**COMD 1103 Foundations Drawing New York City College of Technology**

**Department of Communication Design**

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**Week 3**

**Topic: Introduction to Negative Space and Composition**

**The Plan for Today:**

1. **Warm Ups!**
2. **Review the 3 basic drawing skills :**

• Composition, Value, and Contour

1. **Group Critique** : *integrate the specific vocabulary we learned last week*!

ASSIGNMENT 1 – High Intensity Contour Drawing

1. **Discuss the sketchbook Homework and Reading**
2. **Review The Perception of Edges**

• Contours

1. **Introduction to Composition**
2. **Framing**

• Make a View Finder

1. **Exercise 1: Composition**

Use your View Finder to frame a composition. Carefully consider your picture plane. Look at your view from multiple points of view. Be the composer of a unique composition that you find visually compelling.

1. **Measuring**

• Define Your BASIC UNIT & Using your Body to Measure

1. **Exercise 2 : Measurement**

Change Your point of view of the same subject matter. Try switching desks or simply change the arrangement you see inside your View Finder.

Using your thumb and your pencil as illustrated in the hand out, choose a *basic unit* for your composition. Now sketch your composition, using this basic unit as your frame of reference for *relative size*.

1. **Composition Concepts**

• Balance : Symmetry vs. Asymmetry

• Negative Space

1. **Artist Spotlight Aubrey Beardsley**
2. **Exercise 3 – Silhouette**

Use your View Finder to frame a composition. Look carefully at the contours of your subject and how they relate to the frame of the composition.

Using your charcoal block, coat a sheet of newsprint paper with charcoal dust. Carefully frame your picture plane and lightly make the center points on all sides for comparison.

Next, focus your eyes on only the *negative spaces*, the spaces around or between the subject(s). Compare them to each other and to the outside edge of the composition to determine size and placement.

Create a negative space drawing by carefully sketching the contours of the negative shapes onto the toned surface. Once all of your contours are in place choose which part of the drawing will be light and which dark. Remove the excess material using your kneaded eraser to reveal the *silhouette*.

**VOCABULARY:**

**Negative Spaces:** The empty areas within a composition.

**Positive Forms**: The objects or persons within the drawing. The subject matter.

**Silhouette:** A silhouette is an object or scene represented as a solid shape with its edges matching the exterior contour of the subject. The interior of a silhouette is featureless, with no interior details.

**Framing:** The act of composition. Choosing what is and is not contained within the picture plane.

**Composition:** In drawing, the term composition means the way the components

of a drawing are arranged by the artist.

**DUE NEXT WEEK:**

1. **Required Reading: Drawing from the Right side of the Brain : Pages 133-**

**2 - Sketchbook Exercise:** Timed Sketchbook Pages: (ongoing exercise)

* For this course students are required to keep an ongoing sketchbook which will be utilized a minimum of 1 hour, 30 min per page, for a total of 2 timed sketchbook pages per week.
* Students can *not* to tear out pages and pages must be dated. Students may of course draw MORE than the required 2 pages. Sketchbooks will be reviewed weekly as part of peer critique.

**THEME for this week:** **Negative and Positive Space**

Use two facing pages of your sketchbook. Create a series of four boxes on each page with your ruler.

Pick 4 everyday objects with interesting shapes. On one page do a series of quick sketches of objects, working from the positive form. On the facing page draw the same object a second time, this time working on drawing the negative space.

\*Remember these are quick studies. You have roughly an hour to complete both pages so time yourself at about 8-10 minutes per drawing.

**3 - Assignment 2 Negative Space Drawings:**

**Following the same process we used in class compose 2 still life drawings making strong use of negative space.**

* USE your 18 x 24 DRAWING PAPER for this Assignment.
* TONE your drawing papers before you begin using the charcoal block and a paper towel.

**What to DO:**

Working on toned drawing paper, using a process of first drawing contours, then lifting out material using your kneaded eraser. You should choose either negative or positive space to be the lighter *values*. (i.e. the removed material)

BE SURE TO USE ALL OF THE TOOLS WE HAVE DISCUSSED SO FAR.

Carefully frame your picture plane and lightly mark the center points on all sides for comparison.

Choose a Basic Unit to measure against.

Carefully observe your Contours

Once the *silhouette is* revealed use your careful observation of contours to fill in more information. (i.e. to FINISH the drawing.) Draw these two compositions at your highest level of skill!

**Drawing 1: Manmade Objects.** Create a composition you find pleasing containing a few object from your home. Try a theme: Kitchen objects for example. Infuse your drawing with meaning through your choices of objects. Remember YOU ARE THE COMPOSER!

**Drawing 2: Natural Objects.** Create a composition you find pleasing containing a few natural objects. Try drawing outside if you can. Again, carefully consider your choice of shape an subject matter.

Tip: SPRAY the 2 drawings with Aerosol Hairspray or Workable Fixatiff Spray when complete so they don’t smudge!