



Introduction to Drawing with Greyscale

Fall Semester
Academic Year 2023/24

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

Rising 6th - 12th graders: *No previous drawing experience is required for this course, this is an introductory level Drawing course which is meant to help develop and heighten the basic drawing skills, setting a foundation for other artistic courses. A sense of wonder, creative courage, and perseverance are beneficial postures for flourishing in this course*

Class Start Date: Tuesday, September 5th

Class End Date: Thursday, January 18th

Class Orientation: Week of August 28th

Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday; 9:30-10:45am (EST)

Instructor: Sara Silkwood

E-mail: ssilkwood.scholeacademy@gmail.com

SCHEDULE FOR INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING:

CLASS SESSIONS DATES:

Classes will take place on Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9:30 — 10:45am (EST) for 16 weeks and 32 classes*

**Please note the above dates and times are the anticipated class sessions for this course. However, all dates are subject to change as the instructor's circumstances might dictate (e.g. illness, family emergency). Any classes canceled by the instructor will be made up at an alternate time designated by the instructor.*

INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING COURSE MAP:

Quarter 1

1. Introduction to the science of learning to draw.
2. Drawing exercises to help shift the focus from symbolic to analytical drawing
3. Master copy drawing to increase skill and design sensibility
4. Pencil drawing

Quarter 2

1. Observational and imaginative drawing
2. Introduction to charcoal
3. Understanding light, value, and form to convey powerful drawing.
4. Focus on still life and some narrative.
5. Blending concepts and symbols to begin expression through drawing.

OFFICE HOURS: In addition to scheduled class times, I will be available to meet with students and parents by appointment to answer questions or review class material.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Teaching art online is a unique learning experience to navigate. If at all possible, buy the version of supply linked below. I can help students navigate obstacles more effectively when we are all using the same materials. If you have any questions regarding supplies, please feel free to email me.

- Any kind of sketchbook (minimum size 8"x10"): We will use these for exercises and notes. If you already have one that you use, that will do!
- Document camera (such as Ipevo), or equivalent*
- Pad of **SMOOTH** newsprint ([link](#))
- 11x14" drawing paper pad ([link](#))
- Drawing pencils ([link](#))
- 2-3 Conte à Paris Pierre Noire B pencils ([link](#))
- Soft vine charcoal ([link](#))
- Kneaded Eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Drawing board

OPTIONAL COURSE MATERIALS:

- Spray Fixative
- Painter's tape

*EpocCam ([link](#)) is an app for the iPhone that turns your phone into a document camera. Ipevo has an app for Android phone ([link](#)), but I have not used it. Paired with a tension arm like this ([link](#)), and you have a very affordable alternative to a dedicated document camera. It will automatically link to Zoom.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Drawing is a skill just like reading, writing and math that can be learned. Learning to draw doesn't make you an artists, but it fundamentally changes our habits of perception and attention to the world around us. We learn to slow down, look carefully at the things that make up our everyday life. Drawing is an invitation to examine creation with methodical attention and curiosity.

Introduction to Drawing is a foundation course where students are taught fundamental drawing skills. The skills students learn here are the foundation for other art classes such as *Drawing with Color* and *Introduction to Portraiture*. Students will be taught a range of approaches both traditional and contemporary with familiar mediums such as graphite, charcoal and conte so that the student can focus on the the grey scale before learning color. Students will create Master copies, render objects, create still lives, and observational drawings from life. In this course, students will be encouraged to explore original ideas, themes, and concepts in their work. Through demonstrations, personal instruction, and exercises, students will explore different subjects/compositions, textures, papers, and application techniques suitable for each unique medium.

Students will be encouraged to practice exercises taught in class and may need to work outside of class to complete projects.

Along with hands-on studio work, students will participate in regular class critiques, creating a forum for the group to constructively collaborate and discuss creative outcomes. Individual artist statements will be required with most finished pieces of work, giving students another opportunity to articulate their interpretive intent and their understanding of process and design concepts.

Students can also expect ongoing dialogues about art in history, the Christian imagination in relationship to faith and the arts, and the role of the arts in the Church. The hope of the instructor is that through engagement in the class, students will be brought to a deeper appreciation of the visual world and the creative love of its Maker.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS

Students are expected to arrive to class on time with their needed materials prepped and ready to use. Students are expected to listen attentively and participate actively in class discussions and exercises. Each individual is responsible for staying up-to-date with classwork/assignments and for taking the initiative to reach out when in need of help.

Unless due to emergency or illness, students are expected to communicate absences with me at least a full day prior to the class in question. Unexcused absences and tardiness will affect the student's class participation grade.

STUDENT EVALUATION: GRADING

I will be providing feedback/critique constantly through zoom as well as in writing. In addition to this, I will assign the following grades to the student's level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will be the *magna cum laude* students. Students who do adequate but not praiseworthy work be designated *satis*. *Non satis* means lacking sufficiency or adequacy.

STUDENT EVALUATION: MASTERY PORTRAIT

At the completion of this course *cum laude* students will be able to...

- Operate successfully in a studio setting and care for their materials
- Create formal still lives and drawings from life
- Render a variety of complex subjects and surfaces with skill using variety of materials and techniques
- Critique their own and other's art in an informed manner
- Make intentional artistic decisions and investigate self-generated ideas

STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS

Students will be evaluated in the following categories:

1. Class Participation: 30%
2. Homework and Exercises: 20%
3. Projects: 50%

STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students will spend the majority of the class creating original pieces of art. Claiming someone else's work as your own is a serious and punishable offense. A plagiarized assignment will result in a failing grade.

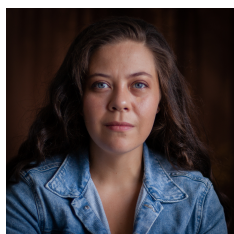
THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to an email. They will submit their work to the Canvas assignment page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:



Sara Silkwood holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from Syracuse University. Sara has several years experience teaching in a variety of areas including college level, church-run camps, Classical schools and privately. She also serves as the fine arts teacher at Valor Preparatory Academy. Currently, Sara works out of her home studio in Waco, Texas where she lives with her great dane-lab mix, Oberon. She spends her free-time backpacking, reading and illustrating her own stories.