

Course Syllabus

De Anza College

ARTS4A - Beginning Drawing

Fall 2024

CRN: 26329 (Hybrid)

Lab: Tue 9:30am-12:20pm LCW16

Lecture: Canvas online

Instructor:

Darren Kerr

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Office Hours:

Tue: 9-9:30am LCW16

& 12:20-12:50pm LCW16

Important Dates:

- First day of class: Tue Sept 24th 2024 9:30am LCW16
- Last day to add course: Oct 6 2024
- Last day to drop without W (and receive refund): Oct 6 2024
- Last day to drop with W: Nov 15th 2024
- Final critique (last class meeting): Tue Dec 10 9:15-11:15 am LCW16

Welcome to ARTS4A

Beginning Drawing!

This is an introductory course exploring the basic elements and principles of observational drawing using traditional and experimental media.

Summary

In this hands-on course, we will experiment with many drawing mediums and techniques for creating representational drawings. The lectures, labs, exercises, and assignments are designed to help you to improve how you see our world through the eyes of an artist, while improving your drawing and compositional skills. For art majors, these foundations will be useful building blocks for future coursework. In any case, drawing and art appreciation enriches your lives, is useful in other fields, and is tons of fun in and of itself.

Required Materials

Purchase in De Anza Bookstore art area - there is a packet labeled "Kerr ARTS4A" that has all the required materials at a discounted box in a handy mesh portfolio bag.

- **Class Notebook** - Hard Bound, 9x12" unlined medium/heavy weight drawing paper 40+ sheets
- 11" x 17" Strathmore 300 series white charcoal drawing paper for projects

- Compressed charcoal pencils: two 2B and two or more 4B or 6B *Generals* brand or equivalent
- Vine or Willow Charcoal 10+ pieces of assorted sizes, extra soft
- Artist's chamois (soft leather used for erasing large areas)
- Kneaded Rubber Erasers (for detailed erasing)
- Pigma Micron Pen Sets, Black Ink, 3-Pen Set (01, 03, 05) or equivalent
- Pigma Brush Pens, Pens, Black QTY2 in kit or equivalent
- Higgins waterproof India Ink and assorted dip pens
- Graph ruler
- Portfolio Mesh bag for transporting artwork and materials

Additional Optional Materials

The following materials are useful for in-class projects. If you have them or want to purchase, please go ahead and bring to classes. I have extra of all of these items to borrow during class.

- Artist Drawing board with clips, 14x17" or larger (otherwise can borrow instructor's boards during lab) - make sure it fits in your portfolio bag.
- Utility knife for sharpening charcoal pencils and misc projects
- 2 mechanical pencils 0.7mm with 2b leads (or equivalent) for note taking and sketches in Class Notebook
- Mechanical click eraser (small diameter) for detailed charcoal erasing, highlights and reverse hatching
- Plastic proportional scale divider (Prospeck, Derwent, Acurassee)
- White Artist Tape, 3/4" x 30' for masking drawings or taping reference photos
- 2 black "Conte-a-Paris" compressed charcoal sticks - extra soft
- Clips for attaching paper or references to drawing boards

Weekly Class Format and Time Commitment

Tuesday Morning Lab in Studio (3 hours/week, 25% of final grade)

- Arrive at Tuesday morning lab with your materials and ready to draw by 9:30AM.
- We start each day with discussion about the week's topic and Q&A about the online content

- Next we go over instruction for the day's Lab exercises including live demonstration, then begin drawing
- Instructor will provide individual instruction as needed
- At end of lab (12:15pm), photograph your in-class drawings and submit to Canvas for Drawing Lab Participation grading

Online Instruction and HW in Canvas (2 HRs/week, 15% of final grade)

- Read the weekly Canvas module and watch any included instructional drawing videos
- Take notes in your 9x12" Class Notebook - include date and module title at top of page
- Complete the online exercises, drawing in your Class Notebook.
- Photograph your completed exercises and notes and submit them to Canvas by the due date.

Homework Drawing Projects (3-4 hours per week, 60% of final grade)

- The Weekly Canvas Module has instructions for homework drawing projects to reinforce that week's lesson.
- Photograph finished homework project and references and submit to Canvas by due date (usually Monday evening of the following week)
- At the Midterm, students will present their two best homework drawings to the class for positive feedback
- Similarly, during Finals week, students will showcase their two best drawings from second half of course

Grading Rubric

- **Participate** enthusiastically in class discussions and drawing assignments
- **Completeness** - read and/or watch module lessons, follow instructions fully, and put in the allotted time.
- **Experimentation** - push yourself to try new techniques covered in online lessons and in-person labs
- **Drawing skills** - demonstrate usage of techniques taught up to this point
- **Creativity and Artistic Vision** - for homework projects extra credit is acknowledged for unique designs

- **Timeliness** - submit your assignments to canvas by due date and time, even if drawing is not finished to your standards. Late submissions will receive 20% lower grade and additional 3% lower grade for each subsequent day late.
- **Presentation** - for homework projects your drawings should be done on good quality paper, unwrinkled, smudges erased, good composition, and photograph with clean lighting and no distortion
- **Authenticity** - only submit artwork that you personally have completed during this term, and actively attribute credit to other artists when you borrow their ideas.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- The student will demonstrate freehand drawing skills using a variety of traditional drawing media such as charcoal, graphite and ink.
- The student will create representational, objective drawings using references such as drawing from observation (still-life) and photographs.
- The student will demonstrate the ability to create drawing compositions based on linear perspective, the basic elements and principles of design.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate the use of freehand drawing skills using a variety of techniques.
- Demonstrate the use of basic elements and principles of composition.
- Apply drawing skills in the interpretation of subject matter using various media.
- Demonstrate ability to draw from an objective point of view as well as from the imagination.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the creative process.
- Compare and contrast works of art representing a diversity of art traditions and cultures.

Weekly Module Topics

Week	Weekly Topics
1	Introductions, Syllabus, Expectations of Online and In-Person participation, Grading, Notebook, Materials, How to photograph and upload drawings to Canvas.
2	Line, shapes, and contours. Why we draw. Still life setup and ink drawing.
3	Drawing Form using Light and Shadow. Chiaroscuro the study of light and shadow, methods of shading, methods of lighting an object, value scale. Still life using charcoal.
4	Composition theory and hints, do's and don'ts, recognizing types of compositions, composing your own dramatic still life. Drawing thumbnail sketches. Mixed media - using Ink lines, hatching and washes in combination with charcoal.
5	Measuring and Proportions: Drawing the Head. Standard human head proportions and variations. Methods of measuring and correcting our work. Different types of lighting. Analysis of using photography as a reference as opposed to drawing from life.
6	Measuring and Proportions: Drawing the Figure. Learn classical human figure proportions and systems to assist in recognizing and drawing the figure accurately. Use photo references of sculptures to practice drawing proportions and depth.
7	Midterm Critique of two best homework projects from the first half of course. Continue working on figure drawing project.

8	Understanding linear perspective, and using these principles to create depth in your drawings. Identifying foreground, mid-ground, and background, interior and exterior drawings. One point perspective.
9	Textures, Patterns, and combining mixed media on paper. Observing different types of surface texture and learning to create the illusion of texture in our drawings. Use charcoal, ink and washes.
10	2-point and 3-point perspective, exterior and drawings including people and architecture. Learning to place and scale imaginary figures in your drawings using principles of perspective.
11	Life Drawing. Learning how to quickly capture the gesture and form of a person modeling from life.
12	Final Critique of two best projects from second half of the course