



Vincent Van Gogh  
*The Road to Tarascon (1888)*  
Kunsthau, Zurich

<https://www.vincentvangogh.org/the-road-to-tarascon.jsp>

## STA 111-211-311: Drawing Spring 2019

### **I. COURSE INFORMATION**

Instructor: Clarice Zdanski

Instructor's Email: [czdanski@fus.edu](mailto:czdanski@fus.edu)

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091 985 2292 (studio)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 14:30-15:30; Wednesdays 12:00-13:00; by appointment

Class location: Art Studio

Class meeting times: Tuesdays and Fridays, 13:00-14:15

### **II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**STA 111:** An introductory course aimed at mastering the rudiments of drawing (light and shade, perspective, proportions, texture, pattern and design) and investigating the discipline of drawing as a cognitive tool. A variety of media, styles and genre will be explored, such as still life, landscape, figure drawing and abstraction. Studio sessions

will be integrated with slide presentations and videos, and visits to museums, exhibits or ateliers may be organized if possible. The course carries a fee for art supplies.

**STA 211 and 311:** Intermediate course aimed at further developing the basic skills learned in STA 111. More emphasis will be placed on developing individual projects, exploring various media and investigating problems in drawing and perception. The course carries a fee for art supplies.

### **III. RATIONALE**

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The course is a 3-credit studio course enabling students to meet requirements for art-related majors and minors. It could also serve as an elective for other majors.

### **IV. COURSE GOALS**

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Upon successfully completing STA111, students will:

- have acquired knowledge of some of the rudiments of drawing and different drawing media and techniques
- be able to recognize the uses of drawing as a fine art and a cognitive tool
- understand drawing and drawing techniques in an art historical perspective (uses of drawing, development of drawing techniques and genres in western art history)
- recognize drawing as an innate human capacity and fundamental part of human experience

In addition to the goals achieved in STA 111, in 211 and 311 students will be able to identify and pursue individual paths in drawing, whether in terms of subject, material or technique.

### **V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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Upon completion of this course students will:

- have learned basic principles of drawing, including the importance of shapes, positive form and negative space, alignment, perspective, proportions and value
  - constructed a basic art vocabulary and developed skills necessary to critical visual analysis. Students of 211 and 311 will be able to pursue these aspects in greater depth and in directions that they themselves have plotted out with the help of the instructor
  - have worked in various media, including some or all of the following: pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, crayon, collage
  - know how to use library and digital resources to engage in research and study art
  - be able to engage in research and study art on site (museums, galleries, studios) as an essential part of the creative process
  - be able to write a project proposal
  - be able to assemble a portfolio of their own drawings
  - be able to present drawings in a virtual presentation (power point or other suitable format) on a designated Internet site
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## **VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

The course textbook for all levels is Bert Dodson's *Keys to Drawing* (North Light Books, latest edition). It is an excellent source for self-study, and homework assignments will be taken from it. The text is available in the bookstore, and the Franklin University library copy will be placed on reserve.

Further required readings and reference material will be posted on the MOODLE site. THE MOODLE SITE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR THIS COURSE AND SHOULD BE CONSULTED FREQUENTLY.

A course fee billed to the student's account will cover all materials needed.

## **VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

Students will be assessed in three areas: 1) Studio Assignments/Art Projects; 2) Art History/Art Terminology; 3) Participation. Assignments in each area will be graded on a 100 point scale. At mid-term and at the end of the semester, averages in each of these areas will be taken, and the three scores will assist in determining an overall grade.

With studio assignments and projects, students should be able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of basic drawing tools and techniques and their ability to use them independently. This knowledge can be assessed by observing working methods (including independent work in the studio outside scheduled class time), evaluating results and class critiques of finished projects. Understanding and use of basic studio language and art historical knowledge are also part of this assessment. STUDENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DO SEVERAL HOURS' WORK OUTSIDE SCHEDULED CLASS TIME EACH WEEK.

Integrating acquired knowledge of basic tools, techniques and materials in projects and explaining creative processes and objectives involves scholarly research outside the studio. STA111/211/31 is not a writing intensive course, but students will be expected to be able to demonstrate their knowledge and articulate their ideas in written form. During the course, students will have the opportunity to express their ideas for art works and their reflections upon the history of painting in these written assignments as well as during in-class critiques, which will be assessed as Art History/Art Terminology projects and Participation activities. Projects involving written and oral skills and use of resources and terminology are evaluated according the following criteria: depth of content, organization, presentation style, verbal interaction and communication aids. Viewer responses and shorter writing assignments are evaluated as follows: structure, content, mechanics. Rubrics and guides are posted on the Moodle site.

