

**LIFE DRAWING I**  
**ARTS 2317-02 - TR**  
3 Credit Hours  
Spring Semester, 2018

**Class Location:** Art Complex, Building D, Room 00116  
**Class Meeting Times:** Tuesdays & Thursdays | 12:30PM-3:20PM  
**Instructor:** Mica Smith  
**Office Location:** WASH Building, Room 103  
**Instructor Contact Information:** **Office Phone:** (936) 294-2650  
**E-mail:** micasmith@SHSU.EDU  
**Office Hours:** 4:30PM – 5:00PM – MW & By Appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Within this course, students will draw from a live model using various media. Gesture drawing and figure structure will be studied. Line, Value, and Shape, Plane and Volume will be used as elements to depict the figure in space with accurate proportions. The study within this course leads toward a final portfolio that demonstrates proficiency representing the figure in cohesive and complete compositions for submission to the BFA portfolio review.

**Prerequisite:** ARTS 1316. Credit 3.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

After completing this course, students will:

- identify components of the human skeletal system, musculature and nomenclature of the human body.
- be able to accurately draw the human figure in respect of its proportional relationships.
- use line, value, shape, plane, mass and volume as formal elements to depict the figure in space.
- draw the figure in dynamic, nuanced and complete compositions.
- incorporate a variety of media within the practice of drawing the figure from life.
- understand how to achieve foreshortening through the use of linear perspective.
- depict volume and tonality through shading techniques such as hatching, cross contour lines, mass gesture, and graduated and/or continuous tones.
- determine how light and shadow can be conveyed through various mark-making techniques.
- demonstrate thoughtful and thorough craftsmanship within drawings.
- express an illusion of expressive movement through varied, timed in-class drawing exercises.

- present, discuss, and critique work in a professional manner.
- produce exhibition quality drawings of the figure in space.

### TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS

No textbook is required for this class, however, the following materials are required for this studio course.

- 18"x24" (or larger) pad of newsprint paper
- 18"x24" pad of drawing paper
- Art Gum Eraser
- Pencils & Graphite Sticks (soft, medium and hard/ 2B, 4B, 6B)
- Pencil sharpener
- Compressed Black Charcoal – (4 Pack)
- Painter's tape **or** masking tape
- Compressed White Charcoal – (4 Pack – General Brand Preferred)
- 3 Sheets of BFK Rives Paper – 22" x 30" – Order on dickblick.com
- 2 Sheets of Stonehenge paper – 22" x 30" – Order on dickblick.com
- 2 Sheets of Grey Drawing Paper – 18" x 24"
- Dusting Brush
- 18" Metal Ruler – Cork Back
- Spray Fixative
- Portfolio to store artwork within – at least 22"x30" (to save money, these can be made with cardboard and duct tape)
- 3 Large Binder Clips
- 9" x 12" Sketchbook

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

**Attendance is absolutely required.**

The purpose of this course centers on drawing the figure from life. A live model will be posing throughout the duration of the in-class drawing sessions, so it is important that you are respectful to all rules and regulations set forth within this syllabus.

It is crucial that you make efforts to attend every studio class on time: ready to work and prepared with all required materials. Working on projects outside of this class during class time is in NO way permitted.

**Arriving to class up to 60 minutes late will count as a tardy.**

**Every three tardies will equate to 1 full absence.** Excessive lateness and/or early departures will pose a detriment to your final grade. **5 missed classes will result in a failure of the course.**

Validity of excused absences will be determined by the professor. With such, it is important that you provide documentation from a medical professional should you miss class for health reasons. In the event of a medical emergency, family emergency or unexpected death in the family, please communicate with me by phone or through e-mail.

### **CLASS/STUDIO RULES**

- **Be on time.** Class will promptly begin at 12:30PM.
- If you arrive late and the door is closed, please wait for an intermission before entering.
- Respect the Model.
- Respect your classmates and your immediate surroundings.
- Do not take photos of the model.
- Do not touch the model.
- Do not speak to the model while class is in session.
- Keep chatter at an absolute minimum during class time. Figure drawing requires a lot of focus.
- **No cell phones in class. Cell phones must be turned onto silent mode and put away.**
- Keep all completed drawings in excellent condition. Store them in your portfolio binder.
- Keep your work area clean. Place all backpacks/luggage in a storage bin until class is over.
- Be courteous, kind and polite. This makes a big difference within a studio environment.
- Write your name and date on the back of all of your drawings.
- Write your name on the front and the inside of your sketchbook.
- Do not deface any property within the studio. If caught, you will be reported.

**Students who are repeatedly disruptive, disrespectful and/or dismissive in the classroom will be asked to leave.**

### **GRADING POLICY**

Within Blackboard, your overall grade will be broken down, determined and calculated using the following percentages:

**Drawings – 60%**

**Participation – 20%**

**Sketchbook – 20%**

**= a possible 100% TOTAL**

**Drawings** – Per each in-class drawing, your work will be evaluated on specific sets of criteria that will be outlined within a provided rubric. Rubrics will be handed out to students well in advance. I will announce which drawing sessions will be counted for graded work ahead of time. Each graded drawing will be worth 100 points.

**Participation** – There will be numerous times throughout the semester wherein your participation will be evaluated through practice drawing exercises. Willingness to listen to feedback with earnestness, provide feedback/take notes during critiques, solve

problem areas will be evaluated in determining your overall participation grade.

**Sketchbook Assignments** – You are required to keep a sketchbook specifically for this class. Within it, you are encouraged to take notes, draw and write down feedback you receive during critiques. Further, you are required to have 50 sketches of or relating to the human figure by the end of the semester. These drawings will be punctuated by specific sketchbook assignments that I will announce during class. Feel free to count these announced sketchbook assignments within your 50 submitted sketches. Lightly number your sketchbook drawings on the upper right-hand corner of each page. Feel free to find models outside of class to pose for you; models do not have to be nude within your sketchbook drawings.

