

## School of Architecture | Georgia Tech | Fall 2026

ARCH 4823, ARCH 8823: Special Topics: "Ways of Seeing", Drawing Workshop (3 credits)

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Credit Hours: 3 credits  
Classroom: tbd  
Days and hours of class: MW 11:00-12:15

Instructor: Mark Cottle

### Course Description & Overview

This drawing class focuses on drawing from life using the medium of charcoal.

### Course & Learning Objectives

- Introduction to a number of sketching strategies and techniques.
- Increased visual attention to the objects/spaces observed and studied.
- Improved hand-eye coordination.

Nota bene: These drawings are a record of direct observation, drawn from life. Accordingly, working from photographs or digital images is counter to the intent of this class, and therefore not allowed.

### Required course materials

18"x24" charcoal drawing sketchbook, charcoal sticks of varying density, pearl and kneaded erasers.

### Course Requirements and Deliverables

- Satisfactory completion of three to five finished original drawings per week – in response to a prompt given by the instructor, or taken from a still life set up by the instructor – scanned/photographed and posted to Canvas.
- Active attendance and participation in all class drawing sessions, discussions, pinups, and reviews.

### Course Schedule

In general, the class will pin up and discuss the previous week's drawings on Mondays. Discussions of assigned readings and presentations of the work of various relevant artists will take place on Wednesdays. Please see the annotated class schedule on Canvas. Note that this schedule is subject to periodic revisions throughout the term. Updated schedules will be posted on Canvas.

### Assessment

All class session assignments are weighted equally. Drawings are evaluated for finish, craftsmanship, and composition ... as well as for improvement over the course of the semester.

No incompletes will be awarded without an appropriate reason and a prior meeting with the instructor. All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in the class. Incompletes will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances.

### CIOS

At the end of the term, students are asked to complete the online course evaluation for all courses at Georgia Tech (<https://gatech.smartevals.com>). More information is available here: <https://academiceffectiveness.gatech.edu/surveys/cios/cios-faqs/studentfaq>

### COURSE POLICIES

#### Academic Integrity and Conduct

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. All Georgia Tech students should familiarize themselves with and abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code: <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>. Faculty shall report instances of academic

dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students.

For expectations of student and instructor conduct more generally, consult section 19 of the catalog listed above, entitled "Code of Conduct," <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/19/>, and section 22, entitled "Student-Faculty Expectations," at <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/>.

All persons in the program are expected to behave with courtesy towards others and in a way that does not interfere with the regular conduct of the class. Cell phones are to be turned off at the beginning of class and should remain off for the duration of the class; laptop computers are to be used only for taking notes; and students should not engage in private conversations while the instructor or other students are speaking. Anyone not adhering to these basic courtesies will be asked to leave.

### **AI Policy**

AI is not appropriate for the purposes of this seminar and should not be used in any form. It's use will be considered an honor code violation, and dealt with accordingly.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a disability who may require accommodation should contact the Office of Disability Services at 404-894-2563 or visit <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> to make an appointment to discuss their special needs and obtain an accommodations letter. They should also schedule an appointment with the course instructor to discuss their learning needs.

### **Active Participation/Attendance**

Active Participation at all class sessions is mandatory and crucial to the successful completion of the class. Absences will be excused only for medical or family emergencies, Institute-approved events, and religious holidays documented in writing. (According to a new policy, you must notify your instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester about any anticipated absences for religious holidays.)

NOTE: Absences due to special and/or unforeseen circumstances must be discussed with the Instructor as early as practically possible.

Missing three classes without an approved excuse will result in a letter grade reduction. Three tardies and/or early departures add up to an unexcused absence. Missing more than three classes, excused or unexcused, might result in a meeting with your instructor and the Architecture Program Office to determine a course of action and can result in an incomplete grade (I) or a failing grade in this course.

Students are highly encouraged to submit any class absence verification that is required due to documented illness, hospitalizations, accidents, death in the family, family emergencies, and lengthy illnesses to the dean of students.

<https://studentlife.gatech.edu/request-assistance>

### **Approved Communication Platforms**

[https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0023604](https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0023604)

### **Archiving**

At the end of the semester, all students are required to submit digital examples of their work to their instructors or administration for archiving no later than one week after the end of term. By enrolling, each student grants a license to reproduce and display their work online, in forthcoming print publications, and in public exhibitions.

### **Course Expectations & Guidelines**

Per the [GT Catalog](#), all work produced in the College of Design as part of a degree program becomes the property of the College; it may be retained or returned at the discretion of the faculty. The faculty of the School of Architecture also reserves the right to refuse credit for any project executed outside the precincts of the College or otherwise produced without proper coordination with the faculty.

Students are expected to be actively present and participate in all class sessions, and to meet minimum completion requirements (or more) in a timely manner.

Class hours should be dedicated to class-related work. No homework for other courses, watching films, texting, chatting, eating, listening to music, etc.

**Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams**

Late work may be accepted due to extenuating circumstances, but with a lowered grade, unless accommodation is sought and granted in advance. Please note that pinups, reviews, presentations, and discussions occur in real time. If missed, they cannot be re-scheduled or re-constituted. Hybrid online presence is not possible.

**Ownership**

For the purposes of continuous improvement efforts, such as accreditations and periodic program reviews, the School will select samples of student work submitted to satisfy course requirements. This includes digital files, papers, drawings, models, etc. Collected samples may be returned to students upon request.