



New York City College of Technology
The City University of New York
Department of Communication Design

COMD 3533 – Special Topics in ILLUSTRATION

Course Description

This advanced course encourages further exploration into the skills that allow illustrators to express themselves fluently in visual media. Students develop market-ready, competitive portfolio pieces. Rotating topics allow for in-depth study of subjects such as human anatomy; heads, hands, and expression; animal anatomy and wildlife drawing; drawing the clothed figure. Traditional skills and techniques are taught with the emphasis placed on current applications in the field.

Students can take this course up to 2 times with different topics.

2 lecture, 2 lab hrs, 3 cr

Prerequisites

ENG1121, COMD 2400 or department permission

Course Objectives

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES	ASSESSMENT
For the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:	Evaluation methods and criteria:
Demonstrate an understanding of the course subject matter.	Show understanding through sketchbook work and, effective research and accurate rendering to create finished art.
Develop an individual, stylistic approach to course topic.	Visually express concepts and feelings through an individual style.
Approach drawing and illustration in depth rather than as superficial description.	Critique their own work independently.
Demonstrate understanding of course material as it relates to the field of illustration.	Express through class work and written assignments analyzing the field.

Analyze and express verbally critical visual perceptions.	Critique own work independently. Develop and grow intellectually.
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General Education Outcomes

General Education Outcome:	How the outcome is covered:
Oral Communication Prepare and deliver oral communication that promotes knowledge and understanding.	Evaluate through class discussion, critique, and/or written tests if students use appropriate nomenclature to defend creative, critical and technical decisions in project concepts and development.
Critical Thinking Think creatively to combine or synthesize existing ideas or images in original ways to solve visual communication problems.	Evaluate through class critique to determine how well students were able to advance their project concepts by applying evidence and using logic to make decisions.
Application Ability to successfully apply concepts into both in-class and long-term assignments	Evaluate how well students absorbed and consequently applied the learning through oral critiques of projects.

Teaching/Learning Methods

- Demonstrations
- Place-Based Learning
- Lectures and readings
- Discussion and critiques
- Examples / Reference
- Critiques
- Formal Presentations
- Class and individual projects

Recommended Text by Topic

Specific books, magazines, and periodicals will vary with selected assignments. The instructor will provide a materials list.

Human Anatomy: Dynamic Anatomy – Burne Hogarth, Watson Guptill Publications

Wildlife Drawing: How to Draw Animals - Jack Hamm, Perigee

Heads, Hands and Expression - Drawing the Head and Hands by Andrew Loomis, Titan

Required Materials

Sketchbook

External drive or dropbox account

Illustration Tools and Mediums to change by topic and instructor

Adobe CS

Grading

All working drawings and illustrations will be graded assignments. Research, independent preparation, class participation and verbal analysis of artwork and concepts will also be taken into consideration. There will be no final examination.

The following grade scale is recommended for use in this course. The exact distribution of percentages will be determined by the individual section instructor.

100% = Course projects/assignments

Sketchbook	10%
Project 1	15%
Project 2	15%
Project 3	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Portfolio	15%
Final Project	15%

Attendance (College) and Lateness (Department) Policies:

The COMD BFA and AAS degrees are design studio programs. In-class laboratory activities and engagement with other students is a significant portion of the courses. Absences more than 10% of the total class hours may result in a 10% drop from your grade due to an inability to meet the deliverables of participation. This may be in addition to other penalties that will be imposed for failure to complete in-class academic requirements. Missing more than 25% of total class meetings will not be permitted. Any two 'lates' (15 minutes or more) will be equal to 1 absence.

Academic Integrity Standards

Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting and citation of sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the college recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and is punishable by

penalties, including failing grades, suspension and expulsion. More information about the College's policy on Academic Integrity may be found in the College Catalog.