Last but not least, class sessions are a continuous source of feedback between everyone participating in the course, both students and the instructor. Thus, participation is essential for determining the final grade, and will be assessed through attendance, working attitude (respect for work environment, tools, techniques, materials and fellow students), the ability to work with others, completion of assignments by designated dates, independent work in the studio

outside class time, the quality of presentation of finished work, and participation in organized events. Please make a note class sessions for which attendance is mandatory.

### **VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

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#### STUDIO ASSIGNMENTS/ART PROJECTS:

- A. Assignments exploring the cognitive function of drawing
- B. Assignments exploring shape, negative space, depth, perspective and alignment
- C. Assignments exploring value
- D. Assignments exploring human proportions
- E. Long term theme projects

*The exact number and type of assignments will depend on what the class is capable of doing. STA 215/315 may or may not have different assignments in class and for homework.*

#### ART HISTORY/ART TERMINOLOGY:

- A. Mid-term power point or similar electronic format on artists' uses of drawing
- B. Final power point or similar format presentation of individual work
- C. Oral or written test on the history of drawing and drawing terms at the discretion of the professor
- D. Viewer responses to exhibitions in Lugano or elsewhere
- F. Project proposals

#### PARTICIPATION

- A. Attendance, working attitude (respect for work environment, tools and techniques)
- B. Following instructions
- C. Completion of assignments by designated dates
- D. Independent work in the studio outside class time
- E. Participation in studio work and organized events
- F. Motivation
- G. Contributing to a positive, well-organized working environment
- H. Respect for course protocol (*coming to class on time, staying until the end of the class, cleaning up after class is over, no use of mobile phones during class time, no meals during class time, etc.*)
- I. Contributions to class critiques and evaluation sessions
- J. Doing projects and assignments with the care and attention they deserve

### **IX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

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Students will be evaluated according to the criteria described in the **Assessment Overview** as they pertain to the task areas described in **Assessment Details**. The resulting numerical average will assist in the formulation of the final grade.

Studio work involves learning by doing as well as by assimilating an abstract body of concepts through reading and research. Following instructions, paying attention during demonstrations and proceeding with care in the studio at all times are important at every stage of the creative process. *Acquiring manual*

*dexterity, familiarity with processes and mastering techniques are processes that require time, diligence and repeated effort – they cannot be put off until just before mid-term or the end of the semester.*

Keep in mind that artistic work is holistic, and demands a great deal of individual motivation, concentrated effort, care and attention at all times. The course does not aim for complete mastery of artistic processes and techniques, but will provide students with insights and tools to pursue art media and studio techniques independently well after they have completed their university studies.

Please take note of class sessions designated as **ATTENDANCE MANDATORY**, because an unexcused absence will result in a grade of 0 in the Participation area for that assignment. IF ABSENT, STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO CONSULT THE MOODLE SITE TO STAY INFORMED OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS.

Rubrics for written assignments and for self-evaluation of studio projects are posted on the Moodle site.

#### **X. COURSE POLICIES and REQUIREMENTS**

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Given the special nature of artistic work, class attendance is fundamental. ***One unexcused absence will be tolerated, but absence from three (3) class periods – excused or unexcused – will result in the reduction of the final grade by one (1) letter at the end of the semester. If five (5) absences are reached, the student will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs.*** You must attend class in order to acquire the necessary skills and information to understand and complete all assignments. In order for an absence to be excused, it must be accompanied by appropriate documentation. IF YOU MUST BE ABSENT, YOU ARE STILL EXPECTED TO CONSULT THE MOODLE SITE TO STAY INFORMED OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS.

In any event, ***make-up work will only be considered in the case of serious health or family issues*** that demand prolonged periods of absence from the class. Should an emergency situation occur, please make sure you get in touch with the registrar and the dean so that all of your professors are notified. It is the responsibility of the student to make definite arrangements with the instructor in such cases. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have problems. There is ***no extra credit*** – if you fall behind in the work you are supposed to do, it is almost impossible to find the physical time to get your art work done, let alone try to do more.

**Assignments are due on the established dates announced in class and posted on the Moodle site. Extensions may be considered ONLY in extenuating circumstances and on a case-by-case basis. *Turning work in late without an approved extension will result in a lower grade.***

#### **XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

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Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's

personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied. A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University.

See the Academic Catalog for full statement (page 199):  
<https://www.fus.edu/files/FUS-academic-catalog.pdf>

Plagiarism in written assignments will not be tolerated. If you need help with research and writing skills, come to see me or go to the Writing and Learning Center.

Unless a collective art project is involved, all work submitted **must be your own**. Although a great deal will be learned through collaborative learning (i.e., watching each other and sharing studio experience), each student **must do his/her own work**. An **F** will be given for any individual assignment not completed solely by the individual student.

