48-355 PERSPECTIVE
9 Units
Spring 2021  Hours W 8:20am-9:40am
Professor Douglas Cooper, MM 412B  dcooper@andrew.cmu.edu
Office Hours T,TH 12:00noon-1:30pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

48-355 emphasizes free-hand drawing in general and free-hand perspective technique in particular. Understandings of perspective are developed first in figurative drawing exercises and then transferred to drawings of buildings and other architectonic objects. A key, if somewhat contradictory, objective of the course is that drawing might retain a compelling gestural life even as it attains geometric control. In the end, the objective is speed and transfer of drawing skill to design.

Sequence and Sources
Following a brief review of perspective construction from orthographic views at the outset of the course, the course addresses the subject of perspective on the basis of three distinct understandings of perceptual psychology. In sequence, these are: 1) A Kinesthetic Basis for Perspective: This work is built on the drawing pedagogy of Kimon Nicholaides. It aligns with the transactionalist understanding of perception, and it considers perspective as partly invented and partly discovered truth. 2) The Order of Appearance: This work is built on the early work of the perceptual psychologist, J.J. Gibson, and aligns with the ecological position of Gibson and his followers. It considers perspective as an absolute truth of the visual field. 3) Perspective Imposed: This work aligns implicitly with the position of Gestalt psychology. It treats perspective as an imposed schema. Each of these three sequences is introduced in lecture, developed through in-class exercises and expanded through out-of-class work. At the conclusion of each topic, in-class and out-of-class works are assembled into portfolio submissions for review.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing. 62-126 or equivalent drawing experience to be reviewed by instructor. Course is open to students from other disciplines.
Suggested Reading


Suggested Text


Background Readings


