

THEA14: Drawing for the Theater

Summer Session. 1: June 20 – July 22, 2022

Taught by Kate Edmunds, T/Th. 9am – 12:30pm in C102/Theater Arts Complex

Kate Edmunds' email: kmedmund@ucsc.edu

*** Use email, not Canvas, to contact me.

*** For emergencies only: cel: 831. 246. 0008

Office: A207.

There are no regular Summer Session office hours, but if you want to meet outside of class time, email me and we will set up a mutually available day and time to meet.

Overview and learning outcomes:

Set and costume designers in the theater use drawing to explore their ideas; through drawing they then communicate those ideas to directors, fellow-designers and the shops that build scenery and costumes. From “scribbles” on cocktail napkins to highly-finished drawings, marks on surfaces are the “visual vocabulary” used to communicate ideas. While lighting designers generally do not sketch their ideas, their onstage work benefits from the training learned in a drawing class.

Scale, balance, selection, emphasis – these practices and more are employed by theater designers as well as fine artists. Whether you apply this discipline to theater or not, learning to actually perceive what is in front of you and analyze that information on paper is a rigorous and beneficial skill. It’s also fun.

This class introduces basic drawing techniques to the beginner. It stresses rigorous, repetitive exercises explored during your in-class drawing. The class will introduce you to basic perspective drawing as well as line quality, value and the grey scale, positive/negative space, form, contour, scale, volume and spatial relationships.

All in-class work and homework is designed to lead to the re-definition of what it means to really see and perceive the world around you. You will also learn that active looking is essential to active drawing.

There is no textbook. I will give you a series of handouts throughout the quarter. Keep them together and bring them to every class – I will refer to them in-class. They constitute your textbook. I will also recommend books and online tutorials that pertain to your work in the class.

Attendance is of vital importance and is mandatory.

This course introduces material new to many, and it covers a lot in 5 weeks. Although you will be given homework assignments, there is no way to make up lost studio time. In the studio I can and will assess and correct your work ‘in the moment’, as well as answer questions. I will also demonstrate techniques and goals in each class.

You are allowed one (1) unexcused absence. After that I will give you a warning. Normally, a total of two (2) absences will lead to my asking you to leave the class.

We begin on time. If you are unavoidably late, enter quietly so you don’t disturb your classmates.

*****Summer 2022, SUPPLIES:**

Before Covid, a course fee of \$28 was charged to cover materials. That is no longer the case. I have enough materials to get our work underway, but you will need to buy the following before our first class:

- ***A sketchbook that you can carry in your backpack/etc. Don’t bother with the cute tiny ones – they’re no use in this class. A size around 8.5” x 11” is good. Much bigger is cumbersome. You want a size that you can carry around easily.
- Soft-lead drawing pencils. Not all lead pencils are the same. The softness or hardness of the lead tip varies. In art supply stores softer leads are labeled with a number and a “B”. Harder leads have numbers followed an “H”. I suggest you get a few each 2B and 4B. If you want to play with the “H” series, do that as well.
- ***Also get a simple hand-held pencil sharpener, or a small pen-knife, to sharpen the points.
- *** Indicates may be available in drugstores/supermarkets at cheaper prices. See below.
- After the first class I’ll go over other papers, etc. you’ll need when existing overrun supplies run out.

You might need or want to supplement these supplies with optional drawing materials to use in your sketchbook. It’s fun to use different materials. If you are interested in seeing a range of possibilities, nearby locally-owned art supply stores are (check websites for days/hours):

- Lenz Arts Inc.: 142 River St., Santa Cruz. Phone: 423-1935
- Palace Art & Office Supply: 1501-K 41st Ave., Capitola. 831. 464. 2700.

For both: Have your student ID and ask about student discounts.

You can also have fun shopping at the Dick Blick Art Materials site: DickBlick.com

*** Be aware that many larger drugstores, office supply stores and supermarkets have limited, but inexpensive, art supplies. Don't spend beyond your budget; it's the quality of your work – not your materials – that matters.

Practicalities: Summer session classes are 3 1/2 hours long, We will have a scheduled break in each class, but you will be standing on a concrete floor for much of that time. I recommend wearing cushioned footwear to avoid fatigue and strain on your knees.