## **XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

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**Office hours: I have weekly office hours, and individual meeting times will be scheduled throughout the semester. You may come anytime during those hours to get feedback about assignments and course work.** Please do not hesitate to contact me the moment you have any uncertainties about the class. The best place is either before or after class in the studio. If your problem is more complex, we can schedule an appointment to have more time.

**Accessibility:** For documented disabilities and rights to accommodations, see <https://www.fus.edu/services/accessibility-and-tutoring/accessibility>. Write an email to [accessibility.services@fus.edu](mailto:accessibility.services@fus.edu), and make an appointment during my office hours if you want to discuss the matter with me.

**Collaborative learning:** In studio work, we all work together, and learn by doing, so watching your classmates at work and exchanging impressions on working methods are excellent ways to acquire more knowledge. For the presentation part of the course, they can also help you by giving feedback before you give your presentation to the group. The studio is a place of continuous exchange and feedback. Use it!

**Writing and Learning Center:** Fowler Learning Commons, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. Here you can get help with writing issues. Make an appointment at the center or at this URL: <https://wlc.setmore.com/>.

**Moodle site:** Our Moodle site contains a record of what was done in class and descriptions of all assignments, and will be updated as we go along. It also has resources on drawing. **THE MOODLE SITE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR THIS COURSE AND SHOULD BE CONSULTED FREQUENTLY. STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ABSENT ARE EXPECTED TO CONSULT THE MOODLE SITE AND DO HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS SO AS TO KEEP UP WITH THE REST OF THE CLASS.**

**Technology Help:** The IT Staff office is located in Lowerre Academic Center, ground floor, for all computer-related and Internet problems.

**Grace Library:** Art materials are located in the 700s section of the reference section upstairs and in the stacks downstairs in Grace Library. You may need to use the library to research material, and art books are a wonderful way to browse and get ideas. The head librarian and staff can help you with all of your library needs.

**XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE**

DATE	PLANNED ACTIVITIES – to be updated during the semester
22-25/1	Introduction to course and presentation of syllabus  Among topics/drawing exercises to be addressed: Drawing mood Seeing vs. Knowing Drawing biases Drawing from life vs drawing from the imagination The nature of abstraction Valuable lessons from 20 <sup>th</sup> century art
29/01-01/02	Shapes and depth Finished and unfinished – alternating hands Shapes and conveying a sense of depth: overlap; diminishing size
05/02-08/02	Positive shapes Negative space ‘Dictation drawing’
12/02-15/02	Depth and perspective Converging lines One point perspective Two point perspective  Assign PROJECT 1 on shapes and perspective (Due 26/02)
19/02	Work on PROJECT 1 on shapes and perspective
22/02	<b>FEBRUARY BREAK – NO CLASS</b>
26/02-1/03	Critique for PROJECT 1 - ATTENDANCE MANDATORY  Drawing media Understanding the uniqueness of one’s own drawing style Approaching tone and chiaroscuro  Begin PROJECT 2: emulate an artists’ drawing style (Due 08/03)
04/03-08/03	Continue on Project 2 with Critique on 08/03 - ATTENDANCE MANDATORY  Turn in Portfolios for mid-term evaluation
09/03-23/03	<b>ACADEMIC TRAVEL BREAK</b>
26-29/03	Being human Seeing vs. knowing The human face (alignments of features) Proportions worksheet Value  Assign PROJECT 3 – drawing the face (due 23/04- ATTENDANCE MANDATORY)
09-12/04	Continue PROJECT 3  Friday field trip: local exhibit with assignment: viewer’s response (due 23/04) – ATTENDANCE MANDATORY



16-19/04	Continue PROJECT 3 Workshops on how to prepare a presentation of your works
23-26/04	23/04 Critique PROJECT 3 –ATTENDANCE MANDATORY 23/04 Viewer's response due  More on drawing human beings Intensifying proportions for effect Distortion, abstraction, exaggeration Emotional and psychological aspects of drawing and presenting the subject Drawing and life  Assign PROJECT 4 (final project due 14/05)
30/04-02/05	Work on PROJECT 4 Turn in portfolios 02/05 - ATTENDANCE MANDATORY
14/05 11:00-13:00	Finals week critique of FINAL PROJECTS and portfolio retrieval ATTENDANCE MANDATORY
16/05 13:00	Final ppt presentations due (Moodle upload)

*This syllabus/course calendar is provided as a courtesy to the student, and is subject to change. Changes will be announced in due time in class and on the Moodle site.*

*The course calendar provides an indication of various aspects of drawing to be introduced during the semester. Please consult the Moodle site regularly to keep informed of latest developments, specific assignments and deadlines.*