Department of Architectural Technology
New York City College of Technology – City University of New York
300 Jay Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201

ARCH 1110
M, Th 2:30pm – 5:00pm
Professor Valdez
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1110: WEEK 1:

Lecture 1: **RECTILINEAR FORM:** Identify axis in rectilinear forms and recognize hierarchy and dominance
of volumes based on proportion. Group forms to create a visually pleasing unified object.
Lecture 2: **How to photograph a Model:** setting up lights and backdrop, camera angle, image quality (resolution and focus)

OBJECTIVE:

Students will learn to identify an axis in rectilinear forms and to recognize hierarchy between volumes based on proportion. This identification and understanding will then be reinforced and demonstrated through 2-D and 3-D drawings. Drawings should communicate depth and the relationship between parts.

DISCUSSION:

Composition making in 3D: Hierarchy, Proportion, viewing object from 360 degrees
Craftsmanship and developing techniques for working with specific media (problem solving)
Iterative testing
Documenting development through photography

DESCRIPTION:

Through a series of 3-D "sketches" made in clay, you will practice the art of generating form. However, form creation should not be a random and unevaluated act. The process of creating, testing, and revising form will be used to train the eye to recognize successful proportions and relationships between objects. A successful grouping will create both interesting positive and negative space and will be lively.

In this exercise, vocabulary will become increasingly important as you are now producing geometric form and then evaluating and describing its' properties. Through this process you will learn to identify **primary** and **secondary** axis; **dominant**, **subdominant**, and **subordinate** forms; and articulate proportional relationships within a single volume and between objects.

The process of creating multiple versions, and using a media which allows for easy manipulation and testing is also crucial to the learning objectives of this project. It's not just what you do, but how you do it. A design process is always iterative, and a designer always tests and evaluates many options and decisions. As you work through this project, think about ways to document and test your ideas quickly.

Final compositions will be documented in orthographic, axonometric, and perspective views. This project will also introduce the concepts and rendering techniques for shade and shadow. In addition to final drawings, process drawings will be created to not only delineate the forms that were created, but also to explain the thinking behind the forms and compositions. This type of explanatory drawing is called a diagram.

Lab & Homework:

EXERCISE 1 PROCESS:

1 First using white clay, make a multitude of rectangular volumes (9 minimum) no larger than 4" in any dimension. Assemble groupings of 3 rectangular volumes (a total of 3 groupings) and secure to a ½" thick foam core base.

2 These volumes should be brought together to create visually balanced, harmonious, and compelling groupings of three. A total of three groupings should be completed in clay. Within each grouping, the *dominant*, *subdominant*, and *subordinate* part should be identified as described in *Elements of Design* by Gail Greet Hannah.

3 Take a digital photograph of each grouping against a black background. Use the studio spotlight to make clear shadows. Take three photos at bird's eye view, three photos at eye level and three close-up photos. The total will be nine high quality photos of EACH model for a total of 27 photos.

4 Select your best photo of each model and create a trace paper overlay diagram explaining the geometric structure of your groupings: outline the groupings, identify the major and minor **axis** of each volume with a red pencil; shade in the dominant volumes with a 2B lead pencil, label the **proportions** of each edge of your volumes as a ratio of length to width. You will have THREE final trace overlay diagrams.

READING: Hannah, Gail Greet. Elements of Design: Rowena Reed Kostellow and the Structure of Visual Relationships, *pp.*44-57.

SKILLS: Modeling in Clay, measuring with a ruler, composition, cutting sheet material (foam core)

Assignment 01: Rectilinear forms model _Grading Sheet:

		Points Possible	Points earned
3 Compositions	Hierarchy (dominant, subdominant, subordinate)	10	
	Scale and proportion	10	
	Arrangement/Composition	10	
	placement on base	10	
craftsmanship(smooth clean surfaces)		10	
accuracy (90 degree angles)		10	
Hierarchy diagrams		10	
Total		70	