

Student: Mariah Spurgeon
Mattoon Middle School
1200 S 9th St., Mattoon, IL, 61938
Instructor: Jamie S Willis
Title: Paris Street, Rainy Day

Lesson Plan: Figure Drawing 101
Grade Level: 7th gr.

Time: 7–8 45 min. art periods

Materials needed: wood mannequins, drawing paper, live models (students), pencils, crayons or oil pastels, colored pencils, permanent markers, art visuals involving the human figure in art.

The student will study the human figure in art during a 7–10 day unit of instruction. Students will observe the use of a human figure within a work of art, by discussion the work of various artists (begin with Greek and Roman images, through the Renaissance, and progressing through the Post–Impressionists. I like to end with appropriate contemporary artists, and even images from gymnastics, sports figures, Cirque du Soleil)

The student will participate in daily exercises in quick gestural studies using the wood mannequins, live peer models, and famous works of art. The student will complete a finished work, using colored pencils and other media of their choice.

Day 1

Students look at and discuss images of the human figure in art. Students look at and discuss proportions of the human body by standing and noticing where their fingertips touch their thighs, how long their arms are, and even the length of their faces. After this, students draw a human figure with pencil on newsprint paper. They are given the remainder of the period for this activity. These will be kept for critique and comparison for the final day of figure drawing instruction and activities.

Day 2 – 4

Students will receive instruction on drawing from the wood mannequin as their “model”. Various poses will be sketched each day. The students will use this activity as their warm up every day when they enter the room. They may use crayons, or chalk to draw quickly and fluently. Students will discuss their samples and will critique areas that need

improvement and areas that they feel successful in. Students will also be introduced to live models on Day 3.

Day 3

Students are introduced to live models and in depth instruction is given on how to make application of the skills developed. Student models assume poses that make success easy for these first few attempts. Students will draw with crayon or chalk so that they continue practice of a relaxed fluent style of drawing to learn proportion and scale of the human form.

Day 5

Students will continue to draw from student models in the classroom and work on skills. On Day 5, the digital projector is used to project artwork in which the human figure is the subject of the painting or sculpture. (The same images are projected that were shown Day 1) Students work cooperatively in the classroom and collectively decide which work will be projected for their final drawing. Paris Street, Rainy Day by Gustave Caillebotte was the overwhelming favorite for this lesson.

Students then began to use pencils, erasers and drawing paper, focusing on the two figures in the rain for a final drawing exercise. Instruction was given on perspective, reference points, and where to logically begin.

Day 6-8

Note: The drawings were so successful, that we continued for 3 more days, focusing on colored pencil shading and modeling techniques to render the figures 3-dimensional. Students were encouraged to change the composition, color choices, costuming etc.

Evaluation: Students participated in an open critique in class discussing strengths and weaknesses in their own work. Students reviewed all their early sketches and warm-up exercises to their final pieces. Students were encouraged to discuss how they matured in their attempts and to explain how they now achieve a higher level of success.