

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: ART 120

Year: 2025-2026

Course Title: Drawing I

Credit Hours: 3

I. Course Description:

This course introduces the process of drawing and develops crucial observational skills required in all of the visual arts. Translating the three-dimensional world to a two-dimensional surface is explored through a variety of media. Conceptual and aesthetic solutions for drawing are explored by utilizing the creative process and analyzing light, composition, the elements and principles of art, and various styles, techniques, and media. Students are introduced to these concepts by examining examples of professional work, demonstrations, and class activities. The course also explores how observational drawing develops relevant skills that apply to other media and creative fields such as illustration, photography, animation, painting, computer graphics, and graphic design. The relationship of drawing to commercial art, fine art, and design and its integration into the creative and design process is emphasized. ART 120 fulfills The Arts SUNY General Education Knowledge and Skills Area. Prerequisites: None. 3 Cr. (2 Lec., 2 Lab.) Fall and spring semesters.

II. Additional Course Information:

1. Drawing I is a required course for the Graphic Design, Photography, and New Media A.S. degree programs.
2. Students are required to work on assignments outside of class.
3. This course consists of at least 100 minutes of lecture and 100 minutes of lab work each week for the fifteen-week semester.
4. The course is taught through lectures and demonstrations, critique, and guided coursework. Students are required to be actively engaged in course activities and weekly group critique.
5. The course has a fee of approximately \$100 to cover course materials. This fee does not cover any assigned course textbook.

III. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply drawing and art terminology.
2. Create technically proficient drawings that demonstrate a thorough exploration of media, techniques, aesthetics, conceptual development, and composition.
3. Critique and evaluate their own drawings and those of others.
4. Implement and document the creative process.

IV. Tompkins Cortland Institutional Learning Outcomes; Program Learning Outcomes; SUNY General Education Competencies and Knowledge and Skills Areas

Tompkins Cortland ILOs – N/A

Complete this section for “service” courses only (e.g., courses that are required of all students; courses that are not program specific but satisfy liberal arts requirements; or commonly used in multiple academic programs to meet non-

program-specific requirements). Check only Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) that are meaningfully developed and assessed in this course. For each ILO chosen, include the SLO to which it aligns.

Students will:

- ☐ Communicate effectively, in oral and written forms, taking into consideration audience and purpose.
- ☐ Apply principles and methods of scientific inquiry and quantitative reasoning appropriate to their discipline.
- ☐ Use information, critical thinking, and the creative process to solve problems and reach conclusions.
- ☐ Use technology appropriate to their discipline.
- ☐ Describe the ways in which social, economic, or environmental sustainability depends on their own and the collective contributions of a diversity of ideas and people.

Program Learning Outcomes –N/A

Complete this section for program-specific courses (e.g., those that share the same discipline code as the academic program or satisfy requirements in related programs). List the academic program(s) here and note which Student Learning Outcomes align to specific Programmatic Learning Outcomes. Please see the MCS Instructions for more details.

Specify the Academic Program:

SUNY General Education Competencies –N/A

If this course assesses a SUNY GEN ED Competency, check all that apply and indicate which course outcome(s) address each checked item:

☐ CRITICAL THINKING & REASONING- Students will:

- a. clearly articulate an issue or problem;
- b. identify, analyze, and evaluate ideas, data, and arguments as they occur in their own or others' work; acknowledge limitations such as perspective and bias; and
- c. develop well-reasoned (logical) arguments to form judgments and/or draw conclusions.

☐ INFORMATION LITERACY - Students will:

- a. locate information effectively using tools appropriate to their need and discipline; evaluate information with an awareness of authority, validity, and bias; and demonstrate an understanding of the ethical dimensions of information use, creation, and dissemination.

☒ SUNY GENERAL EDUCATION KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AREA(s): The Arts

Students will

- demonstrate an understanding of at least one principal form of artistic expression and the creative process inherent therein.

SLO 2: Create technically proficient drawings that demonstrate a thorough exploration of media, techniques, aesthetics, conceptual development, and composition.

☐ This course does not address any of the above Tompkins Cortland ILOs, PLOs, or SUNY General Education Competencies or Knowledge and Skills Areas.

V. Essential Topics/Themes

1. Drawing from observation
2. Analyzing and critiquing drawing
3. Utilizing the creative process in drawing
4. Shape & line
5. Line quality and style
6. Figure/ground relationships and positive/negative space
7. Contour drawing
8. Measuring/sighting
9. Perspective
10. Foreground, middle ground, and background
11. Elements of light, value, shadows and highlights, and texture and how they influence the 3D form
12. Elements and principles of art
13. Mediums: graphite, charcoal, pastels, ink and pen
14. The connection of drawing to creative fields and media
15. Integration of drawing into the creative and design processes (thumbnails, ideation, sketching, visual communication)
16. Image sourcing/reference and planning and layout
17. Using grids in resizing when drawing from image sources
18. Drawing and composition from 3D
19. Drawing and composition using 2D image sources
20. Conceptual development
21. Drawing vs. illustration
22. Landscape, still life, objects, materials (such as glass, metal, etc.), figure (no live models utilized)
23. Documenting drawings for digital presentation

VI. Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Course assignments	30-50%
Weekly drawings	10-20%
Midterm & final portfolio	20-40%
Reflections & documentation of utilizing the creative process	10-20%

VII. Texts – ☐Required ☒Recommended ☐ Used for more than one course (list courses)

High school instructors may consult with CollegeNow for additional information.

	OER
1. Ching, Francis D. K., and Frank Ching. <i>Drawing: A Creative Process</i> . Wiley, 1990.	☐
2. Armer, Eddie. <i>Beginner's Guide to Life Drawing</i> . Search Press, 2019.	☐

Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.

VIII. Bibliography of Supplemental Materials

1. Loomis, Andrew. <i>Drawing the Head and Hands</i> . Titan, 2011.
2. Dodson, Bert. <i>Keys to Drawing</i> . Penguin Publishing Group, 1990.
3. Henly, Joanna. <i>Pocket Art: Portrait Drawing: The Quick Guide to Mastering Technique and Style</i> . Rockport Publishers, 2018.
4. <i>The Sketch Encyclopedia: Over 1,000 Drawing Projects</i> . Editor 3DTotal Publishing, 2018.
5. Edwards, Betty. <i>Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain: The Definitive, 4th Edition</i> . Penguin Publishing Group, 2012.

Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.

IX. Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual: Online professional training tutorials
Electronic: Online professional training tutorials
Other:

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for academic adjustments. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Academic Integrity: *Every student at Tompkins Cortland Community College is expected to act in an academically honest fashion in all aspects of his or her academic work: in writing papers and reports, in taking examinations, in performing laboratory experiments and reporting the results, in clinical and cooperative learning experiences, and in attending to paperwork such as registration forms.*

Any written work submitted by a student must be his or her own. If the student uses the words or ideas of someone else, he or she must cite the source by such means as a footnote. Our guiding principle is that any honest evaluation of a student's performance must be based on that student's work. Any action taken by a student that would result in misrepresentation of someone else's work or actions as the student's own — such as cheating on a test, submitting for credit a paper written by another person, or forging an advisor's signature — is intellectually dishonest and deserving of censure.

Several degree programs offer student learning opportunities (such as internships, field work, and clinical experiences) outside the standard classroom setting. As part of the learning process, students must understand and engage in conduct that adheres to principles guiding employment within the professional workplace. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, academic integrity, accountability, reliability, respect, use of appropriate language and dress, civility, professional ethics, honesty, and trustworthiness. Disciplinary action may be initiated for inappropriate conduct occurring while participating in any course-related project or event.