Sketchbook work criteria:

I expect you to work in your sketchbook a minimum of 6 hours a week. Note that I wrote **work**. Although we all relax by doodling at times in our sketchbooks or elsewhere, the goal of most of your self-driven, self-disciplined work in the sketchbook is to hone the skills initially introduced in class. Drawing in coffeeshops, copying drawings that you admire, re-working concepts from class; are just a few examples of productive use of the weekly sketchbook assignment. Your sketchbook is your playground and self-run laboratory, but again – better to have less work indicating improvement than many pages filled with thoughtless work.

And yes – I can tell immediately when the work is not serious.

The class does not cover color theory for pigment in-class, but you can use any media – wet or dry - you wish in your sketchbook. Talk to me for guidance in color theory.

There is only one steadfast rule: NO GLITTER!!!

Have fun, work hard.

- I do not read any written content in your sketchbook.

Grading:

Attendance: 15%

Homework assignments: 20%

Sketchbook: 25%

Overall performance & improvement: 40%

The main things I will say many, many times in class – because they are true and will help you - are:

1. **SLOW DOWN.** The hectic pace of your daily life does not help your work here.
2. Do NOT draw what you know about how an object is used. Draw what you actually see/perceive.
3. Do not commit to inaccuracy. Life is too short.
4. Active looking is active drawing, even when you're not putting lines on paper. Better to look with intent for 8 minutes and put 3 thoughtful lines on paper in 2 minutes, than fill the paper up with 10 minutes of thoughtlessness.

Finally: The act of drawing is many things, but most of all it is *a discipline that forces – or allows - us to temporarily “unlearn” how we have been taught to see the world and learn new methods of perception.*

Many people believe that drawing refers only to the marks on paper. Drawing is *not* simply the product (marks on paper) of your activity, it is primarily the process that you teach yourself so that the marks on paper are meaningful.

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Class schedule: **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

10 classes.

1. T. 6/21:

- Introductions: Syllabus, expectations, and grading,
- Overview of materials.
- How we are generally taught to use our eyes, and why you have to unlearn that/add to that so you can learn how to see clearly what you've been looking at your whole life.
- Are Seeing, Perceiving, and Observing all the same? [spoiler alert: No]
- Your body as a machine: a) ways to hold drawing tools b) shifting your weight to better drawing c) stretching
- Still-life and basic concepts:
- Picture plane [PP]. >> What stays. What falls away
- Relationships, shape, and scale.
- How to self-assess the work as you work.

2. Th. 6/23:

- Continued analysis of still-life construction leads to:
- Selective perception/controlling the picture plane. Selecting the point of view IS the drawing, and creates a
- Composition
- SCALE and PROPORTION.
- Same but different: A new perspective. Literally. Either you move or it does.

3. T. 6/28: New concept:
 - Contour drawing: Where edges meet air with no shadows. Precision of placement.
 - How slow can you go?
 - Inside information: How lines inside the edges create specificity.

4. Th. 6/30: New concept:
 - Positive/Negative space: The shape of air.
 - No lines inside the shape of air.
 - And no connecting lines.
Yes. It can be difficult. Look long and hard.

5. T. 7/5: New concept:
 - Value scale: Lights and darks.
 - Drapery.
 - Drawing with the eraser.

6. Th. 7/7: Drawing Nature.
 - Foliage, texture, atmospheric distance/organic perspective.
 - Unifying the multitudes

7. T. 7/12: Anything-but-formal perspective:
 - Using what our eyes show us to fool others.
 - 3-Dimensionality on a 2-D Picture Plane

8. Th. 7/14: The human figure. Our faces. We think we know them. We don't.

9. T. 7/19: Figure drawing

- 10.Th. 7/21: Figures

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

UC POLICY ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT / RESOURCES

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating and maintaining a community where all individuals can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of sexual harassment and sexual violence. The sexual harassment of students and employees, including sexual violence, interferes with their right to work and learn in a safe environment and is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX of the Education Act. Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, it is important that you know:

1. You can receive confidential support and advocacy at the Campus Advocacy Resources & Education (CARE) Office (care.ucsc.edu) by calling (831) 502-2273. The CARE office supports UC Santa Cruz students, faculty and staff affected by sexual harassment or sexual violence.
2. Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) Office (caps.ucsc.edu, 831-459-2628) can provide confidential, counseling support.
3. Faculty, Teaching Assistants and Advisers are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment* to inform the Title IX Office should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment. If you are not comfortable with this, please contact CARE or CAPS instead (info above).

