

West LA Community College  
INTERMEDIATE 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 further develop your powers of graphic pictorial representation. You probably already love life drawing since you've taken the class before. Since this class is three sections in one, we will probably go over techniques you have already learned, but maybe not quite mastered. As an intermediate draw-er, I will work with you individually on the techniques that you know you want to learn, plus help you to design and complete some drawing projects of your own design. I'm finding myself interested in crowd scenes and drawing many people in perspective. The life drawing class with the live model and all the other students constitutes a perfect opportunity to compose a drawing with many people in proper perspective to one another.

**Course Requirements:**

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

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Homework assignments will include gathering and preparing materials for the next class, reading over handouts, drawings to be completed at home that are designed to reinforce class lessons, and drawing projects of your own design.

**SKETCHBOOK:** You are not required to keep a sketchbook, but you should. Believe in yourself! Your point of view, no matter what it is, is unique. It is important to sketch and draw and jot notes and write ideas so you can record your experience of the human condition. You might just end up making something that changes someone's life/mind.

**GRADING:** You are graded on the success of your drawings, the clarity or attempt to clarify your vision, your effort to develop your skills, hone your point of view (voice) and your visual vocabulary, quality of your drawings, participation, completion of assignments and attendance. Risk taking will be rewarded in this class (if you are afraid, make work that makes the viewer feel how you feel).

Grading Guidelines:

20% Homework.....	Total 200 pts
80% Attendance, participation, quality of 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)

SCHEDULE FOR THE BEGINNERS – YOU HAVE MORE AUTONOMY TO USE THE MODEL HOWEVER YOU LIKE WHILE THE BEGINNERS WORK ON THEIR LESSONS. After the intro on the first day of class, meeting with intermediate and advanced to talk about what we will be doing, design your own class, etc... handouts, assign proposals

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 probably have most of these, but here they are anyways. Add more things as you like.**

- 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
- 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

### FOR ACRYLIC PAINT ONLY

Nova Color - [www.novacolorpaint.com](http://www.novacolorpaint.com)

5894 Blackwelder Street, Culver City, CA 90232

(310) 204-6900