

# Figure Drawing

ART - 1260 001

## Course Description

---

A study of figure drawing techniques and concepts. Students work directly from the model. Knowledge gained in anatomy, gesture, and structure.

Prerequisite: ART 1110

Semester: All

## Course Student Learning Outcomes

---

- Implement drawing applications discussed in ART 1110 for use in figure drawing. Successful life drawings will contain accuracy in each of these drawing applications: proportions, line direction, vertical and horizontal analysis, negative and positive shapes, and triangulation.
- The student will become proficient in the use of basic forms (sphere, cylinder, cube) in depicting sections of the human body, analysis of foreshortening, achieving a three-dimensional appearance. Accurate linear perspective will also be implemented.
- Gain proficiency in anatomy pertinent to figure drawing.
- Students will develop proficiency in depicting the human head. Emphasis will be placed on accurate proportions and line quality.

## Course Prerequisites

---

ART 1110 Foundation I Drawing

## Engagement Plan

---

Example language:

- I will respond to Canvas messages within 24 hours. I will offer feedback on major assignments each week. The best way to contact me is via the Canvas Inbox, as I will prioritize this over other modes of communication.
- Additionally, I will share my perspective within the discipline and to offer some nuances of interpretation that may not be present in other figure drawing resources you may be familiar with.

## Keys for Success (how to succeed in the course)

---

Grading Criteria:

1. Experimentation with the concepts and techniques in class and in the sketchbook.
2. Performance on assigned drawings and sketchbooks.
3. Instructor's perception of the student's effort and commitment to the course, which should also be reflected in the student's performance. Thank you in advance for turning your phones off.
4. Attendance - I will give you two unexcused absences without asking you any questions, but after that things get more complicated, and we need to have a conversation. Normally, anything above two unexcused absences would start affecting your grade adversely, quickly and severely, but we are still not really living in normal times. Essentially, if you have Covid related symptoms, I don't want you to come to class. Just contact me through Canvas if you must miss class for this reason and we'll have that conversation at the time. I'm not going to come down on anyone who catches Covid in here, and I want us all to be safe and unexposed if possible. Nevertheless, my advice is not to shoot for two absences. You'll miss a lot of important information, and I tend to smile upon perfect attendance when I've got my grade book out on that last day. Also, I usually take roll only once every day so if you come in late you need to make sure I get you on the roll. By Departmental Policy I cannot pass anybody who misses 20% of the class. This class meets only twice a week, and there are 30 total times we come together, so that means at 6 unexcused absences you have failed the class even if your work is amazing. Six absences is 3 weeks of class, which is a pretty absurd amount to miss without exceptional circumstances.

NOTE: Department Policy states that 3 Lates = 1 Absence, and they want me to keep track of this and do all that annoying math, which I truly dislike. However, I also dislike it when students can't get it together to be here on time, so realize that at my discretion I will be following this directive. This class meets for only 2 hours and 20 minutes. This is really quite short in my estimation to get done what we need to, so this means you gotta be here and be ready to hit the ground running. Be here. Be on time. Don't be flaky.

An excused absence is one for which you have a medical or otherwise compelling reason for missing class, for which you would normally be required to provide some kind of documentation such as a doctor's note, death certificate, a picture of your positive Covid test, your appendix in a jar, etc. Key word here is compelling, folks, something which is serious and beyond your control. Job conflicts, domestic problems and other class or schedule conflicts are not considered valid by Departmental Policy. Also, if you're late or you miss class, please don't ask me to repeat everything you missed. Making friends with each other can be helpful this way.

5. Assignments and sketchbooks must be turned in on time. Unless otherwise agreed to by the instructor, you cannot make up sketchbook time, so you need to be doing it every week. Important: Don't throw anything away until after the semester is over, no matter how shameful, because if I can't see it, I can't give you a grade for it.

## Course Content Advisory

---

We will be drawing from the figure (nude) in this class. There will be nothing sexual about what we do in this class but the student should be aware that this will be the primary way we will be working.

I will teach the concepts of figure drawing working directly from the model using several techniques, concepts and media. This course expands on various drawing techniques and methodologies you have studied in prerequisites to this class and applies them to the human figure. The class will build on aspects of anatomy and figure structure specific to the human form, but also will deal with drawing principles such as proportion, perspective, line quality, shape and value. We will also explore expressiveness and immediate aesthetic response. First emphasis will be on willingness to experiment with

new ways of working and with combining different ways of seeing and thinking, and finally, on performance. There will be no required text though I may suggest some reading materials during the semester.

