



Course Syllabus: Drawing 1

Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts

Art 1313 Section 201

Monday & Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Spring 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Jason Bly

Office: Fain C106 Painting Studio

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Office phone: (940) 397-4385

E-mail: jason.bly@msutexas.edu

Course Description

Drawing 1 focuses on a variety of subjects in both wet and dry media with emphasis on black and white visual organization and expression. This is a foundations level studio course, introducing basic approaches to drawing and a variety of media, methods, and subject matter. This course will include lectures, demonstrations, slide presentations, and group critiques, although the primary activity will be drawing from observation.

Assignments

Drawing 1 covers four major sections: Composition, Form Building, Visualization, and Value. Each section consists of a mixture of one-day studies and longer projects. While each assignment has individual criteria, skills earned early in the semester will be joined with additional techniques found in more advanced projects later in the semester. Expectations are addressed through the assignment sheet, demos in class, online videos, and past student examples available on D2L. Students are highly encouraged to view online materials to resolve their own drawings.

Work Ethic and Studio Environment

Personal motivation and discipline are keys to a student's success in this course. These qualities are demonstrated by actions - such as preparation for each class, involvement in projects, discussions, and critiques, and reaching a strong level of finish according to project criteria. All work should be stored and transported in a manner that preserves it for critiques and portfolio reviews. Students should expect to spend at least six hours per week on homework in addition to studio/class time.

In an ideal studio, a student should be able to work at various distances, heights, and angles from the subject; move away from the drawing to view it at a distance; control

lighting; work at various sizes, and create a desired environment – loud or quiet, bright or dark, etc. It is also advisable to work at an easel or pin drawings onto the wall, and working on a surface that has no texture.

Students are encouraged to use studio space for class, open from 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m. when the night monitor is present and 7:00 a.m. - 10 p.m. otherwise. See posted schedule when available.

Grading

Student work will be reviewed by means of formal critique evaluations and portfolio reviews. Students will be evaluated according to predetermined requirements for all drawings. Individual projects will have a grade weight attached when given to the class. Generally speaking, one-day exercises given in the beginning of the semester will be worth less than longer, major projects given later.

Points allocated to each section and approximate number of assignments.
May be subject to change

Assignments	Points
Composition	55
Form Building	65
Visualization	75
Value	80
Total Points	275

Final Grade Summary

Grade	Points
A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
F	59% or less

Late Work

Late work will be counted against, one letter grade for each class period after it is due. Example: An A grade is lowered to B after one period late, after two periods late the A is lowered to C.

Students should never miss a class critique. Apart from late grades on projects, this counts against overall participation.

Attendance

Students enrolled in the Juanita and Ralph Harvey School of Visual Arts must comply with the following department-wide Attendance, Absence, and Lateness Policy:

- Students arriving 10 minutes after class begins will be considered late, and will be counted absent.

- Three late arrivals count as a single absence.
- Students may be absent from class 3 times without penalty and without providing any documentation regarding the absence.
- If a student incurs a 4th absence, his or her final course evaluation will be reduced by a full letter grade.
- If a student is absent 5 times, whatever the reason, he or she will receive a failing grade (F) for the course, dropped from class roll, and be asked to stop attending class
- Students are required to remain in class for the entire class session. Students will earn an absence if they leave before the professor has dismissed class.
- Excused absences must be brought before me prior to the absence, or if later, the student must have supporting documentation (academic, medical, or family emergency) in the case of excessive absences.

Gallery Attendance Policy

- If the student cannot attend the gallery opening, they must meet following requirements:
- The student must write a paper on the artist exhibited in the Juanita Harvey gallery.
- The paper should emphasize the student's reaction to the work.
- The paper must be formatted in Times New Roman, 12-pt. font, and be double-spaced. The paper must consist of 500 words.
- The paper must be submitted to the art office one week after the exhibition opening.
- If the exhibition extends past the final class day of the semester, the paper will be due one week before the final class day of the semester.
- If a student does not attend the show nor submit a paper, their final grade will be dropped 3.3% per gallery opening.
- If a student misses all of the gallery openings and does not write a paper for each required exhibition, the student's final grade will be dropped by 10%.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

News announcements, assignments, slideshows, and other materials are posted on a weekly basis. Use your MSU login / password to view reminders, links, demos, and other events throughout the semester. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage.

AI Generated Text or Imagery

All artwork and text will be constructed without the use of AI unless otherwise stated. This is to maintain academic integrity as well as respecting a strong ethical foundation regarding unique works and original authorship in the arts. That being said, conversation about this topic is encouraged for those interested as it pertains to class material and greater topics of plagiarism, ethical copies, appropriation, and sourced inspiration.

