

BOSTON UNIVERSITY VENICE
Fall 2013-2014
CFA AR 501 Drawing Venice (4 credits)

Luca De Gaetano
Tue/Thu 9:15am-12:00pm

Through on-site and in-class/studio drawing, Artists will develop a self-driven and powerful body of work, culminating in one or more final projects. Short and Long projects will be assigned and a thorough investigation of different mediums will be supported.

-Venice will be explored as a physical, historical, and emotional space and as a prominent center of contemporary art.

-Various concepts will be presented to foster the drawing process including: Space, Light, Line and Tonal Structure, Automatic drawing, Gesture, Abstraction, Content vs. Subject, and Drawing to Painting.

-According to class needs, weekly assignments will be flexible and somewhat open-ended to be considered as opportunities for personal investigation.

-During the semester, in and outside of class, Artists are required to draw **daily** in a ****Designated Sketch-Book****, to be a Personal Book for drawing, exploring, and writing notes.

-Short lectures/ Slide presentations (presented by myself and invited guests) on historical and contemporary references will be a required part of the curriculum to further ground the studio practice and to foster and promote intellectual curiosity and awareness. Discussion will be encouraged and expected.

-Class visits (during class time) to The Venice Biennale and to other art exhibits and architectural landmarks will be required as part of the curriculum.

Course Requirements

-Artists must attend all classes, lectures, field trips, and **must be punctual**. Tardiness is unprofessional and will not be tolerated. All Artists are required to attend classes with all necessary materials and **committed** to engage in class work and all discussions. Homework assignments are required every week to reinforce what is learned during class and to explore/develop your own interests and livelihood as an Artist. Homework load/frequency will be adjusted to the specific needs of the assignment. Homework must be completed on the due-date to avoid damage to your grade. Students will be expected to present their work(s) during class.

A separate sketchbook **must** be brought to class for notes and preparatory drawings. This is a separate sketchbook from the above mentioned ****Designated Sketch-Book****) All assignments will be discussed in class.

-Homework expectation is 3-5 hours per week.

Grading

- Portfolio of class work: 50%
- Weekly assignments: 20%
- Final project: 20%
- Participation: attendance, sketchbook 10%

"A" grade will be assigned to serious, ambitious, hard-working, punctual Artists.

All Artists are expected to dedicate their time and to engage with enthusiasm/ participation/contribution to all class-work and assignments.

Artists may re-work a homework assignment to raise a given grade in consultation with me. Two unexcused absences will bring the class grade down half grade. Three or more unexcused absences can put the student in jeopardy of failing the course. It is the student's responsibility to make up work from a class missed for an excused absence.

Attendance

Boston University Venice students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trips required for the class.

Religious Holidays

Boston University's Office of the University Registrar states:

"The University, in scheduling classes on religious holidays and observances, intends that students observing those traditions be given ample opportunity to make up work. Faculty members who wish to observe religious holidays will arrange for another faculty member to meet their classes or for cancelled classes to be rescheduled."

Schedule

Week 1

Sept. 10th

- Presentation (Including sketchbook project), information, questionnaire.
- Exploration of the *Sestiere Dorsoduro* - on-site drawing
- Introduction of the " Mapping Venice" project (on-going project)
- Assignment: 5 linear drawing; 5 line-less drawing

Sept. 12th

- VISIT (during class time and beyond class-time): Venice Biennale
- Assignment: Artistic response to the Biennale (one artist/artwork/theme/article)

Week 2

Sept. 17th

- Short group discussion on first assignment and on the *Biennale*
- Short presentation on mapping/maps
- Project: " Mapping Venice" Describe Venice-large collage
- Assignment: continuing "Mapping Venice"

Sept. 19th

- Continue "Mapping Venice"
- Assignment: 10 small drawings in 10 different medium of your choice

Week 3

Sept. 24th

- Group discussion on " Mapping Venice"
- Presentation on "Drawing-Flowing", water and drawing
- Drawing water on site/in class: flowing, texture, rhythm, depth
- Assignment: "Drawing-Flowing"

