

Lecture Contact Hours: 24-27; Outside-of-Class Hours: 48-54;
Laboratory Contact Hours: 72-81; Outside-of-Class Hours: 0;
Total Student Learning Hours: 144-162

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Art 230 – Figure Drawing I

1.5 hours lecture, 1.5 units
4.5 hours laboratory, 1.5 units
Total units: 3

Catalog Description

Introduction to the theory, practice, and history of drawing the human figure from live models. Students will study the surface anatomy of the skeletal and muscular systems of the human body to create accurate and expressive two-dimensional translations in drawing media. Students will examine broader cultural views of the body and seek to create individual meaning in the act of drawing the figure. This course is designed for students majoring in fine art and is also a relevant foundation for those interested in disciplines that use the human form, such as digital art, animation, illustration, and other design fields.

Prerequisite

“C” grade or higher or “Pass” in ART 124 or equivalent

Entrance Skills

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Analyze, compare, and contrast drawings of historical, theoretical, and cultural relevance in both written and verbal formats.
- 2) Apply an understanding of how artists use light and shadow to create drawings that suggest depth and spatial form, informed by the study of major works of art.
- 3) Explore and interpret conceptual and cultural developments in drawing to form independent, critical, and aesthetic perspectives.
- 4) Explore and interpret conceptual and cultural developments in drawing to form independent, critical, and aesthetic perspectives.
- 5) Analyze and apply spatial relationships and fundamentals of composition to drawings.
- 6) Demonstrate proficiency in observational drawing skills and techniques, including hand-eye coordination, sight-measuring, value application, and proportion, to produce drawings that convey spatial accuracy and form.
- 7) Create drawings that integrate technical control, conceptual insight, and individual expression to visually communicate original ideas and imaginative vision.
- 8) Apply formal art vocabulary to evaluate and critique works of art, including peers’ drawings, in a constructive, analytical, and reflective manner.

Course Content

- 1) Application of figure drawing vocabulary in class discussions, critiques, and written reflections, including terminology related to anatomy, proportion, gesture, and composition
- 2) Professional etiquette and best practices for working with live models, including respect, communication, consent, and studio protocols
- 3) Study of surface anatomy of the human figure, such as identification of major anatomical landmarks, skeletal structure, and visible muscle groups of diverse body types

- 4) Examination of physical variations in the human figure, such as differences related to gender, age, body type, and cultural/ethnic diversity.
- 5) Analysis of the structural organization of the human figure, such as proportion, balance, weight distribution, gravity, and the mechanics of pose movement
- 6) Development of observational drawing skills such as sighting and measuring techniques, comparative proportion, and spatial relationships.
- 7) Exploration of the skeletal and muscular systems, such as identification of major bones, joints, and muscle groups, and their relationship to structure, proportion, movement, and visible surface form in figure drawing.
- 8) Development of hand-eye coordination and perceptual skills through sustained observational practice from live models and reference materials.
- 9) Quality, mood, and expressive strategies, such as compositional strategies, placement of the figure within the picture plane, such as the use of negative space, overlap, scale variation, and unity; the use of value to describe form, such as light logic, shading techniques, cast shadow, reflected light, and development of a full value range.
- 10) Exploration of planar analysis and volumetric construction of the human form, such as the use of structural rendering with basic cuboid, cylindrical, and spherical forms, cross-contour, variation of line weight, and economy of mark-making.
- 11) Execution of both short and sustained figure studies, emphasizing gesture, structure, refinement, and the development of model likeness.
- 12) Exploration of drawing media and techniques appropriate for figure drawing, such as graphite, charcoal, ink, and pastel, including approaches such as layering, blending, and lifting.
- 13) Introduction to historical and contemporary approaches to figure drawing across cultures, including issues of identity and representation in figurative art.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze the skeletal and muscular systems of human anatomy, such as the major bones, joints, and muscle groups, and apply this knowledge to accurately represent structure, proportion, and surface form in figure drawings.
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of the human figure as it occupies pictorial space through the application of observation, sighting, and measurement techniques to achieve proportion, scale, and spatial accuracy.
- 3) Apply the structural and anatomical logic of the human forms to describe mass, volume, and the illusion of three-dimensional space in drawing.
- 4) Solve problems in drawing the live human subject, such as achieving likeness, balance, weight distribution, and the effects of gravity in varied poses.
- 5) Employ line, value, and other visual elements to define form, including contour, cross-contour, and the translation of light and shadow to describe mass in unified tonal studies.
- 6) Demonstrate the ability to capture the gesture, movement, fluidity, and energy of the pose through both short and sustained observational studies.
- 7) Create figure drawings that integrate anatomical accuracy with individual expression, composition, and conceptual intent.
- 8) Apply lines, positive shapes, negative spaces, and textures to figure drawing. Experiment with a variety of drawing and media techniques, such as blending, layering, and mark-making, appropriate to figure drawing.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Studio demonstrations, exams, and/or quizzes that measure students' ability to apply figure-drawing concepts to the creative drawing process.

