

COURSE OUTLINE/SYLLABUS/EXPLANATION

Creating Comics – Instructor: Becky Varlas, rebeccavarlas@gmail.com

In her book, *Making Comics*,* Lynda Barry examines “the power of comics as a way of seeing and being in the world and transmitting our experience of it.” This is not a course that will teach you how to draw. We won’t be creating realistic, refined, elaborate works. If you already know how to draw, that’s fine. If you don’t know how to draw, that’s even better! Lynda Barry says that we have “a basic inclination to find patterns and meaning in random information” and that her course is “not about developing characters, but about waiting to see who shows up in certain circumstances.” Example: If you are a doodler, have you ever started a doodle with no intent and had it turn into something that surprised you? This all sounds very unorthodox...and it is...but it can also be interesting and fun. Some of the activities in this class will be timed (spontaneity!). Some activities will be done cooperatively by the entire group. There is even one that you do with your eyes closed! We are so accustomed to telling our stories orally or through the written word. Telling our stories through comics will enable us to view them from a totally new perspective. Pre-requisites for this course: an open mind, a willingness to experiment, and the ability to laugh...a lot.

*You do NOT need to purchase this book.

Here is a tentative schedule of topics/activities: (subject to change!!!)

MATERIALS NEEDED – TO START:

- Black pens – Papermate Flair Medium or Uni-ball Vision Fine (or your preference)
- 4 x 6 index cards, lined on one side
- 8 ½ x 11 blank paper (the higher weight, the better – I use 24 lb.)
- Ruler

1. Introduction:
 - a. The language of drawing
 - b. What are comics?
 - c. How to draw a simple character
 - d. Self-portrait
2. Activities:
 - a. Four drawings in twelve minutes
 - b. Close your eyes
 - c. Blind bones
 - d. Daily diary
3. Monsters:
 - a. Monster Jam
 - b. Monster, draw near!
 - c. Why make monsters?
4. Activities:
 - a. Monster: This is Your Life
 - b. Two hands self-portrait
 - c. Tandem drawing
5. Activities:
 - a. Timed drawings
 - b. Batman
6. Animal Jam
7. Face Jam

8. Activities:
 - a. Boop It
 - b. Whole Life Diary – Part 1
9. Whole Life Diary – Part 2
10. Character Jam
11. Son of Character Jam
12. Story House
13. Class Picture