Syllabus for Intro to Drawing FA 3B 1

**Course Description and Objectives:** In this course, students will learn about and use the basic elements of drawing. They will explore line, value, form, space, and composition using a variety of media. The course will begin by focusing on one element of drawing at a time, where students will work towards drawing what they see. However, as the semester continues, students will discover the complexities of drawing by making deliberate choices, ultimately leading to expression through both content and materials.

**Course Plan:**

**Week 1 January 18th**
- Wed: Introduction, review syllabus and go over materials
  - Contour drawing (completely blind), drawing object by feel!

**Homework:** Begin personal sketchbook

**Week 2 January 23rd & 25th**
- Mon: Contour drawings from still-life, focusing on object and spaces between (use ink).
- Wed: Contour drawings from the same still life, in pencil this time, consider size and placement of objects. Try to fill the whole page.

**Homework:** One contour drawing of a still life of your choosing (3 object minimum).

**Week 3 January 30th & February 1st**
- Mon: Measuring for proportions: Gesture drawing with some quick measuring of still life
  - Drawing what you see vs. what you know
- Wed: Visual cues: negative space, overlapping objects, and measuring continued. Slow down and draw the same still life from Mon. looking up and measuring constantly.

**Homework:** Draw one still life object, leaving measuring lines in the drawing
  - (height, width, diagonals, etc…)
  - Be prepared to hand in small sketchbook

**Week 4 February 6th & 8th**
- Mon: Discuss value and make a value scale with pencils. Begin a 2 session still life with only white objects.
- Wed: Continue white object still life, focus on building objects using shadow shapes, and capturing multiple values.

**Homework:** Set up a dramatically lit still life (2-3 objects) with white and/or black objects. Make an effort to use a variety of pencils and your eraser as drawing tools. Remember to squint at your still life to find brightest and darkest areas. Consider composition by doing 3 thumbnail sketches with different arrangement of objects and position on paper.
Week 5  February 13th & 15th  
Mon: Fill entire page with charcoal and use your eraser as your main drawing tool.  
Wed: Charcoal drawing from masters, with a focus on composition.  
Homework: Go to the library and find one painting to draw from, make your page proportional to image and fill the whole space. Use both charcoal and an eraser as your drawing tools.

February Break 20-24

Week 6  February 27th & March 1st  
Mon: Portraiture- Discuss facial proportions and measuring, do gesture drawings of classmates.  
Wed: Portraiture continued  
Homework: Draw a portrait of a friend (NOT from a photograph) and hand in small sketchbook.

Week 7  March 6th & 8th  
Mon: Self portraits  
Wed: Drawing in the Rose Art Museum  
Homework: MIDTERM PROJECT - Self portrait through a still life. Compose a still life (5 object minimum) with objects that in some way represent you, in a medium of your choosing. Plan your composition, consider your light source, and measure.

Week 8  March 13th & 15th  
Mon: Figure drawing - Gesture and contour drawings from short poses.  
Wed: Figure drawing - Draw from several longer poses. Discuss foreshortening.  
Homework: Using your small sketchbook, go to a busy place; dining hall, gym, student center etc. and do at least three drawings of the space and the people in it.

Week 9  March 20th & 22nd  
Mon: Perspective - Drawing using one point perspective.  
Wed: Continue one point perspective - hallway drawing.  
Homework: Using one point perspective, draw (in pencil) your dorm room or a room in your apartment.

Week 10  March 27th & 29th  
Mon: Two-point perspective. Draw in student center.  
Wed: Ink drawing in washes, look at Morandi vases.  
Homework: 5 object still life in ink wash. Include horizon line, carefully consider placement, light source, composition, etc.

Week 11  April 3rd & 5th  
Mon: Landscape-up on theater balcony (weather permitting).  
Wed: Landscape with architecture, drawing with shadow shapes.  
Homework: Using a window in your dorm/apartment as a frame, draw what you see inside and out. Your choice of material. Hand in small sketchbook.

April Break 10-18

Week 12  April 19th  
Wed: (Brandeis Monday) Composition, and zooming in. Still life of a small object magnified.  
Homework: Make a collage (approximately 6” x 8”) that includes at least one figure, a textured material,
and something else of your choosing (ex. A building, plant life etc…)

**Week 13 April 24th & 26th**
- Mon: Draw from collage
- Wed: Draw from collage

Homework: Hand in small sketchbook and begin final project.

**Week 14 May 1st & 3rd**
- Mon: Portfolio reviews and in class critique.
- Wed: (Last day of classes) Work on final project.

*Final Project: 5 drawing series, to be discussed during the final week of April. DUE DURING FINALS WEEK*

**Grading:** Grading is based on attendance, participation, exhibiting an understanding of class concepts, and completing homework assignments. Students should spend at least four hours outside of class completing assignments, and the completion of all HW is necessary to receive an A. Students who miss three classes drop a full letter grade.

**Disabilities:** If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.