

## LA Mission College

John Zarcone  
Life Drawing; Fall 2012

Art 204  
W 12:15-4:25

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### Course Objectives

This course will deal with the unique problem of rendering the human form. We will work in a variety of media, and produce works with varying degrees of finish. Drawing from the model we will synthesize various techniques to gain a complete understanding of form, line, tone, mass and movement as they pertain to the representation of the living figure. In addition we will expand the requisite vocabulary necessary in discussing and analyzing our work.

Prerequisite: None

**Advisory: Art 201; Beginning Drawing**

### Course Entry Expectations

To be successful in this course the student should already be able to create drawings from observation with a full range of values showing the illusion of three dimensional space (201 SLO); therefore you should have a working knowledge of linear perspective, light logic, basic geometric form, and how that form occupies space.

### Student Learning Outcome

Draw the human figure using accurate observed proportions.

### Attendance

You must attend every class on time, and stay for the duration of the class. Three tardies are counted as one absence. Any tardy beyond fifteen minutes will be counted as a whole absence. Two absences result in a lowering of your course grade by one letter grade.

**Three absences result in a final grade of Fail.**

**Please note that due to the impacted enrollment, any absence in the first four weeks of class (without prior notification) will result in your being dropped.**

### Add Policy

Students will be added as space permits in order of a wait list established on the first class meeting.

### Grading

You will be graded on a point system; 5 to 20 points for the homework assignments (85 total points) 16%, 50 points for the construction line activity 9%, and 200 points for each class work portfolio, 75%. Please see the course outline for the assignment due dates. Points and percentages may vary.

### Grading Scale

A: 90-100% of the total possible points, so with a possible (projected) 535 points the range for an A would be 535-482; B 80-89% (481-428); C 70-79% (427- 374); D 60-69% (373-320); F 59% and below. This is an example; the actual points for the semester may vary.

### Office Hours

CAC2: MW 10:30-11:15. Email: zarconjm@lamission.edu

### Materials List

1. 18"x24" Biggie pad -120 sheets of paper. (Not Newsprint)
2. 19x24 pad of tracing paper.

3. A clip type drawing board large enough to accommodate an 18"x24" piece of paper.
4. 6B, HB, and 2B graphite drawing pencils.
5. Dark colored pencil, either brown, red, blue, or violet.
6. Xacto knife or razor blade.
7. Medium or soft vine charcoal.
8. Compressed charcoal, (General brand) stick and pencil, medium to soft.
9. White charcoal, stick and pencil.
10. Kneaded eraser.
11. #8 gray paper stump (stump).
12. Black conte crayon.
13. Black ball point pen.
14. Black (Micron) pen.
15. Waterproof black ink in dropper bottle.
16. Large soft (squirrel or sable) round brush.
17. Sketchbook 11x14"
18. \*Four sheets of gray Canson paper.
19. \*Small assortment of hard chalk pastels (Nu Pastels).

**Required Text:** *The Human Figure; An Anatomy For Artists*. David K. Rubins. Penguin.  
Handout Packet from Mission College Bookstore.

**Homework:** All homework is to be completed in the sketchbook unless instructed otherwise. All homework is executed in either ink or colored pencil, unless instructed otherwise. The homework is listed in the syllabus on the day it is assigned, and is due the following week. Please see "Your Responsibilities" for further homework information. **Failure to turn in the week's homework will result in your being marked absent.**

### Course Outline

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|------|---|
| 8/29 | Introduction, materials. Contour drawing. <u>Homework:</u> One blind contour drawing, one modified, of your hand. Micron pen. 5 points.   |
| 9/5  | Contour and gesture drawing, construction lines. <u>Homework:</u> Ten views of a pear, with emphasis on "Ts" to show the overlap of form. Colored Pencil. 5 points.   |
| 9/12 | Construction lines and proportion. Modeled drawing. Geometric analogue: spheres. <u>Homework:</u> Construction line and comparative measurement, see handout. 20 points.  |
| 9/19 | Gesture drawing, one minute and five-minute. Construction line activity. Modeled and contour combo. <u>Homework:</u> Still life of 8 cylinders on 18x24" paper; include axis, and cross contours. Colored pencil. 5 points.   |
| 9/26 | Modeled drawing with line and tone. Geometric analogue: cylinders. <u>Homework:</u> Geometric analogue, cylinders and spheres: on a new tracing paper simplify the figure to show volume using cylinders and spheres. Each sphere should show the center axis with a contour line and each cylinder should have at least one cross contour line to indicate the direction of form. Refer to the handout. 20 points. |
| 10/3 | Gesture studies. Skeletal anatomy. Construction line activity makeup. <u>Homework:</u> Skeleton: on a new tracing paper insert a volumetric skeleton into   |

