



*Mitchell College is a transformative and inclusive learning community.
We create a radically supportive, empowering environment where each individual's growth is nurtured and celebrated.*

HUMANITIES
Semester: Fall 2026

Course Number, Section & Title: (AR103) Drawing I

Credits: 3

Ability-Based Education (ABE) Dominant Ability to be Assessed: Critical and Creative Thinking

Instructor: Mark McKee

Office Hours: 30 mins. Prior to and following each class

Office Location: Bingham Hall, Rm 201 (BH201)

Contact Information: E-mail Address: mckee_m@mitchell.edu

Class time, days, and room: Mondays, 0500PM – 0750PM (1700-1950) Bingham Hall Rm 201

Catalog Course Description: Designed for beginner students, this studio course will introduce the fundamentals of drawings; line, value, composition, and perspective. Students will practice drawing from observation to gain understanding of depth and visual awareness, as well as utilize a variety of mediums, techniques and subject matter to portray their perspective individually and collectively as a class.

Prerequisites: N/A

Course Materials: Images of Pencils and Pad are on the last page of this Syllabus

- One (1) each: Drawing or Sketch Pad* or the equivalent, 18 x 24" 100 Sheets
(*NOTE DO NOT PURCHASE NEWSPRINT PAD OR PAPER)
- One (1) LYRA Graphite Crayon 9B
- Three (3) each: Prismacolor Premier Ebony Pencils (Graphite only, not charcoal), Students may include or substitute woodless graphite pencils (Absolutely no mechanical pencils)
- One (1) each: Prismacolor Premier Design Eraser 3-Pack with Kneaded, Gum and Plastic Erasers
- Two (2) each: Boston Bulldog Spring Clip, Large

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at any time as required by the instructor

- One (1) each: Portfolio, 20 x 26" Optional
- One (1) each: Soft rag, a square cut for an old tee shirt or sweatshirt is perfect

Required Course Text: N/A

Other Required Materials:

Recommended Readings/Resources:

Learning Outcomes:

Course Learning Outcomes	Activities and/or assessments to achieve course outcomes:
Students will learn basic elements of art such as line, shape, form, value, texture and composition.	Weekly lecture and hands on demonstration provided.
Students will learn developing techniques through different drawing materials, such as shading and perspective.	Hands on demonstration provided with individual assistance throughout each class.
Students will practice creative and critical thinking through constructive evaluations of work and extended dialogue within the classroom.	Weekly critiques and various essays and readings provided and reviewed.

Ability-Based Education:

ABE partners the intellectual abilities cultivated by the liberal arts and sciences with the professional skills and personal development required to compete in the global economy. As students' progress through their programs of study, they engage with a variety of assignments (papers, videos, presentations, projects, etc.) that demonstrate their development of the Mitchell Abilities.

The seven abilities are:

1. Communication
2. Creative Problem Solving
3. Critical Thinking
4. Information Literacy
5. Intercultural Competence
6. Teamwork
7. Values, Ethics & Social Responsibility

ABE Ability Assessed in this Course	ABE Assessment(s)
Dominant Ability to be Assessed	Portfolio Assessment

Course Requirements:

Grading:

Grading Scale: The final course grade will be based on the grading system delineated below.

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A+	100-97
A	96-94
A-	93-90
B+	89-87
B	86-84
B-	83-80
C+	79-77
C	76-74
C-	73-70
D+	69-67
D	66-64
D-	63-60
F	59-0

College Attendance Policy: Mitchell College requires students to attend all classes punctually and to participate actively. When a student is absent from class it disrupts the learning community. Faculty will record attendance for all class meetings. The college recognizes that students may occasionally have to miss classes (e.g., sickness, personal matters, or mental health). Excessive absences, however, will impact learning and a student's ability to pass a course. Course-specific attendance policies as defined by each instructor are outlined in course syllabi. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the attendance policy in each class. In the event of an absence, regardless of the reason, students should communicate with the faculty; the student remains responsible for all missed coursework and related materials.