To Report a Possible Title IX Violation directly to the University's Title IX Office, students, faculty or staff can use this online reporting form at <https://titleix.ucsc.edu/reporting/index.html> or call (831) 459-2462.

Reports to law enforcement can be made to the UC Santa Cruz Police Department (police.ucsc.edu): 831-459-2231, ext. 1.

For emergencies, call 911.

Other resources are listed on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response website: safe.ucsc.edu.

*The UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment is online here:

<https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000385/SVSH>

Questions or concerns regarding the Policy or related procedures and requirements, can be directed to the Title IX Office: 831-459-2462 or cscricca@ucsc.edu.

GENERAL CONDUCT

In this class we abide by the **UCSC Principles of Community**, so please familiarize yourself with these: <https://www.ucsc.edu/about/principles-community.html>.

ACCOMMODATIONS

UCSC is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to your instructor privately during office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first week of the quarter. At this time, you may discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. All students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services are strongly encouraged to contact the DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or email at drc@ucsc.edu.

- **DRC online:** <https://drc.ucsc.edu>
- **DRC Frequently Asked Questions for prospective and current DRC Students, faculty and Staff, and parents:** <https://drc.ucsc.edu/resources-and-forms/faqs.html>
- **Frequently Asked Questions regarding Service and Support animals:** <https://drc.ucsc.edu/services-and-accommodations/sa-overview/other-accommodations/service-animals-faqs.html>
- **UC Santa Cruz Service/Support Animal Policy:** <https://policy.ucsc.edu/policies/student-affairs/dss-0003.html>

MATURE COURSE CONTENT

In university courses you may be assigned images, films or other material that could contain difficult ideas, uncomfortable language, or graphic depictions of sex or violence. You will be asked to treat these portrayals critically, to consider what is being expressed by the maker, or to examine the potential social impact, and to evaluate the works in a given context. Instructors are always happy to speak with you about the course content and/or your work, and might direct you to CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) at 831-459-2628 or the Disability Resource Center (drc@ucsc.edu, 831-459-2089) should you need additional support in order to participate and do your best work.

GRADE DISPUTES

If you have questions about the grading of your work, please make arrangements to meet with your teaching assistant (TA) if the course has one. If the course does not have a TA, or if your questions are not resolved, please see the course instructor during office hours. If the matter still remains unresolved, you will be advised on further options.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty. Acts of academic misconduct during the course, including plagiarism, can and usually do result in failure of the course, at the sole discretion of the instructor of record. Your case will be reported to the College Provost as per the Academic Integrity guidelines found on the web at: https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS (OCEs)

The Theater Arts Department collects feedback from students at the end of each course in the form of Online Course Evaluations (OCEs):

You will receive an email when the evaluation/survey is available. The email will provide information about the evaluation as well as a link to it online. When you receive the email, please click the link, log in, and complete the evaluation. You will also be able log in to the evaluations site by going directly to <http://evaluations.ucsc.edu>. Student submissions are anonymous and confidential. Instructors cannot identify which submissions belong to which students and will only be able to review the data collected after all grades have been submitted. Please give serious thought to your comments. This evaluation will become part of the faculty member's personnel file to be reviewed by colleagues and administration when considering the instructor's future teaching assignments and promotions. Your comments will be studied by the instructor only after grading your work and may be used to improve future offerings of the course.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND MOBILE DEVICES:

Laptops can be a useful tool in the service of teaching and learning when used productively and respectfully.

A few common sense rules:

1. Always set up your laptop before the beginning of class. Setting up the computer and booting it up can take a few minutes depending on what applications are set to open at startup. Turn off all other mobile devices before lecture begins.
2. Disable sound.
3. During lecture and classroom discussion, you should not be connected to network resources. Being online invites many distractions - web surfing, email, chats, etc. Chatting or emailing during class is no more acceptable than talking on a cell phone during class time. Additionally, your networked screens are distracting to those sitting near and behind you.

If you are found to be doing anything other than note-taking (or sanctioned network activity) you will be asked to leave the class immediately and will be marked as absent for that day. Your instructor reserves the right to further limit laptop use in their classes. For example, you may be asked to close your computer during screenings or be asked to sit in a certain area of the room if you are actively using your laptop.