photos from the construction line homework. Refer to your anatomy book and handouts. 20 points.

- 10/10 Continue skeletal anatomy. 20 minute gestures. No Homework!
- 10/17** Gesture studies. **First class work portfolio due.** Homework: Muscles: on the same tracing as the skeleton add six separate muscles, show form and where they attach, no hands, feet or head. Label each, refer to your anatomy book. Colored pencil. 20 points.
- 10/24 Continue muscles. Homework: \*Old master studies. Watteau's "Head of a Man"
- 10/31 Skeleton and muscle drawing. Homework: Michelangelo's "Studies for Libyan Sibyl" 1510.
- 11/7 Tone drawing with charcoal. Homework: Raphael's "Lucretia" c. 1500.
- 11/14 Tone drawing with graphite or colored pencil.
- 11/21 Head drawing; axis and angle, proportions, structure, and planes.
- 11/28 Tone drawing with black and white charcoal on toned paper.
- 12/5 Color Drawing.
- 12/12** Final. **Final portfolio due. 12:30-2:30**

\*The Old Master drawings can be found at the Metropolitan Museum of Art: [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org). You are to copy the drawing using the same media on the same paper, taking care to duplicate the mark making exactly. Bring the same materials to the following class.

### **Your Responsibilities**

Be prepared for class by having all the required materials. If you don't have the materials that you need for the day, you will be counted as absent (see the attendance policy above).

You are required to spend six hours a week on homework for this class; you can of course do more if you desire. Please be realistic with your time management.

Assignments must be turned in on the date specified in the course outline. Your grade for the assignment will be lowered 10% in point value for each day it is late. If you are absent on the day the homework is assigned I will only explain what you missed during office hours; otherwise contact a fellow student for explanation.

Keep all work in a professional condition.

Preserve all work.

### **Disabled Students**

There are no concessions made for disabled students unless arranged through the Center for Students with Disabilities.

## **Beginning Figure Drawing Art 204 First Portfolio**

The following in class drawings will be included in your first portfolio. You may not make substitutions, or turn in previously graded work.

One **contour drawing**. To receive a grade of "A" the contour drawing should have a slow observed line, no sketchy lines or stylization. There should be a wealth of detail. A believable sense of space will be achieved through overlapping or foreshortening. There should be no tone or shading. Black Micron pen. **20 Points.**

One **drip drawing**. The drawing will show all or part of the figure and demonstrate accurate proportion. The drawing is to be executed with latex paint dripped from a stick. There should be a variety of line thickness, and a minimum of puddling.

**OR**

One **stick drawing**. The drawing will show all or part of the figure and demonstrate accurate proportion. The drawing is to be executed in black ink on paper. The drawing will be gestural and will show a varied line quality. **20 points.**

One page of 4-6 **one- minute gesture drawings**. The whole figure (head to toe) will be loosely represented. The viewer should be able to understand the model's gesture, gender, and body type. Each drawing should be in proportion. **20 points.**

Two **modeled drawings**, rendered in either black ballpoint pen, the side of a black conte crayon, or watercolor. The figure will be in proportion. Any foreshortening will appear correct. The figure will have a fully developed, sculptural sense of form or roundness. Areas of the figure that are closer to the viewer are lighter; areas further away are darker. The modeled drawing does not always (or even usually) correspond to light and shadow. **40 total points.**

One page (four figures) of **5 minute gestures**, done in charcoal, graphite, colored pencil, or ink wash. Each figure should have a sense of form and volume. Proportion and foreshortening should be accurate. There should be evidence of the underlying 30 sec. gesture. If line is used volume is carved out from geometric analogue. Include a few cross contours. Line quality must be varied. **20 points.**