Sept. 26th

- Group discussion on "Drawing-Flowing" homework
- Presentation on calligraphy
- Continue "Drawing-Flowing"
- Assignment: continue "Drawing-Flowing"/ "Mapping Venice"

Week 4

Oct. 1st

- VISIT (during class-time): to Ca' Pesaro
- Assignment: "East-West" drawing

Oct. 3rd

- Continue: "East-West" drawing
- Assignment: finish "East-West" drawing

Week 5

Oct. 8th

- Group discussion on "East-West" homework
- Short presentation on portraiture
- "Silent Class": draw the model
- Assignment: "out of scale" self-portrait: 10 sketches/one final

Oct. 10th

- Discussion on the "out of scale" self-portrait
- Continue self-portrait
- Assignment: Make up to 5 "stolen portraits" in up to 5 different mediums of your choice

Week 6

Oct. 15th

- Short discussion on the portraits homework
- "Pattern/decoration vs object/volume"
- Working on-site on one building of your choice (first draw all abacus of details, then only volumes)
- Assignment: continue working on "Pattern/decoration vs object/volume"
Gather possible ideas for final project

Oct. 17th

- MID TERM CRITIQUE** + discussion on Final projects
- Assignment: continue "Pattern/decoration vs object/volume"

Oct. 19th

- Field trip to Vicenza

Week 7

Oct. 22nd

- "Silent Class": draw the figure (After field trip to Florence)
- Assignment: continue "Pattern/decoration vs object/volume"

Oct. 24th

- Visit the Guggenheim Collection (during class time)
- Assignment: "Drawing collection - the Museum of the Self"

Week 8

Oct. 29th

- Discussion on the " Drawing collection - the Museum of the Self " homework
- Continue the "Drawing collection the Museum of the Self"

Oct. 31st NO CLASS

- Assignment: continue the "Drawing collection the Museum of the Self"

Week 9

Nov. 5th

- Guest presentation: Karen Corsano and Daniel Williman
- Continue the "Drawing collection the Museum of the Self"

Nov. 7th

- Short presentation on "Watercolor and Venice"
- Work on watercolor
- Assignment: continue working in watercolor

Nov. 9th

- Field trip to Bologna
- Assignment: continue working in watercolor

Week 10

Nov. 12th

- Continue watercolor project / personal project
- Assignment: Drawing from a "Narrative: novel, play, movie"

Nov. 14th

- Continue watercolor project/narrative project

-Assignment: continue Drawing from a "Narrative: novel, play, movie"

Nov. 15th

-Field trip to Florence

Week 11

Nov. 19th

-Discussion on student's work

-Presentation on text (suggested readings)

-Continue watercolor project/ narrative projects

-Assignment: continue Drawing from a Narrative: novel, play, movie

Nov. 21st

-Discussion on student's work/ Final projects

-Presentation on monochrome/large scale drawings

-Continue watercolor project/personal projects

-Assignment: continue Drawing from a Narrative: novel, play, movie

Week 12

Nov. 26th

-Drawing vs. Designing: draw a bridge/design a bridge

-Work on final projects

-Assignment: write a paragraph about your work / write a poem about your work and then make on drawing out of the text

Nov. 28th

-Individual Critique/ student-to student critique

-Continue Drawing vs. Designing: draw a bridge/design a bridge

-Assignment: Continue: write a paragraph about your work / write a poem about your work and then make on drawing out of the text

Week 13

Dec. 3rd

- Continue Drawing vs. Designing: draw a bridge/design a bridge

-Work on Final projects

-Assignment: make a drawing using 10 different medium and only one hue.

Dec. 5th

-Discussion on student's work and on homework

-Continue: draw a bridge/design a bridge (on-site drawing/sculpting)

-Work on final projects

-Assignment: make a drawing that by subject, content and formal choices could summarize all other drawings of yours - Finish the "Bridge project"

Week 14

Dec. 10th

-Final Critique

-CLEAN UP!

Dec. 11th

Open Studios