## Additional Materials

---

- 2 Sketchbooks no bigger than around 9" x 12"
- Drawing board to accommodate at least 18" x 24" paper. Can be a pre-made board such as those in the bookstore or simply a piece of Masonite or MDF with 3-4 bulldog clips.
- Pad of good drawing paper 18" x 24". Be forewarned: except for the sketchbooks, 18" x 24" is the minimum size format for this class. You might even step out and try a larger format now and then. Anything on newsprint paper will not be accepted for credit and will be stomped on repeatedly with muddy soccer cleats.
- Box for supplies. Tackle boxes are fine, but you could get by with something considerably smaller.
- 2B drawing pencils. I like the 2mm lead holders, sometimes called a drafting pencil, and the Sanford Turquoise leads which come in various degrees of softness. I wouldn't get anything softer than 4B on this. The higher the number the softer it is (unless it says H)
- Pencil sharpener. Get the little one if you're going with the lead holders if they have them. Ask the nice person at the counter to help you if you're unsure.
- Pink pearl eraser, and a small retractable eraser like this: the FACTIS BM2 Mechanical Eraser and a couple of packages of refills. Buy one of these; you won't be sorry. Don't and you will.
- 2B graphite art stick, available at Blick.
- Pure graphite pencil 2B to at the softest 4B, also available at Blick. These are like a pencil without any wood around the lead (i.e., the whole pencil is graphite).
- Alphacolor Char-Kole compressed charcoal (actually now called a pastel) sticks.
- 2B charcoal pencils. I like the General's brand.

- Soft white pastel pencil, sometimes called a “white charcoal” pencil.
- Exacto knife for sharpening pencils.
- Thin hand brush for brushing eraser shavings away (optional).
- Other supplies may be needed later on in the semester, nothing too major and I’ll let you know when we get there.

## Brief Description of Assignments/Exams

---

Several in-class drawings and two weekly sketchbooks to be turned in alternately. You may expect 3 hours of homework each week, or a half hour of sketchbook drawing every day. Each week we will have a different emphasis in our sketchbooks. This will be the extent of your homework commitment.

There will be no quizzes or exams, however we will be meeting at 9:10 am in some capacity for our regularly scheduled Final Exam Time on Dec.17. Details to come.

## Assignment Schedule

---

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a>	Discussion	0
9/3/25	<a href="#">Homework Pre-Instruction Drawing</a>	Assignment	11
9/3/25	<a href="#">Introduce Yourself!</a>	Discussion	11
9/3/25	<a href="#">Set Up Notifications</a>	Assignment	11
9/10/25	<a href="#">Week 1: Contour</a>	Assignment	33

## Grading Scale

---

A= Excellent. One of the most competent & compelling portfolios. I will give you an A only for superior work.

B= Good. Solid work which shows commitment to improving technique and firm understanding of concepts. Good means good, and should not be seen as a family insult.

C= Fair. Some problems with attendance, effort, quality of portfolio. Usually reserved for work that could have been done by most anybody, or is only going through the motions. Hint: if you're bored, your drawings will be boring. This is the lowest grade you need for going on to other classes for which this one is a prerequisite. Other institutions might require a higher grade than this to accept the credit.

D= Poor. Not adequate work.

E= Fail. No college credit. This happens with a troubling regularity, believe it or not. Can't think of a single time that it didn't accompany rotten attendance.

I'll be following the default Canvas Grading Scheme this semester, which looks like this:

A 100 % to 94.0%

A- < 94.0 % to 90.0%

B+ < 90.0 % to 87.0%

B < 87.0 % to 84.0%

B- < 84.0 % to 80.0%

C+ < 80.0 % to 77.0%

C < 77.0 % to 74.0%

C- < 74.0 % to 70.0%

D+ < 70.0 % to 67.0%

D < 67.0 % to 64.0%

D- < 64.0 % to 61.0%

F < 61.0 % to 0.0%

## Academic Integrity

---

Students affirm their commitment to honesty, fairness, and responsibility in their academic work by agreeing to complete assignments and exams as their own work without unauthorized assistance. Students will be honest about reporting how much time they have spent in their sketchbooks. It would be difficult to use AI to cheat in this class.

## How to Navigate to Canvas

---

## Institutional Policies

---

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

## Learning Support and Tutoring Services

---

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

## Advising and Counseling Support Services

---

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

## Student Academic Calendar

---

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)