**ART 115 - Basic Design 1: Composition**Fall 2018 SSH-209 Mon/Wed 9:00-11:50 **Instructor:** Maddison Colvin   
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Office Hours: SSH 115 Mon/Wed 12-2pm

**About Art 115**Design 1: Composition is a course created to help familiarize students with formal and conceptual elements of design and composition using a variety of media. It serves as an introduction to theory and studio practice in using the principles and elements of design to articulate visual ideas. Students will be exposed to art historical references as they relate to concepts as well as being encouraged to write and think critically about art and design. Our emphasis will be on instilling sound foundational information in the traditional aspects of design as well as encouraging thoughtful exploration of contemporary design potential.

Having the eye and critical vocabulary to understand design gives you a foundation that helps you to make sense of the variety of techniques you'll learn later on. Whether you're learning painting or illustrator, the elements and principles of design remain the same. The intent of this class is to give you the skills to successfully identify, understand, and resolve compositional problems no matter what medium you choose later on- and hopefully to help you develop an independent artistic voice that is grounded in both formal and conceptual abilities.

**Learning Outcomes**Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: Articulate verbally, visually, and in writing an understanding of the Elements and Principles of Design. Articulate visually, verbally, and in writing, creative problem solving through guided completion of assignments relative to understanding visual design concepts. Articulate verbally, visually and in writing appropriate vocabulary relating to visual design.

**Class Atmosphere**This course is not, for the most part, a lecture course. I'll instruct and assign projects, but a large portion of the learning process comes from asking questions and participating in discussions. I may give you some readings over the course of the semester, not to write essays or reading summaries, but to spark debate and get talk flowing. Because we spend a lot of time making rather than lecturing, conversations help to pass the time\*. I often play music, and you're welcome to bring music of your own to share with the class. It is especially important that we create a community in this class that is comfortable speaking up in critique and providing helpful input to your peers, and regular discussion in class is a great place to start. The only guideline that I place on these conversations is that they be respectful both in content and volume.

\*It should go without saying, but please don't text or take non-urgent phone calls during class.

**Participation Policy**Attendance is taken every class period at 9:05. This gives you a few minutes' leeway to set up your supplies, however, if you are more than 15 minutes late you will be considered tardy and get only partial points for the day. The 50 participation points available make up about 25% of your grade and will be calculated based on the total percentage of your attendance. This may seem like a strict policy, but coming to class is especially important in studio art! We don't have a textbook and this class is not about memorizing data. A large part of learning composition is one-on-one instruction and problem solving with the help of your professor and classmates- impossible if you only show up for critiques! That being said, if you cannot come to class on a given day due to illness, a childcare crisis, jury duty, etc. etc. please let me know promptly and I can mark you as "not attending" rather than absent, which will have a neutral effect on your participation score.

**Academic Honesty**LBCC does not tolerate any form of cheating, dishonesty, fraud, forgery, copyright violations or plagiarism. Students charged and found responsible for violating these policies will have serious consequences, from failing grade/grades to removal/suspension/expulsion. LBCC expects student to maintain honesty and integrity in all work, communications, and interactions. This means that we show respect for the ideas and expressions of others. We are all familiar with this policy as it regards writing- but it's important to note that it also applies to copying someone else's existing artwork. You can use reference images for work made in this class- many artists do use references in their work- but you must substantially transform, combine, or adapt those references. Artwork that is found to be plagiarized will receive no points. This means you CANNOT directly copy artworks you find on Google image search, Pinterest, Tumblr, Deviantart, etc. or you may risk getting a zero on an assignment.

**Grading Policy**  
Most of our grade in this class comes from finished projects, which are brought to class and critiqued as a group. On the day of these critiques, projects must be on the wall by 9:15 in order to be graded. If you can't attend class on the day of the critique, a photograph of your project must be emailed to me by that time in order to be graded. Finished projects are worth 5 or 10 points, depending on the length of time spent on them in and out of class.

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| **Grade Breakdown:**  50 pts: Participation 100 pts: Composition Assignments 35 pts: Writing Assignments | Grade Scale:  A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = 0-59% |

When I am grading a finished project, these are the qualities I am looking for:

Engagement with the specific design problems posed by the assignment  
Interesting understanding and use of design elements and principles  
Ambition, experimentation, risk-taking, and problem-solving  
Unity of form and content, sophisticated ideas  
Overall quality, finish, and presentation (paper matted or mounted, presented cleanly)

Check out Canvas for a more detailed explanation of what those criteria look like at different levels of success.

**Feedback/Assistance**   
I will do my best to make myself available to every student throughout the class period, as well as holding office hours from 12-2pm every Monday and Wednesday. If you want help in class and don’t feel that I’m getting around to you, speak up and catch my attention! If you ever have questions about a grade, please don’t hesitate to email me or to come by my office hours for more detailed feedback. If you want quick feedback on a work in progress, text or email me a photo with any questions or cries for help.

**Disabilities/Accomodations**If you have a documented disability and need accommodations, if there is some medical information you feel you need to share with me in order to succeed in the class, or if you need special arrangements in the event of an emergency, please meet with me during the first week of class. It's very helpful to me to know as soon as possible how best I can help with these things, and what accommodations you may need. If you think you may need accommodation services, please contact CFAR at (541)917-4789.

**Nondiscrimination, Inclusion, and Respect**LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age or any other status protected under applicable federal, state or local laws.

For further information: <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandArs/>

The LBCC community is enriched by diversity. Everyone has the right to think, learn and work together in an environment of respect, tolerance and goodwill. We will work toward creating a community without prejudice, intimidation or discrimination.

**Course Materials**Most of the supplies you need will be provided by the school and available through our supply closet. However, there are a few things that you will be using as your own personal tools throughout the term and which I'll require each student to purchase for themselves:

* [Faber-Castell Artist Pens in 6 Grey Shades](http://www.dickblick.com/items/20759-1069) or similar
* [Set of 6 Sakura Micron Pens in varying weights](http://www.dickblick.com/items/20702-2069) or similar
* [A 9" x 12" drawing pad of white paper](http://www.dickblick.com/items/10314-1053)

These materials should cost between $30-40, and will be most convenient to purchase in the form of a the kit carried by the campus bookstore. They can also be found at pretty much any art supply store! If you have them already, or if you're particular about using your own drawing tools, I'd also recommend you purchase and bring your own mechanical pencil, erasers, and ruler. We will be using many other supplies throughout the term but they will be available for use from our common supply closet.