

West LA Community College
BEGINNING LIFE DRAWING FALL 2015
SYLLABUS

Instructor: Kristin Calabrese
Email: 1springday@gmail.com
Office Hours: After class or before class by appointment
Classroom: FA301

WELCOME: This semester you will learn how to develop your powers of graphic pictorial representation—being able to draw what you see—by honing your senses' already excellent powers of observation and your fine motor skills. We will be drawing the nude human figure, paying close attention to proportion and body mechanics—how the body actually works. You will also learn and practice the technical fundamentals of drawing, including a familiarity with various drawing materials, drawing techniques, some analytic perspective to place figures in space in relation to an environment, and ways to understand how composition contributes to the content of a drawing and also to it's power. You will be shown some presentations of contemporary and historical representational art that we will discuss. I will also point out some common physical misperceptions that get in the way of seeing what you're looking at (herein lies the magic), which will enable your drawings to blossom – if you can see it, you can draw it.

The goal is for you to gain techniques and skills in representing the human; take the basic steps towards becoming a more knowledgeable and confident artist. However, your education is ultimately YOUR responsibility. YOU determine your level of success. Successful college students are self-motivated. Successful college students understand the importance of studying the material, completing the homework, coming to class prepared and practicing skills learned – especially in an art studio class. There is NO substitute for actually doing the drawing! YOU CAN DO IT and I'm here to help. ☺

Course Requirements:

ATTENDANCE: If you miss six classes, I will drop you.

ASSIGNMENTS: Homework assignments will include a dedicated sketchbook (see below), gathering and preparing materials for the next class, reading over handouts, and drawings to be completed at home, designed to reinforce class lessons. All assignments must be completed on time. Late projects will be docked according to how late they are and the amount taken off will be at my discretion.

SKETCHBOOK: Most of your homework will take the form of a dedicated sketchbook. This must be a new sketchbook dedicated to this project. If you already have a sketchbook, that's great, you should continue using it. This dedicated sketchbook will be of gesture drawings of people from life, five pages a week, three figure drawings on each page. This must be a new sketchbook, although there is no requirement about what kind of paper it has to be – could be a cheap spiral notebook, should be a minimum of 8 ½ x 5 ½ inches.

- 70 + pages (5 pages a week) = A
- 56 – 69 pages (4 pages a week) = B
- 42 – 55 pages (3 pages a week) = C
- 28 – 41 pages (2 pages a week) = D
- 0 to 22 pages = F

*Take this sketchbook with you everywhere, including to class. Sometimes in class, we will be waiting while the model is taking a break. That is a good opportunity to knock out a few pages. Other opportunities are while waiting for laundry, waiting for the bus, while listening to a lecture in another class, on an airplane, in line for something, etc. etc.

**The sketchbook is due on 4/16 for a progress review and on the day of the final, 6/4. Attendance is based on daily roll records. Sketchbooks will not be accepted after the scheduled times announced. If your work is not turned in at the appropriate times you will receive a grade of "F".

***It is important to know that you are not graded only on the amount of pages finished but also the quality, effort and growth of your drawings done in your sketchbook. Waiting until the last week and filling your sketchbooks with substandard sketches will not be acceptable.

GRADING: You are graded on effort, the quality of your drawings, participation, completion of assignments and attendance. When grading the assignments I will be grading based on the quality of drawings you make and your dedication to developing your drawing skills by **TAKING RISKS**.

Grading Guidelines:

10%	Sketchbooks and other homework.....	Total 100 pts
10%	Other homework.....	Total 100 pts
80%	Attendance, participation, work in class.....	Total 800 pts
	(57 points per class)	
Total points=		1000 pts

RULES:

1. Absolutely no photography in class because we have live models. Also, you must keep your phone in your bag, pocket, or purse, so that the model doesn't worry they are being photographed. Cell phone use isn't allowed in class, but if it's an emergency, excuse yourself and use the phone outside.
2. Clean up after yourself at the end of class. Help arrange classroom furniture before class if you arrive early. Work with the instructor and fellow students to make the classroom an optimal learning environment. Try to be a good citizen in the classroom. It will go a long way towards making you welcome wherever you go, now and in the future.

FYI IMPORTANT DATES:

Add/Audit traditional classes	
online	Sun, Aug 30
in-person	Fri, Sept 11
Drop classes with a refund/no fee owed	Fri, Sept 11
Drop classes w/o a "W"	Fri, Sept 11
Drop classes with a "W"	Fri, Nov 20
File for Pass/No Pass (formerly "Credit/NoCredit").....	Fri, Sept 11

COLLEGE IS CLOSED:

Labor Day	Sept 7
Veterans Day	Nov 11
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov 26 - 29

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

SEPT 3: WELCOME TO ART IS LIFE – Goal #1 How to apply the practice of weekly life drawing sessions to the enrichment of our everyday lives in Los Angeles. Literally, how careful and precise perception of the person we are drawing assists us in accurately perceiving the diverse people we encounter in our daily lives. Mastering the fundamentals of Life Drawing is a transferable skill—a tool that can be applied to ALL our interpersonal relations.

Class intro, required materials, requirements for attendance, and classroom etiquette will all be covered. Bring a pen or pencil. There will be blind contour drawing, a questionnaire, and a presentation of a wide variety of professional artists' approaches to life drawing.

SEPT 10: **Physical Activity:** Learning how to make good life drawings is like training for excellence in any sport (soccer, baseball, tennis, etc.). Good life drawing demands an extraordinary level of concentration that can be *exhausting*. Concentration is also like a muscle. Developing NEW neural, motor and muscular pathways – eyes to brain to finger connections takes repetition – “reps” – practice. Building figure drawing stamina takes time. The WLAC art studio is our life drawing “work-out” studio! We will begin every class with a series of 1 minute warm-up exercises to place the **whole figure on the page**. NO tiny people drawings – use the space in the whole rectangle – at least three sides off the page. Gesture, continual line, scribble, blind contour, mass, etc. **Homework:** Make view-finders for next class.

