Lecture Class
Tonal VS Constructive
Anatomy for the artist as taught by Bridgman and Vanderpool

Course Description:
Anatomy is for the realistic figure artist, and there are many books with varying approaches that help to illustrate the body. This class explores the anatomy of the figure through construction, or building with shapes and mechanisms, and through value, or describing features with light and dark. Students will learn the practical application of each, as well as how to use this knowledge to inform their drawings. The course is primarily lecture with take home assignments, where the student will copy from each school of thought.

Explanation of Necessity:
While the anatomical knowledge of a figure should not override the aesthetic of a drawing, the artist must use it to keep the believability of a drawing in check. Many schools with classical instruction offer some form of anatomy class, or at very least encourage students to independently study artistic anatomy alongside courses being taught. From what I have experienced, the general schools of thought behind anatomical knowledge are constructive or tonal, or some combination of the two. In animation and illustration, constructive anatomy is essential, while tonal is useful for many styles of fine art, as it studies the interaction of light with anatomy. As students begin to study anatomy, it will help them to become more observant of what they are drawing in the portrait and figure drawing classes. Students will listen to lecture and see examples of the two methods taken from Bridgman figure drawing and Vanderpool figure drawing book, and complete copies in a sketchbook on their own. The following class would have critique, then lecture on the next topic in the books. Students will end with an understanding of both techniques, which will afford a choice between a commercial or fine art path in the world of drawing.