

DRAWING THE CITY: Seeing and Sketching Everyday Life **FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR (FRS-004), 2 UNITS P/NP, CRN 24352**

FALL QUARTER 2018 - Fridays 10-11:50am Hunt Hall 132 and outdoors

Instructor: David de la Peña, dsdelapena@ucdavis.edu, 530-752-4082
office 111 Hunt Hall, hours: Thursdays 1-3:30 pm, or by appt.

Description: Learn to see the everyday environments around you through urban sketching and journaling. Capture the essence of a place with just a pen and paper; compose stories from drawings, words, and perhaps a splash of color. In this seminar, we will support each other to improve our seeing and drawing skills, at whatever skill level we each possess. Each session will include a brief skills demonstration, followed by an hour of sketching and then a discussion of our work. We will learn about drawing materials, constructed perspectives, composition, color, and human figures. Along the way we will get to know the city of Davis by visiting its special places—the Arboretum, Domes, Downtown, Village Homes, the UCD quad, and so on. This course is open to anyone interested in landscapes and cityscapes, regardless of artistic experience. Students should be willing to try new things and to share their work without judgment.

Learning Objectives: This course will provide students with a venue for exploring places and advancing their drawing skills. Students will learn key skills to help them see and draw better, and they will develop their own style of sketching and journaling. These skills are not just useful for illustrators, but they help students see the beauty of everyday environments and to effectively communicate their observations to others.

Format: The seminar will meet for just under 2 hours each week. Additionally, on non-class days students will keep sketchbooks, spending approximately 40 minutes per day sketching. During class time, the instructor will introduce skills and techniques, and we will discuss our daily sketching practices, but the bulk of time will be spent sketching and sharing our work with each other. We will meet at different sites, so access to a bicycle or similar mode of transport will be useful (but not required). Students are expected to be present and focused during each class period. At the end of the quarter, for a final project, students will create and present one final drawing (or one series of drawings) that demonstrates their progress.

Grading: Grading will be based on class participation (25%), submission of daily journals and creative work (50%) and final drawing (25%). A grade of “pass” is awarded to undergraduate students for work that would receive a grade of C– or better (at least 70%).

About the Instructor: David is an architect, urban designer and Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design. He studies how citizens create and adapt cities and how designers engage with them to build places collaboratively. He is currently working on two books that highlight innovative approaches to participatory design in the U.S. and in Spain. His current creative projects include self-built community centers, urban farms, community gardens, the UC Davis Solar Decathlon, and the UC Davis Sustainable Living and Learning Community. He also teaches a summer abroad course on urbanism in Barcelona. He earned his M. Arch from UT Austin and his MUD and PhD from UC Berkeley.

Course Schedule:

- Sept 28 Introduction to class and participants; make journals
homework for next week: Read thru pg. 35 (especially part about composition), Do exercises 1 & 2, sketch 30 minutes a day!
- Oct 5 Composition / Rules of 3 - The Deathstar
homework for next week: Read pg 39-59, Review perspective reading on Canvas, Do exercise 3 (p.36), sketch 30 minutes a day!
- Oct 12 Distance / Perspective - Downtown
homework for next week: Read pg. 65-83, Review Canvas Reading on People; Do exercise 9, 10 or 11 (your choice); sketch 30 minutes a day!
- Oct 19 People - The Silo
homework for next week: Read pg. 65-83, Review Canvas Reading on People; Do exercise 9, 10 or 11 (your choice); sketch 30 minutes a day!
- Oct 26 Light - The Domes
homework for next week: Readings on Canvas on Light & Form; Do exercises on Canvas; sketch as usual!
- Nov 2 Color - Downtown
homework for next week: Readings on Canvas on color and watercoloring; Do exercises 15 and 16
- Nov 9 Plants - Arboretum
homework for next week:
- Nov 16 Narrative 1 - Davis Commons & Aggie Village
- Nov 23 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING
- Nov 30 Narrative 2 - Village Homes
- Dec 7 Finals week – no class