University of Colorado Denver  
College of Architecture and Planning  
Department of Landscape Architecture  

LDAR 6711: LA Advanced Graphics:  
The Visceral Perspective: Figure, Place and Time  

Fall 2016  
Mondays 9:30 AM – 12:15PM  
room 2005  
Instructor  
Emmanuel Didier  
office 506  

“Drawing is a verb” Richard Serra  

“I do not paint things; I only paint the relationship between things” Henri Matisse  


Drawing is an action, and a language. This course’s intent is for students to advance their graphics skills and a deeper their understanding of artistic representation. Explorations will involve diverse media, and types of representation. It will allow students to grow their own practice of drawing and representation, as a mean of developing their own conceptual design ideas.  

We will sketch on a daily basis, learn from observation, experiment with multiple techniques, multiple medias, and construct from the imagination. Over the course of the semester, and in parallel with lectures, we will conduct multiple exercises. We will improve drawing skills while experimenting with the integration of hand sketches, observation drawings, constructed drawings, collages, and digital rendering.
The semester will be structured around the practice of 3 parallel investigations:

1. Drawing as daily practice to explore ideas / gesture drawing. This first layer of the class is to develop rapid sketching ability based on observation of the human figure, outdoor scenes, and still-lives. We will develop sensibility for lines, traces, flows and movement. This practice will require daily sketching in a medium size sketchbook, using pencils, charcoals, pastels, ink and brushes, and watercolor or acrylic paints.

2. Drawing as observation to engage with the world. This second layer of the class will allow students to develop their ability to produce elaborate drawings or paintings inspired by observation. This practice will require one intensive drawing/painting per week of the same place. Techniques will evolve throughout the semester and will flow into the third portion of the semester. As part of this approach, we will engage with the followings:
   a. Shape / Plane + Composition
   b. Light and Shadows
   c. Space, Landscape and Proportions

3. Representation through modeling and digital rendering. Projecting ourselves into the spaces we design is fundamental in testing design ideas and refining concepts, while communicating our design intents. These drawings, when integrated throughout the design process from early concepts to final presentations, are powerful tools for design explorations. We will integrate some of the drawing skills developed through the two other portions of the class by creating three rendered visions, or assembled digital collage/drawings of one of your projects previously developed in studio. This assignment will allow us to address and discuss the followings:
   d. Color palette, transparencies, and values
   e. Picture plane and composition
   f. Space, shadows, textures and sense of place
   g. Communication of a design idea

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Accurately observe (see) a subject, overcoming preconceived images.
- Demonstrate confidence in their ability to draw quickly.
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic composition.
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic perspective used in sketching.
- Knowingly use value, shade, shadow and texture in their drawings.
- Constructively critique their work and the work of others.
- Establish their drawing practice to develop their own individual style.
- Integrate hand drawing techniques with digital techniques and collage to develop an advanced understanding of drawing, graphics, and rendering.
Assessment

To pass this class, students will be expected to complete all the drawings and attend class. Each of these exercises is intended to help students achieve the objectives of the course. The final grade for the course will be based on the following distribution:

- 25% Gesture drawings / sketch books
- 30% Observation/constructed drawings
- 30% Final project with three large rendered images
- 10% Attendance (missing two classes equals lower grade)

Schedule (subject to change)

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<th>Activity</th>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Aug 22</td>
<td>Introduction, supplies list, and assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Aug 29</td>
<td>Observation drawing (In-class sketching)</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Labor Day – Home Assignment</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Gesture drawings (Union Station sketching)</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Drawing Place and Time: Perspective / Composition</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Drawing Place and Time: Lights and Shadows</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
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<td>Drawing Place and Time: Color and Textures</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>From Hand to Digital – Plan Views</td>
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<td>Submission of all previous assignments</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>3D Modeling / Sketch Up</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>3D Modeling and Exporting Views / Sketch Up</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Transparencies / Layers / Photoshop</td>
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<td>Nov 7</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>Renderings submission</td>
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<td>Week 17</td>
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<td>Finals week presentation</td>
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IMPORTANT: There is no Final Exam in this class but there is a final submission.

Requirements
Students are expected to attend each class. For every two missed classes your grade will be dropped one half of a grade.

Required Readings
There are no required books because no single textbook covers the range of topics to be explored in this class. The required readings for this class will either be handed out in class or posted on Canvas.

Policies, Rules and Regulations

Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities who want academic accommodations must register with Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 1201 Larimer Street, Suite 2116, 303-315-3510, FAX 303-315-5315. DRS requires students to provide current and adequate documentation of their disabilities. Once a student has registered with DRS, DRS will review the documentation and assess the student’s request for academic accommodations in light of the documentation. DRS will then provide the student with a letter indicating which academic accommodations have been approved. Once you provide me with a copy of DRS’s letter, we will be happy to provide those accommodations DRS has approved.

Absences, Tardiness, and Homework
Except for documented health or disability reasons, I will not accept excuses for absences, tardiness, or homework not submitted on time. Documentation of disability or health related issues must be provided.

Plagiarism
Students are expected to know, understand and comply with the ethical standards of the university, including rules against plagiarism. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s textual, digital and visual ideas, or words, without acknowledgement. The incorporation of another person’s work into yours requires appropriate identifications and acknowledgement. The following are considered to be forms of plagiarism when the source is not noted: word-for-word copying of another person’s ideas or words; the “mosaic” (interspersing your own words here and there while, in essence, copying another’s work); the paraphrase (the rewriting of another’s work, while still using their basic ideas or theories); fabrication (inventing sources); submission of another’s work as your own; and neglecting quotation marks when including direct quotes.

Classroom Decorum
The following ground rules apply to all students and are designed to ensure a classroom environment conducive to learning for all students:

1. Pagers, beepers, cellular telephones, and handheld internet devices must be deactivated before class begins and remain deactivated throughout the entire class period.
2. Please do not bring children to class.
3. Students who engage in disruptive classroom behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Life for appropriate disciplinary action under the CU Denver Code of Student Conduct and, when appropriate, to the Auraria Campus Police for investigation of possible criminal action. The Code of Student Conduct can be found on the CU-Denver website, under Office of Student Life and Student Activities: http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/standards/Documents/CUDenver-CodeofConduct.pdf.
4. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, arriving late to class without explanation or apology; leaving class early without explanation or apology; reading a newspaper or magazine; reading a book with no connection to the content of the course; engaging in
prolonged private conversations; sleeping in class; eating, drinking, and/or gum chewing; passing notes; being under the influence of drugs or alcohol; harassment, bullying, and verbal or physical threats to another student or to the instructor; failing to deactivate pagers, beepers, cellular phones, and/or handheld internet devices; bringing children to class.

5. Students are prohibited from selling, or being paid by any person or commercial firm for taking, notes or recording class lectures without the advance express written permission of the faculty member teaching this course. Exceptions are permitted for students with a disability who are approved in advance by Disability Resources and Services for note taking or tape recording as an academic accommodation.