**GRADING SCALE:**

90-100=	A – Excellent/High Quality Work.
80-89 =	B – Good/Quality Work
70-79 =	C – Average/Satisfactory Work
60-69 =	D – Below Average/Needs Significant Work
59 or below=	F – Failing/Lacking Effort

#### **MAKE-UP POLICY**

So much of what this course encompasses is an expectation to show up dedicated, ready, and prepared to work.

Considering that this course will heavily consist of working from a live model during class time, make-up work will not be permitted for in-class drawing exercises unless the student can prove dire circumstances. Further, this will be at my discretion.

Should the student be granted the opportunity to make up a drawing assignment, the student will be fully responsible for finding their own live model and setting outside of class time. While this poses *some* flexibility, it will NOT be granted in excess and should in no way be perceived as an opportunity or reason to fall behind on announced due dates.

**Please make all necessary efforts to attend class and to stay on task.**

#### **TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

**Week 1:** Discussion of Syllabus. *The figure in Fine Art drawing - in both its history and contemporaneity.* Discuss, draw and learn the core regions of the skeletal frame. Demo for drawing the hand followed by hand studies.

**Week 2:** *Linear perspective in life drawing, evaluating planar areas, and mark making.* Introduction to facial structure. 10-15 minute drawing exercises will followed by 60-90 minute exercises.

**Week 3:** Two-person critiques. *Mass Gesture* followed by timed practice exercises. *Compositional strategies, upper and lower extremities of the figure.* 10-15 minute timed drawing exercises followed by 60-90 minute exercises.

**Week 4:** In-class work week. Students will use all of studio time to draw from the live model.

**Week 5:** *Lecture on value:* various methodologies of approaching light and shadow using graphite, black charcoal and white charcoal (hatching, crosshatching, cross contour) followed by 10-15 minute drawing exercises of the model.

**Week 6:** In-class work week. Students will use all of studio time to draw from the live model.

**Week 7:** Full studio critique. *Lecture on foreshortening followed by drawing demo.* 10-15 minute timed exercises of the model followed by 60-90 minutes drawing sessions. **Sketchbooks are DUE for first checkpoint on TUESDAY, February 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Week 8:** *Lecture on schematic analysis of torso area in relation to upper & lower extremities* followed by in-class work week. Students will use 60-90 minutes to draw from live model.

**Week 9:** In-class work week. Students will use all of studio time to draw from the live model.

**Week 10:** *Lecture and demo on modeling volume from hatching* followed by 60-90 minute poses.

**Week 11:** *Lecture and demo on Additive and Subtractive methods* followed by 60-90 minute poses.

**Week 12:** Drawing sessions - 60-90 minute poses on gray paper – using black and white charcoal.

**Week 13:** In-class work week. Students will use all of studio to draw from the live model.

**Week 14:** 60-90 minute poses on gray paper using black and white charcoal.

**Week 15:** **FINAL Drawing critiques. Submit your 10 best drawings. Sketchbooks are DUE for FINAL checkpoint on TUESDAY, May 1st.**

**Week 16:** **FINALS Week. Studio clean-up, One-on-one feedback, Farewells**

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and

the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [Dean of Student's Office](#)

#### **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf](#)

#### **ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES POLICY**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/bb0d849d-6af2-4128-a9fa-f8c989138491.pdf>

#### **VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

#### **USE OF PHONE & TEXT MESSAGING IN THE CLASSROOM**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Please *turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins*. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ART BFA REVIEW**

The purpose of the BFA Review is to ensure that students have learned basic principles

and techniques needed for advanced art courses.

All Art students must successfully complete all of the Art Foundation courses and the BFA Review before being accepted into a BFA program in Computer Animation, Photography, or Studio Art or Graphic Design. Graphic Design students must also pass a separate Graphic Design Review after the BFA Review.

The Art Foundation Courses are WASH, Drawing, and Foundations in Digital Art. (ARTS 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, & 2313). Students must pass each course with a grade of C or higher to take the BFA Review and proceed to upper level courses.

The semester after all of the Foundation courses are complete, students must sign up for the BFA Review. Students should see an art advisor every semester to ensure they take the BFA Review on time. It should be taken the semester immediately following the completion of the Foundation Courses.

Students who do not pass the BFA Review may re-take it the following semester. Students who do not pass on the second attempt will not be allowed to continue as BFA majors, but may follow the degree plan for the BA in Art. Non-participation after signing up or being advised to sign up will count as a failure of that semester's review.

Graphic Design students must pass the BFA Review, complete Principles of Graphic Design (ARTS 2323) and participate in a BFA Review at the end of the semester that they are enrolled in Typography (ARTS 3322).

For more information on the BFA review see the Department of art web page: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/review/>

#### **DEFACING UNIVERSITY PROPERTY**

Defacing University property is prohibited by University policy. It is also a criminal offense. Students will be held responsible for the cost of damages to the facilities. Violations will be reported to University Police.

Students should not paint on concrete, asphalt, trees, sides of buildings, interior walls or floors of buildings, locker doors, etc. When using any kind of paint use a drop cloth or tarp to protect the surface from overspray.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ART LAPTOP REQUIREMENT**

Students in the Department of Art are required to own a laptop as specified by each BFA program. Macintosh laptops are strongly recommended and can be purchased at discounted rates for students. The specifications for each BFA program and links to the Apple Store can be found on the Department of Art website: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/resources/laptop-initiative.html> . Students will be required to have laptops and the Adobe Creative Suite software in art courses that

require computers. Laptops must meet or exceed the specifications described and be capable of interfacing with Department printers and other peripheral devices.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>