***Important dates for exams and assignments will be posted on Canvas, announced in class, and stated on handouts.