There will be two **gesture studies** (20, 15, or 10 minutes) rendered predominantly in graphite of varying tone. All drawings should contain evidence of counting (measuring) the standard 8 heads. The figure will fill the 18x24 page with no more than an inch and a half space at the top or bottom. There will be evidence of the drawing beginning from a one-minute gesture drawing. The drawing should include at least 12 *observed* construction lines, represented *lightly*. The pose will be completely accurate. Proportion will be completely accurate. All foreshortening will be completely accurate. The drawing must include a sense of volume and space either building from basic shapes and/or selected cross contours. Pay attention to surface anatomy; the clavicle, sternum, navel, pubic arch (these create a center line) and the rib cage, thoracic arch, and iliac crest. The drawing may include the underlying skeletal structure. The drawing may include some outer contours, rendered in a flowing, unlabored, and varied 6B or HB line. Tone i.e. light and shadow is discouraged. Scale relationships and proportion must be accurate. **40 total points.**

One **skeletal anatomy drawing**. In drawing the skeleton all the above gesture study considerations apply. The form of the large body masses (head and torso) must be clearly shown, and the function of the joints emphasized. Hands and feet may be simplified. **20 points.**

One **combination contour/modeled drawing**. Same criteria as the individual modeled and contour drawings listed above. This is a modeled drawing in ball point on white paper with a contour drawing on tracing paper overlay of the same pose. Use a tape hinge of artist's tape.

The complete portfolio is valued at **200** points.

Figure Drawing  
204 Second Portfolio

Follow the previously stated procedures in presenting this, your final portfolio. The drawings to be presented must include the types listed.

Two pages (eight figures) of **5 minute gestures**, done in graphite, colored pencil, pastel or ink wash. Each figure should have a sense of form and volume. Proportion and foreshortening should be accurate. Emphasize overlapping forms. If line is used volume is carved out from geometric analogue. May include hatched in value, cross contours. Line quality must be varied. **40 points**

There will be two **gesture studies with value** (20, 15, or 10 minutes) rendered predominantly in charcoal, or colored pencil of varying tone. All drawings should contain evidence of counting (measuring) the standard 8 heads. The figure will fill the 18x24 page with no more than an inch and a half space at the top or bottom. There will be evidence of the drawing beginning from a one-minute gesture drawing. The pose will be completely accurate. Proportion will be completely accurate. All foreshortening will be completely accurate. The drawing must include a sense of volume and space through use of hatched, and cross-hatched, form strokes establishing a range of values in the figure and possibly the negative space. Pay attention to surface anatomy. **40 total points.**

**Two hand studies, two foot studies** (four total), life size drawings rendered in graphite or colored pencil. There must be evidence of the basic box form(s), and light construction lines indicating the necessary arcs. Dimensional form is required; addition of value is optional. **20 points total.**

**Four five minute head studies**, graphite or colored pencil. The correct axis and angle, showing the position of the head, must be indicated with light construction lines. The emphasis must be on the form (structure) of the head, and may be indicated by a single hatched stroke. Neck and shoulders must also be indicated. Be careful not to outline features, as always line quality should be varied. **20 points total.**

**One skeleton and muscle drawing**, all the criteria for the gesture and skeletal gesture studies apply. In addition at least six individual muscles cleanly rendered in colored pencil or graphite. Each muscle must show three-dimensional form and any changes to that form caused by the particular pose. **20 points total.**

**One head study**, charcoal. Head should be life size or larger and demonstrate the correct position and proportion of the head. Planer structure should be emphasized. Neck and shoulders should be indicated. Light source should be obvious. **20 points total.**

**Two value drawings**, any media. The figure may be cropped, but should fill the page without an excess of negative space. There must be a complete range of value (at least six tones) and at least 40% of the depicted forms must appear fully rounded. The direction of light must be evident, and all highlights, reflected lights, mid-tones, and shadows must be consistent. Some of the value application may display a form following crosshatch. Remember that value in the negative space helps to de-emphasize the outline, making the drawing appear less flat. **40 points total.**

The complete portfolio is valued at **200** points. We will go over together at the final class meeting. Refer to the final schedule in your schedule of classes.