Services for Students with Disabilities and Medical Concerns

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#), located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140.

For general medical concerns, class accommodation and appropriate paperwork can be provided upon request. MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) are available for all supplies in class to share with your doctor. Email or speak in person if wishing to discuss any needs.

Weather Closure Policy

In case of impending weather or related cases, check MSU Alerts and msutexas.edu for updates. Note that some instances may impact a full day closure while others may delay or close for only a portion of the day. Class will take place if university is open. Use wise judgement in special cases as safety is a priority, such as driving outside city limits. Class updates will continue to be posted on D2L.

College Policies

Conduct Statement

Behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to and including F. In addition, and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly

enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#).

Miscellaneous Class Notes

- Food and drink are not acceptable in class. If you have bottled drinks or snacks, bring them in a sealed bag and they can be taken into the hallway during breaks.
- No wet or solvent based media in Drawing Classrooms allowed, unless prescribed through the assignments given.
- No aerosols in Drawing Classroom; spray outside of the building, 100 ft from any entryway.
- Open studio hours for the Drawing area is generally 7 am - 1:00 am (see posted signage for full hours). Students are not to be alone in rooms. Use M-cards or passcode to access if locked.
- In case of accident involving physical injury, report immediately to instructor or main office, or call police.
- Headphones are not acceptable during instruction, demos, critiques, or other portions of class that require full attention.
- Talking while working is okay, if not a distraction to the class. There will be no talking while I am giving instruction, lectures, one-on-one help during studio time, etc. Talking during critique must pertain to the discussion.

- Also, make sure your cell phones are off; no texting. No audio or video recording unless permitted.
- We will have breaks during class. Do not leave unexpectedly. If you have an emergency or need to leave early, talk to me before doing so.
- Clean up is always required. Do not leave until you clean up your individual area. This includes clean up outside of class hours, weekends, etc.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: January 23, see [Academic Calendar](#)
- Deadline to file for graduation: February 16, see [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": April 29 see [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Course Schedule

Dates and activities subject to change

Week	Date	Activities	
Week 1	January 19	No class, MLK Day	
Week 1	January 21	Intro, materials, slide show, semester plans	
Week 2	January 26	Gesture, Sighting, and Measuring	
Week 2	January 28	Gesture, Sighting, and Measuring	
Week 3	February 2	Gesture, Sighting, and Measuring	
Week 3	February 4	Sighting and Measuring Review	
Week 4	February 9	Form Building - Cylinder	
Week 4	February 11	Form Building - Cylinder	
Week 5	February 16	Form Building - Cube	Juried Student Exhibition
Week 5	February 18	Form Building - Cube	
Week 6	February 23	Form Building - Organic Objects	
Week 6	February 25	Form Building - Organic Objects	
Week 7	March 2	Invented Forms	
Week 7	March 4	Invented Forms	
Week 8	March 9	No Class - Spring Break	
Week 8	March 11	No Class - Spring Break	
Week 9	March 16	Invented Forms	
Week 9	March 18	Invented Forms	March 19 Field Trip
Week 10	March 23	Invented Forms	
Week 10	March 25	1 Point Perspective Interior	
Week 11	March 30	1 Point Perspective Interior	
Week 11	April 1	1 Point Perspective Interior, 2 Point Perspective	
Week 12	April 6	2 Point Perspective Cityscape	
Week 12	April 8	2 Point Perspective Cityscape	
Week 13	April 13	Value Intro	
Week 13	April 15	Value Intro	
Week 14	April 20	Still Life in Value	

Week	Date	Activities
Week 14	April 22	Still Life in Value
Week 15	April 27	Still Life in Value, Object in Rotation
Week 15	April 29	Still Life in Value, Object in Rotation
Week 16	May 4	Object in Rotation
Week 16	May 6	Object in Rotation
Week 17	May 11	Finals Week
Week 17	May 13	Finals Week

Materials

Material Type	Items
Textbooks	none
Paper	sketchbook, 8.5 x 11 inches newsprint Pad, 18 x 24 inches white paper pad, 18 x 24 inches
Dry Media	conte pencils (sanguine and sepia) charcoal pencils charcoal sticks charcoal dust
Wet Media	ballpoint pen, black
Other Tools	pencil sharpener x-acto knives erasers, block and kneaded dowel rod spray fixative clips or tape
Transporting Work and Supplies	portfolio, 18 x 24 or larger supply box