

Drawing and Design

Second Edition

High School Coursebook



Oak Meadow

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Coursebook



Oak Meadow

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Introduction

This course introduces you to the basics of drawing, the language of art, and the primary concepts and elements of visual organization and design. You will build visual thinking processes, learn techniques of drawing, explore different styles of pencil work, and develop your artistic skills.

This course is a building block to further study that will develop your skills in both two- and three-dimensional design, but it will also benefit those who do not elect to move forward into other visual arts classes. These drawing and design principles will develop your capacities to think creatively and see the importance of aesthetics within your life and other academic work. Keep an open mind as you explore these exercises and work hard at appreciating your own unique gifts of creative engagement.

This course is designed for independent learning, so hopefully you will find it easy to navigate. However, it is assumed you will have an adult (such as a parent, tutor, or school-based teacher) supervising your work and providing support and feedback. We will refer to this person as “your teacher” in this course. If you have a question about your work, ask them for help.

Course Materials

The following text is used in this course:

Drawing: A Sketch and Textbook by Margaret Lazzari, Dona Schlesier, and Douglas Schlesier

You will find this book to be a rich resource as you develop your artistic skills. When you are assigned passages to read, make sure to study the artwork that accompanies each section. When you see a work of art referenced, take the time not only to study the art itself but also to read the description of the work, which often includes the artist’s name, date, medium, actual size, and other interesting notes.

Additional materials suggested for this course are listed below:

- drawing pencils, with a variety of H (hardness) and B (blackness) grades, with at least one in white as well
- graphite stick or pencil
- charcoals
- fixative (for charcoal drawings)
- kneaded eraser

- white glue or glue stick
- camera (to photograph your work to share with your teacher)

The following materials are not required but you might like to experiment with them throughout the course:

- drawing paper in different sizes, weights, and finishes
- watercolor paper or textured paper
- black, white, and gray paper
- colored pencils
- soft pastels
- oil pastels
- painter's tape
- watercolors
- watercolor brushes in various sizes

Your teacher might suggest other materials as well, depending on your experience and interests.

In addition to the textbook, the course uses online resources, including a series of videos that were created by the textbook authors to accompany their book. All the online resources used in this course can easily be accessed at oakmeadow.com/curriculum-links. Visit this page to familiarize yourself with how to locate the online resources for this course. Bookmark the page for future reference.

Sharing Your Work

As you complete each lesson, you will photograph your work to share with your teacher for assessment. You may also want to photograph more complex works in progress to share the different stages of the artwork with your teacher. Feedback from your teacher can help you strengthen your skills and develop your artistic eye.

Lesson

1

Media and Materials

Lesson Introduction

“Every artist was first an amateur.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The text used in this course is unique because it is both a textbook and a sketchbook. In the introduction, the authors encourage the full use of it:

Sketch, mark, doodle, think, dream, experiment, and make personal notes in this book, as you learn how to draw. We believe you will learn to draw more quickly when your sketches “live” on the same page as artwork that inspires you and instruction that provides guidance. . . .

Once you have finished this sketchbook, start another on your own. Sketching is a record of your thoughts, ideas, and observations that will enrich your future. Date your work, and it becomes another kind of personal diary. (ix)

In the first unit of the course (lessons 1–7), you’ll explore different types of media (drawing materials), surfaces, and paper and learn some basic drawing techniques. In the second unit (lessons 8–25), you’ll dive into the elements of drawing, including lines, values, contours, space, and textures. In the final unit (lessons 26–36), you’ll learn about the elements of composition and create a self-portrait, a series, and a narrative project as well as a final piece.

Your exploration begins with media. There is a wide variety of drawing media available. In this lesson, you will experiment with some of them to get a feel for how they work.

ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Watch “Video 1: Media and Materials.”
- ☐ Read pages 3 and 4.
- ☐ Gather media for your art box.
- ☐ Experiment with different types of lines.

Medium/media: the substance the artist uses to create a work of art (e.g., pencil, watercolors, clay, etc.).

Assignments

In each lesson, read all the assignments before beginning work on the first one. This will give you a clear idea of what is expected so you can organize your time well.

1. Watch the following video:

“Video 1: Media and Materials”

All the online resources used in this course can be accessed at oakmeadow.com/curriculum-links. Remember to bookmark the page for easy access.

2. In *Drawing: A Sketch and Textbook*, read about media and materials on pages 3 and 4. (All the reading assignments in this course refer to this text.)
3. Gather five to seven different media for your art box.
You'll notice an extensive list of materials listed on page 4 of the text; you do not need to acquire all these materials. See the materials list in the introduction to this coursebook for a more basic list.
4. Use the next three blank pages in your sketchbook to experiment with making various lines with your materials on white, gray, and black paper. (If you are using a separate sketchbook, you can glue gray and black paper onto the pages.)

SHARE YOUR WORK

Share the following with your teacher:

- Photograph of your art box and materials
- Photographs of your three pages of experimentation with lines

Lesson

2

Grounds and Surfaces

Lesson Introduction

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

Pablo Picasso

The surface an artist draws on is called a *ground*. Usually when we think of drawing, we think of using paper. When you were a child, you might have made chalk drawings on a sidewalk or designs in wet sand at the beach. Drawings can be made on or etched into rock, wood, glass, clay, metal, and just about any other surface. In this lesson, you'll experiment with a variety of grounds.

ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Read page 8.
- ☐ Gather grounds and add them to your sketchbook.
- ☐ Experiment with different pairings of medium and ground.
- ☐ Explain which combinations you liked best.

Assignments

1. In *Drawing: A Sketch and Textbook*, read about grounds on page 8.
2. Find five to seven different grounds that can be drawn on. Be creative and think outside the box for this assignment!

Glue your chosen grounds on the next three blank pages in your sketchbook.

3. After you have glued them down, take time to use a variety of different materials from your art box to draw on them. Have fun and draw anything you want (lines, shapes, objects, etc.). Notice how different each material feels on each ground.
4. Write two or three sentences explaining which were your favorite combinations and why.

SHARE YOUR WORK

Share the following with your teacher:

- Photographs of your three pages of experimentation with media and grounds
- Explanation of which combinations were your favorites