Course Description:

This class is designed to provide life drawing students with an overview of various figure drawing skills and techniques. Over the course of the semester we will intensively study the complex structural components of the body, while learning to capture the expressive nature of the human form through continuous practice.

Course Requirements:

Throughout the semester, we will develop our structural and gestural sensitivity to the figure through intensive anatomical study, including but not limited to, observational drawing from a live model in class. This practice, as well as participating in regular class critiques and discussions, requires active attendance on the part of each student. Please come to class prepared to demonstrate a strong work ethic.

In addition to the work produced from our class sessions, weekly homework assignments will factor in as an important component of your final grade. As an extension of your homework, I will require each student to keep a sketchbook to complete some of our weekly homework assignments. Completing the assignments is merely the baseline of what is required, but I invite you to use your sketchbook as a means of collecting materials and exploring ideas that are of interest to you.

Also over the course of the semester, I will suggest artists for students to research. I am not interested in the memorization of facts; rather I encourage each of you to approach your research with an open mind and with the intention of applying this information to your own work. We will discuss our research as it applies in class, so please come prepared with some reactions to the material in order to participate.

Additionally, discussing and critically evaluating each other’s work will be an important component to our class; therefore, we will critique work in class on a regular basis. Always keep in mind that the purpose of a critique is not to criticize, but point out areas of improvement and suggest potential alternatives for achieving that improvement.
For midterm and final evaluations, each student will be asked to assemble a portfolio consisting of drawings created during each week of in-class observation. I will also collect sketchbooks and other homework assignments as a part of the midterm and final portfolio reviews. **Please write your name and the date of completion on all drawings and homework assignments.** Since it is a vital component in demonstrating the true breadth of what we will learn over the course of the semester, **full completion of a final portfolio is required in order to receive a passing grade in the class.**

**Grade Breakdown:**

10% - Participation  
20% - Homework  
30% - Midterm Portfolio Review  
40% - Final Portfolio Review

= 100% Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>C 75-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>C- 72-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-86</td>
<td>D+ 69-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85-83</td>
<td>D 65-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>D- 62-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-76</td>
<td>F 59-0</td>
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A = Excellent  
B = Good  
C = Satisfactory  
D = Needs Improvement  
F = Fail

**Attendance Policy:**

This class consists of extensive work in class with the model; therefore regular attendance is required in order for students to stay current with concepts, critiques, and class discussions. Each student is allowed one free absence before I begin to deduct points from your final grade.

**I will deduct half a letter grade from your final grade for your second unexcused absence from class (i.e. if you had an A it would become an A- after one unexcused absence).**

Since this class only takes place once a week, **three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.**
In the event of a serious illness or emergency (an emergency means a serious illness or death in the family, etc.) I am open to making special arrangements; however, you must contact me immediately to inform me of the situation. Failure to contact me after the first unexplained absence will result in the standard grade penalty from your final grade for each day you are absent from class.

Also be advised that if you are more than fifteen minutes late for class or if you choose to leave class early, that will count as an absence. Just like your absences, I will allow one free fifteen minute late arrival – OR – one option to leave class early before it will affect your grade.

Late Work:

As a rule I will not accept late work, but I will be happy to make exceptions in the event of a serious illness or emergency.

Classroom Guidelines:

Since this is life drawing and we will be working from a nude model, special etiquette applies to our interactions with the model.

1. Never touch the model – It is important that we always treat the model like any person would like to be treated. That means respecting personal space. If you need the model to move for you, ask them to do so in a courteous manner.

2. If you need to approach the model to arrange the set up, ask for permission to come close – An extension of rule number one. When working with a nude model it is always important to make that person feel secure and safe in our studio.

3. Always be respectful – Obviously.

Please note that any laptop computers, cell phones, must be put away during class time. I know we all love our cell phones, but talking or texting during class time is disruptive to the learning environment, and will not be allowed. You can use your ipods if you keep the volume on low and it does not interfere with listening to instructions. If you must make a phone call or respond to a text, please leave the room.

In addition, students who are grossly unprepared for classroom discussion, or who are otherwise disruptive (talking when it is not appropriate, sleeping, or working on other projects) may be asked to leave the class. Basically, just behave respectfully, use common sense, and there really shouldn’t be a problem.
Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism—whether it is intentional or not—is a serious academic offense. Plagiarism is copying, referencing, or reproducing the work of another person without providing the appropriate citation or credit to the original source. Please be advised that plagiarism can apply to artwork as well, and that everyone in this class will be expected to be the original creator of his or her work. Failure to comply with the university’s rules on plagiarism will result in disciplinary action, potentially including failure of the course up to academic suspension or dismissal.

Students with Disabilities:

Please know that I am always willing to make necessary accommodations for students with disabilities. In order for me to make allowances, I must receive a letter of accommodation from the disability center on campus. Please note that accommodations for the semester are NOT retroactive; it is your responsibility to furnish the proper notification letter to me early on in the semester if exceptions are necessary. Please visit the center for disabilities in the Sullivan Center for help if needed.

Supplies List:

- 6B graphite inserts & lead holder
- Compressed charcoal sticks and pencils
- Conté: sienna & white
- Chamois
- Workable spray fixative
- 18" x 24" pad of newsprint
- 18" x 24" pad of Strathmore
- Large drawing board
- Sketchbook (11 x 14)
- Pencil sharpener
- Masking tape
- One box of thumb tacks
- One small, round, pointed brush
- India ink (or equivalent)
- Plastic container for water
- Kneaded eraser
- Vinyl eraser
- Gum eraser
- Portfolio (cardboard w/ handles)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wednesday, August 28th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Class intro - syllabus, into drawing, demo &amp; assign homework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 4th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Line drawing - full figure - focus on proportion &amp; Triangulation demo &amp; homework assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 11th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Line drawing - structure of the head, demo &amp; homework assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 18th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Line drawing - masses of the torso, demo &amp; homework assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 25th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Line drawing - focus on hands &amp; feet demo &amp; homework assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 2nd</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Line drawing - cross contour brief demo &amp; homework assigned assemble midterm portfolios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 9th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Line drawing - cross hatching form and shade, demo &amp; homework midterm portfolio &amp; grade reviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 16th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Charcoal drawing - value reduction demo &amp; homework assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 23rd</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Charcoal drawing - core building demo &amp; homework assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 30th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Charcoal - value reduction + cross contour of form, demo &amp; homework</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 6th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Line or charcoal - blind contour value + cross contour, demo &amp; homework assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 13th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Line drawing - building form through gestural line. Demo &amp; homework</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 20th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Brush &amp; ink - fluid gestural line, form, and shape, Assemble final portfolios</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 27th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>No Class - Happy Thanksgiving!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Wednesday, December 4th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Complete value drawing - full figure, free choice of medium, Final portfolios are due at the end of class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Friday, December 13th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Final Exam – 1:00-3:00pm Group critique of final class drawing and final homework assignment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Textbooks: (you are NOT required to purchase)

I will reference the following texts for you to complete your assignments via printouts or pdf uploads to Sakai. This list is furnished for you if you would like to continue your reading or purchase any books from the list.

**Anatomy for the Artist** by Jeno Barcsay

**Drawing the Human Form: Methods, Sources, and Concepts** by William A. Berry

**Bridgman’s Complete Guide to Drawing from Life** by George B. Bridgman

**Bridgman’s Life Drawing** by George B. Bridgman

**Constructive Anatomy** by George B. Bridgman

**A Natural Way to Draw** by Kimon Nicolaides

**Drawing Essentials: A Guide to Drawing from Observation** by Deborah Rockman