

Level: Intermediate to advanced contemporary drawing course.

Content: An interdisciplinary approach to drawing through an engagement with knots and rope utilizing the following line of questioning:

What is the difference between a print of a thing, a representation of a thing and a tracing of a thing?

What is the metaphor of line? What is your particular relationship to metaphor?

What and how do we learn by drawing? Where does intention meet randomness?

What is a collaborative learning environment?

Can we unravel a Gordian Knot together? Can drawing be a performative action?

Does your drawing of a knot take the same amount of time as tying the real knot?

Can you secure an object in the space of your drawing with imaginary ropes and tie downs?

Could we propose drawing as an untangling or tangling of our relationships with our surroundings?

Materials. Charcoal, paper, glue, scissors, rope and p-cord of various lengths and thicknesses, Dye and 5 gallon bucket. (Dying supplies depend on course length and progression)

Week 1 and 2

Learning knots. Collaborative learning environment.

Charcoal knot drawings introduction. When line becomes a thing.

Week 3 and 4

Value Studies of knot piles. Large drawings.

Dying rope shades of a color and learning value through dying (If time allows depending on course duration).

Week 5 and 6

Adding weight to knots and tie downs. The metaphor of weight. Lines and space.

Printing with knots. Tracing with knots.

Week 7 and 8

Tying up objects with knots. The pressure of negative shapes. Thin rope glued to paper with intention and without intention. Introducing randomness.

Making drawings from these sculptural reliefs.

Perceived flat knots. i.e. pasted paper knots.

Week 9 and 10

Untying neighbors' knots. Drawing by erasing. Pasting white shapes over drawings. Erasing with collage.

Possible Instruction scenario. Invented knots. How to untie my drawing? Video or graphic design manual.