Topics

WEEK	Lecture Topic	Laboratory Exercise	Homework Assignment
1	Introduction to course topic. Review of related material from COMD 1103 and 1231. Discussion of course topic in context of historical and contemporary examples with emphasis placed on its real world applications in the field. Introduction to the Place Based Learning aspect of the course.	Class group research project to identify resources for relevant research to course material to include both institutions the New York area, as well as Online.	Baseline skills assessment drawings. Begin Daily Sketchbook Practice and blog post. Blog post on course topic and relevancy to specific
2	Lecture on basic anatomy or structural concepts related to course topic. Introductory lecture on research, best practices whilst conducting it, and how it relates to the field overall.	Class Lab time related to basic anatomy or structural concepts. Students will draw from a live model when appropriate.	Project 1 Introduced: Research Assignment on Openlab Process Sketchbook Ongoing Assignment, to be shared on Openlab.
3	Lecture on more complex anatomy or structural concepts related to course topic. Continued lecture on research, focused on the use of reference images, best practices, and how it relates to the field overall.	Class Lab time related to basic anatomy or structural concepts. Students will draw from a live model when appropriate.	Project 1 Work in Progress. Process Sketchbook Ongoing Assignment, to be shared on Openlab.
4	Project 1 DUE NO LECTURE	In Class Presentations Critique of Project 1	Project 2 Introduced:

			Research Assignment on Openlab. Process Sketchbook Ongoing Assignment, to be shared on Openlab.
5	Lecture on specific forms and structural concepts building on previous lectures related to course topic.	Class Lab time Students will draw from a live model when appropriate.	Project 2 Work in Progress. Process Sketchbook Ongoing Assignment, to be shared on Openlab.
6	Lecture on specific forms and structural concepts building on previous lectures related to course topic. Lighting and shadow as related to course topic introduced.	Class Lab time. Students will draw from a live model when appropriate.	Project 2 Work in Progress. Process Sketchbook Ongoing Assignment, to be shared on Openlab.
7	Project 2 DUE Lecture on building a portfolio of work related to course topic.	In Class Presentations Critique of Project 2	Midterm Online Study Session: Required Classnotes Share Blog Post on Openlab. Process Sketchbook DUE on day of Midterm.
8	MIDTERM NO LECTURE Sketchbooks Reviewed in class.	Midterm Lab Practical Exam	Project 3 Introduced: Research Assignment on Openlab. Process Sketchbook Ongoing Assignment, to be shared on Openlab.
9	Lecture on drawing <i>en plein air</i> , focused practical considerations and using the time wisely to create studies towards a finished work. Lecture on the <i>moving figure</i> , how to infuse life and gesture into finished work.	First On Site (AMNH, Metropolitan, etc. depending on topic) lab time. Students will research and acquire reference towards Project 3.	Project 3 Work in Progress Process Sketchbook Ongoing Assignment, to be shared on Openlab.

10	Lecture on building on your <i>en plein air</i> studies, focused on using photos and research to “fill in the gaps” to create believable finished work showing subjects in a believable setting. Continued Lecture on the <i>moving figure</i>.	Class Lab time working on Project 3.	Project 3 Work in Progress Process Sketchbook Ongoing Assignment, to be shared on Openlab.
11	Project 3 DUE Continued Lecture on building a portfolio of work related to course topic, with specific consideration to Open Lab portfolio course requirement.	In Class Presentations Critique of Project 3	FINAL Project Introduced: Research Assignment on Openlab
12	Begin Final Projects in on site location: AMNH, or Metropolitan Museum for example.	ON Site LAB time for final project: – research, reference photography and sketches.	Begin Final Projects in on site location: AMNH, or Metropolitan Museum for example.
13	LECTURE TBD	ON Site LAB time for final project: – research, reference photography and sketches, and Final Project Work in Progress Rendering.	Final Project Work in Progress Process Sketchbook Ongoing Assignment, to be shared on Openlab.
14	LECTURE TBD	ON Site LAB time for final project: – research, reference photography and sketches, and Final Project Finished Art.	Final Project Work in Progress Process Sketchbook DUE day of Final Class. Student Portfolios due to be Posted in Open Lab for review.
15	Final In Class Presentations and portfolio review.	In Class Presentations of final project, final portfolios and sketchbooks.	

