

Bergen Community College

Division of Arts and Humanities

Department of Visual Art

Course Syllabus

ART-123 – Life Drawing I

Basic Information About Course and Instructor:

Semester and Year: [Insert Semester and Year]

Section Number: [Insert Section Number]

Meeting Times: [Insert Meeting Times]

Location: [Insert Location]

Instructor: [Insert Instructor Name]

Office Location: [Insert Office Location]

Phone: [Insert Phone Number]

Departmental Secretary (Optional): [Insert Secretary Name]

Office Hours: [Insert Office Hours]

Email Address: [Insert Email]

Course Description:

Official Catalog Course Description:

Life Drawing I is a studio course focused on drawing the human figure from a live model. Students will engage with various media, including pencil, charcoal, and ink, emphasizing value, structure, line, form, spatial relationships, composition, and personal expression. Coursework includes in-class sessions, discussions, critiques, and required drawing practice outside of class.

Credits: 3 (4 hours studio)

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessments:

| Student Learning Outcome | Means of Assessment |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Demonstrate proficiency in drawing the human form with proper proportions and anatomical accuracy | Portfolio Review, Class Assignments |
| Utilize grayscale and value studies to create depth and volume in drawings | Observational Drawings, Critiques |
| Apply design principles such as composition and spatial relationships | Sketchbook Exercises, Final Project |
| Develop a personal drawing style through experimentation with different media | Creative Projects, Peer Review |
| Effectively articulate artistic concepts and critique works using professional terminology | Class Discussions, Written Analysis |

Course Content:

- Contour drawing, gesture drawing, and weight/mass/volume studies
 - Structural understanding of the human form
 - Application of light and shadow
 - Composition techniques, including figure/ground relationships
 - Figurative and portrait work from a live model
 - Homework assignments including self-portraits, still life, and landscape studies
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Course Texts and Materials:

Required Texts:

- Sandy Brooke, *Drawing as Expression*, Prentice Hall, 2002
- Mendelowitz, Wakeham, and Faber, *A Guide to Drawing*, 7th Edition, 2007

Materials List:

- 18x24 drawing pad (newsprint & Bristol board)
- Portfolio case
- Assorted drawing pencils (2H-6B)
- Erasers (kneaded, gum, pink pearl)
- Vine and compressed charcoal (soft, medium, hard)
- X-Acto knife and sandpaper board

- Heavy clips, drafting tape, pushpins
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Research, Writing, and Examination Requirements:

- Portfolio submissions throughout the semester
 - Weekly sketchbook assignments
 - Midterm and final critique
 - Written reflection on personal artistic growth
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Grading Policy:

| Category | Percentage |
|------------------------------|------------|
| In-Class Artwork Portfolio | 40% |
| Homework Artwork Portfolio | 40% |
| Meeting Deadlines | 10% |
| Attendance and Participation | 10% |

Attendance Policy:

- One unexcused absence allowed without penalty
 - Each additional absence lowers attendance grade by one full letter
 - Excessive absences may result in course failure
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Additional Policies:

- **Plagiarism & Academic Integrity:** Adherence to BCC's policies on academic honesty is expected.
 - **ADA Statement:** Accommodations are available through the Office of Specialized Services (OSS).
 - **Use of AI Tools:** AI-generated work must be approved by the instructor before submission.
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Course Outline & Calendar:

| Week | Topic | Activity | Assignment |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Introduction & Materials | Syllabus Review, Basic Techniques | Sketchbook: Line Studies |
| 2 | Gesture Drawing | Quick Poses | Homework: Gesture Sketches |
| 3 | Value & Shading | Grayscale Studies | Shading Exercises |
| 4 | Structure & Proportion | Human Anatomy Basics | Proportion Drawings |
| 5 | Light & Shadow | Dramatic Lighting | Shadow Studies |
| 6 | Midterm Review | Portfolio Critique | Midterm Submission |
| 7 | Portraiture | Facial Proportions | Portrait Drawing |
| 8 | Expressive Techniques | Mixed Media Experimentation | Creative Self-Portrait |
| 9 | Composition | Figure/Ground Relationship | Homework: Composition Study |
| 10 | Experimental Drawing | Abstract Approaches | Experimental Piece |
| 11 | Final Project Planning | Proposal Discussion | Final Project Proposal |
| 12 | Independent Work | Final Project Progress | Final Sketches |
| 13 | Peer Review | Group Critique | Refined Artwork |
| 14 | Final Project Completion | One-on-One Review | Prepare for Final Submission |
| 15 | Final Review | Portfolio Presentation | Submit Final Portfolio |

Note: The course schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.
