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Graphics Arts

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Course Experience: The Analysis of the Experience

of Visual Perception

When this class first began in September, I was very confused on what I was taking. I had originally thought that the class would focus around working with computers and learning how to design or add graphics to an object from a computer. I got the complete opposite and was told to go out and buy art supplies needed for the class to make the various shapes and patterns. It was explained that this course was meant to train the mind and the eyes to see things through a designer’s perspective.

The first project was the focal point within a positive and negative space. This was to be done by drawing a square on paper and controlling how much negative space. This was to be done by drawing a square on paper and controlling how much negative the shape took up with creating as much tension natural visually. My original thought was drawing a square on a piece of paper would be easy enough to do but I was proved wrong upon submitting my first piece of work. I created too much tension between the shape and margins of the paper, not enough breathing room. I had inadvertently created perspective by drawing the shape on the lower left hand side of the page instead of drawing it out on the upper right hand side. This alerted to me to the difficulty that this class would present in the near future.

After finishing working with focal points, the class moved on to patterns. The objective was to make a shape that had pattern in it. This was to be completed by making one of the shapes of the piece bigger or smaller that the others without altering the measurements by a lot. The assignment had a lot to do with perspective and illusion. Controlling the negative space with the shapes to create a pattern was rather difficult due to the measurements. The measurements had to be exact or it would create an illusion through the piece.

The final project the class worked on was color and making colors work with each other. This was the most difficult task out of the whole semester. Before anything could be done, I had to find out which colors worked with each other and if the color needed to be a shade lighter or darker. This was the most difficult task for me due to the fact that I never worked well with colors. I usually work with black or gray colors so to work with colors took me out of my comfort zone. I am still working on this task to find the perfect shades of two colors to work to work with each other.

The class overall has taught me to look at all things more closely and attentively. The professor would constantly bring magazines to show us latest designs in ads and drill us on what would be the focal point of the advertisement and what worked well with certain things or why certain things wouldn’t work. This has helped me further progress my education in graphic arts by giving me the basic training to be able to do my own design. e he cl