[Division/Course Attendance Policy]:

Make-up Policy:

Policy on Academic Honesty: Penalties and procedures regarding academic dishonesty are defined in the College Catalog. Academic dishonesty includes the following but is not limited to: using the work of another individual – including another student – as one's own, using non-approved resources during quizzes or exams, submitting the same essay assignment for multiple classes, or the unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Please refer to the College Catalog for the procedure required when an instructor has evidence of Academic Dishonesty.

Individual instructors are free to set their own policies concerning the use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in their courses. In the absence of such a policy, the use of AI may be considered a form of academic dishonesty. [Faculty are encouraged to provide additional guidance on the use or misuse of AI tools here. Visit <https://mitchell.libguides.com/AI> for additional resources.]

As described in the Mitchell College policy manual, "students at Mitchell College are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct." By enrolling in this course, students agree that they understand and swear to adhere to those rules. Failure to adhere to these rules will affect a student's grades. Academic dishonesty will result in a score of zero for that assignment and the incident will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs. Academic dishonesty on the final exam will result in course failure.

[Division/Course AI Policy]:

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Policy on Intellectual Property: Material created for ordinary teaching (in-person, hybrid/blended, or remote) use in the classroom and in department programs, such as syllabi, assignments, and tests, shall remain the property of the faculty creator unless otherwise denoted. Unauthorized distribution and uploading of course materials to external platforms is not permitted.

The Mitchell College Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement (updated July

2026): Mitchell College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In accordance with these laws, Mitchell College is committed to ensuring that no otherwise qualified student is denied access to course content, materials, services, or activities on the basis of disability.

Students who believe they may need accommodations should contact the Office of Accessibility Services at 860-701-5790. Accommodations are not retroactive and cannot be implemented by faculty until an official Letter of Accommodation has been issued by Accessibility Services. Letters of Accommodation must be renewed each term.

Students with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the Office of Accessibility Services. Additional information can be found in the College Catalog and on the Mitchell College Accessibility Services webpage at www.mitchell.edu/access.

Civility: It is the right of every college student to be educated in an environment that is free of distraction from the educational activities being conducted in the classroom. To support a student's right to a distraction-free educational environment, students engaged in any type of disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted as absent from the class.

Communication: Students are required to obtain and use a Mitchell College e-mail account for all departmental and College communications. All assignments/information will be posted as described by the instructor.

Important Dates:

August 24 Monday 1st day of classes, Fall Semester
September 7 Monday Labor Day – No Classes - College Offices closed
September 21 Monday Early Academic Reports Must have materials ready
October 12 Monday Indigenous Peoples' Day – Fall Break - No Classes
October 14 Wednesday MidTerm
December 3 Thursday Last day of classes before final examination period
December 7 : Final Critiques & Final Portfolio Due

Course Outline:

Week 1 Course introduction/Explorative Drawings /Contour and Blind Contour Drawing
(#1. Assignment Blind Contour Drawing)

Week 2 Measuring/Sighting/Blocking
(#2) Measuring, Sighting, Blocking

Week 3-4 Perspective
(#3) Linear Perspective Diagrammatic Drawing
(#4) Incorporate Linear Perspective in a Drawing

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Week 5 Geometry of Things

(# 5) Defining Objects Through Basic Geometry.

Week 6-7 Volume Value and Tone

(#6) Value to Define Light, Form and Volume

Week 8 Line/ Practice week review of first half of semester

(#7 In Class Assignment

Week 9 More practice incorporating basic course concepts, exploring line and its qualities

(#8) In Class Assignment Line Quality

Week 10- 11 Positive & Negative Space

(#9) Negative Space Drawing

Week 12 The Picture Plane/Composition

(#10) Composing (Series of multiple Compositions x 4)

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Week 13 Space

(#11) In Class Assignment

Week 14 Building Values and Texture

(#12) In Class Assignment

Week 15-16 Final Project(s) Done in and out of class

(#13) Final Portfolio - ***At the end of the semester, students will also be expected to turn in a portfolio consisting of a minimum five (5) of their drawings that they best reflects their work and are demonstrative of the concepts covered in course.***

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Lyra Graphite Crayon 9B (Below)



Design
Ebony
Pencils
(Above)



Example Canson 18 x 24 Sketchpad (Above)

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