SEPT 17: Gesture - continual line, scribble, mass, ink/q-tip, blind contour, sighted contour, horizontals and verticals, Giacometti, sighting. Demo a Giacometti-style painting.

SEPT 24: Positive / negative (crop) - collage

OCT 1: 8 head measurement and bony landmarks

OCT 8: Landmarks and schematic gesture, assign hatching page

OCT 15: Planes, planes with value, Hatch value

OCT 22: Skeleton, Person in skeleton

OCT 29: Charcoal toned drawings, cropped drawings. Work on good paper. Also conte crayon demo and drawings.

NOV 5: Hands lecture, Continue toned charcoal and Conte crayon drawings, cropped drawings, hand drawings. Work on good paper.

NOV 12: Portrait, skull, head, ten-minute drawings of each other. Complete drawings with model in foreground or background. HOMEWORK: Read 1 and 2pt perspective handouts.

NOV 19: Lecture on perspective, put the model in the room. Ink drawings with brush and pen. Work on good paper. BRING YOUR RULER IF YOU HAVE ONE – 18” PLUS IS BEST. HOMEWORK: Draw yourself in your room in perspective, due DEC 3.

NOV 26: NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

DEC 3: Color and people in perspective

DEC 10: More color and people in perspective

DEC 17: NO WRITTEN FINAL EXAM BUT ENJOY DRAWING THE MODEL ONE MORE DAY, PARTY, BRING REFRESHMENTS, I'LL REVIEW YOUR SKETCHBOOKS WHICH ARE DUE AND GO OVER GRADES INDIVIDUALLY.

This course will also facilitate the following Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Critical Thinking: Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.
2. Communication: Effectively communicate thought in a clear, well-organized manner to persuade, inform, and convey ideas in academic, work, family and community settings.
3. Self-awareness/Interpersonal Skills: Apply self-assessment and reflection strategies to interpersonal, work, community, career, and educational pathways.
4. Technical Competence: Utilize the appropriate technology effectively for informational, academic, personal, and professional needs.
5. Cultural Diversity: Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to achieve understanding.
6. Ethics: Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.

MATERIALS:

You need the following right away:

- Graphite Pencils: 2H, HB, 2B, 4B, 6B Brand names such as Berol, Staetler, Faber Castell
- Vine Charcoal: SOFT
- Box of 12 sticks of compressed charcoal, also SOFT, (I suggest Blick, **NOT** General's brand).
- 1 charcoal pencil: SOFT or MEDIUM
- Pad of newsprint, SMOOTH is best (rough is acceptable), 18"x24" or larger, 100 sheets – you will probably need at least 2 pads – we do a lot of drawing on this.
- Masonite clipboard with large rubber band
- Erasers: a large kneaded eraser, a stick eraser and other erasers your choice
- ****optional**** Tortillons: thin (drawing stump)
- Portfolio: cheap 18" x 24" or larger depending on the size paper, drawings you want to make – cardboard portfolio to keep paper and drawings in to take to class. You can just strap everything to your drawing board with the rubber band instead.
- 2 Bulldog clips (Large)
- Workable fixative or aqua net aerosol hair spray (cheap and strong)
- Dedicated Sketchbook -- minimum size 8 ½ x 5 ½ inches.
- X-acto blade (or other brand).
- Drawing paper: Pad of white acid free paper, medium tooth, 18"x24". (Canson or Strathmore). (FOR DRAWINGS USING WET MEDIA, LONG POSE DRAWINGS, OR CONTE CRAYON)
- Tape: a roll of masking tape
- push pins
- Art box or an inexpensive toolbox to carry your supplies to and from class
- Collage materials – magazines, newspaper, packaging, or whatever is inspiring to you–
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- ****optional**** hot glue gun and glue sticks

You don't need these until mid/late semester:

- Soft pastels, basic colors, set of 12, primary and secondary – OR – you could use instead:

- acrylic paint from nova color in red and green, yellow and purple, or blue and orange
- Water based black ink (Higgins or some other brand) and at least one other color, can be acrylic ink.
- 3 sticks of Conte Crayon, Black, White and Sepia
- Speedball standard pen holder, #56 Standard School Nib — Stiff action, fine drawing pen for student use. #513EF Globe Nib — Extra fine bowl pointed for industrial arts.
- One medium sumi ink brush — ****optional**** get more various sizes
- ****optional**** 18 inch ruler
- ****optional**** some string or yarn
- ****optional**** If you want to paint a lot and in oils, I can give you a specific materials list.

GOOD ART SUPPLY STORES:

There are other ones: locally these have the most stuff and the best prices.

Supplies list for this class is online at

<http://www.dickblick.com/lists/blicku/HTB642GTJ1DI8/publicview/>

You don't have to order online and you can substitute some other brands besides what I've selected, but if you do order online, be sure to use coupons for free shipping and other discounts, which are also online and on the website.

You could instead get your supplies at Jerry's Artarama, which is out of state, so there is no sales' tax. Make sure you use their coupons. <http://www.jerrysartarama.com/>

Artist Craftsman Supply – best and most helpful workers

1660 S La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90035
310) 274-8000

Blick near Venice
2602 Lincoln Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90405
310-450-7015

or

Blick
11531 Santa Monica Blvd. (near the 405)
West Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 479-1416

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Nova Color - www.novacolorpaint.com
5894 Blackwelder Street, Culver City, CA 90232
(310) 204-6900