- 2) Completed drawing projects that demonstrate the students' ability to apply figure drawing techniques and strategies to the creative drawing process.
- 3) Formative assessment reflection on completed projects, such as final portfolio.

Special Materials Required of Student

Drawing pencils, sketchbook, drawing board, charcoal, conté crayon, pastel, India ink, pen, brush, erasers, ruler, drawing papers (newsprint, white and colored drawing papers, such as Arches Hot Press)

Minimum Instructional Facilities

- 1) Smart classroom studio with drawing tables, easels, and storage space
- 2) Wall space for hanging and critiquing artwork
- 3) Adequate lighting, including overhead lights, natural lights, and adjustable lamps
- 4) Sinks with hot and cold water as well as traps
- 5) Audiovisual: digital video projector, computer, screen

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Laboratory demonstration
- 3) Field trips
- 4) Group discussion and activities
- 5) Individual and group critiques

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Readings:** lecture notes, course materials, textbook chapters, articles, books, essays, manuals, and content on websites.
- 2) **Writing:** discussions, reflections, assignment drafts in sketchbooks, project outlines, presentations, and content for projects.
- 3) **Other:** field exercises including visits to historic sites and museums, a portfolio of artworks, exercises, and projects.

Texts and References

Required (representative example):

- 1) Hampton, M. *Gesture Drawing: Dynamic Movement and Form*. Rocky Nook. 2024.
- 2) Hampton, M. *Figure Drawing: Design and Invention*. Self-Published (Kindle Version), 2022.

Supplemental (representative examples):

- a. Loomis, Andrew. *Figure Drawing for All It's Worth*. Titan, 2011.
- b. Winslow, Valerie. *Classic Human Anatomy in Motion: The Artist's Guide to the Dynamics of Figure Drawing*. Potter/TenSpeed/Harmony, 2015.

Exit Skills

Students having successfully completed this course exit with the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge:

- 1) Accurately represent the human figure utilizing knowledge of the skeletal and muscular anatomy, including major structural landmarks and surface forms, at an introductory level.
- 2) Apply observational techniques, such as sighting and measurement, to achieve correct proportion, scale, and spatial relationships in figure drawings.
- 3) Apply the formal etiquette used between artist and model when creating figure drawings. Construct the human figure as a volumetric form in space, demonstrating an introductory understanding of mass, structure, and three-dimensional illusion.
- 4) Render the human form with attention to likeness, balance, weight distribution, and gravity in a variety of poses.
- 5) Use line effectively to describe form, structure, and movement, utilizing techniques such as structural rendering with basic cuboid, cylindrical, and spherical forms, cross-contour, variation of line weight, and economy of mark-making at an introductory level.

- 6) Apply value and light logic to describe form, including the use of shading, cast shadow, and reflected light to create unified tonal studies.
- 7) Demonstrate the ability to capture gesture, movement, and energy in both short-duration and sustained poses.
- 8) Create figure drawings, at an introductory level, that integrate anatomical accuracy with composition, expressive qualities, and individual interpretation.
- 9) Demonstrate proficiency with a range of drawing media and techniques appropriate to figure drawing at an introductory level.
- 10) Critically analyze and evaluate figure drawings, using appropriate terminology to assess proportion, structure, technique, and expressive intent.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Create figure drawings that demonstrate and apply both the principles of design and the elements of art.
- 2) Articulate complex relationships between major works or significant individuals in art, from various historical periods, and their cultural, historical, and economic contexts.
- 3) Evaluate and critically analyze works of art in individual and peer-to-peer settings.