

# Course Syllabus

## De Anza College

### ARTS4C - Life Drawing

### Winter 2025

**CRN: 36909**

**Lab&Lecture: Mon/Wed 12:30-3:15pm A52**

**Instructor:**

Darren Kerr

**School Email:**

kerrdarren@fhda.edu

**Alternate email:**

[dkerr@dkerr.net](mailto:dkerr@dkerr.net)

**Phone: 650-814-2180**

**Instagram:**

@TuesdayLifeDrawing

**Website:**

DarrenKerrArt.com

**Office Hours:**

M/W: 12-12:30 A52

#### **Important Dates:**

- First day of class: Mon Jan 6th 2025 12:30pm A52
- Last day to add course: Sun Jan 19th 2025

- Last day to drop without W (and receive refund): Sun Jan 19th 2025
- Last day to drop with W: Feb 28 2025
- Final critique (last class meeting): Wed Mar 26th 11:30am-1:30pm A52
- No Class Mon Jan 20 (MLK) nor Mon Feb 17th (PresDay)

# Welcome to ARTS4C Life Drawing!

In this course, students will enhance their ability to draw the human figure from life. Students will learn and practice drawing gesture, balance, rhythm, proportions, and skeletal-muscular anatomy. We will enhance our observational drawing skills to describe the human form using principles of chiaroscuro. We will use a variety of mediums, including charcoal, graphite, ink, and pastels. Students will explore and practice different techniques to draw the figure accurately, and learn skills that enable them to create drawings of people from their imagination.

## 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:

- Artist Tote/Drawing Board, 23" x 26"
- XL Newsprint Paper Pads, 18" x 24" - 100 sheets
- Charcoal Paper Pads 300 Series, 18" x 24 24 sheets
- Toned Sketch Paper Pads - 400 Series, 18" x 24" - Gray, 24 sheets
- Conte Crayon Sets, 12-Color Set
- The Original Charcoal Drawing Pencil Set, 7-Piece Set
- Kneaded Erasers
- Chamois, 4.5" x 6.5"
- Artist Soft Pastel Sets, 12-Color Set Assorted
- Sketch Notebook, Spiral-Bound, 9 x 12 - 80 sheets (160 pages)
- Mesh Bag, 24 x 32 - White

## 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.

- 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
- Clips for attaching paper or references to drawing boards
- 11 x 17 vellum or tracing paper pad

## Weekly Class Format and Time Commitment

**Monday and Wednesday 12:30-3:15pm - Lecture and Lab in Studio - A52**

**(6 hours/week, 40+% of final grade)**

- Arrive at class with your materials and ready to draw by 12:30pm.
- Help set up easels and lights, then take notes during lesson and demonstration. Tape any handouts into your class notebook.
- Students draw from live model using techniques from demonstration
  - This is the main component of the class
- Instructor will provide individual feedback while class draws
- At end of lab (3:15pm), photograph your in-class drawings and submit to Canvas for Drawing Lab Participation grading

### Canvas module Homework Exercises and Notebook

**(1-2 hours/week, 20% of final grade)**

- Read the weekly Canvas module and watch drawing videos if included
- Take notes in your 9x12" Class Notebook - include date and module title
- Complete the online exercises, drawing in your Class Notebook.
- Photograph your completed exercises and notes and submit them to Canvas by the due date (usually Sunday evening).

## Homework Drawing Projects and Portfolio Critiques

**(3-4 hours per week, 40% of final grade)**

- The Weekly Canvas Module has instructions for homework drawing projects to reinforce that week's lessons
- Draw for at least 3+ hours on your homework projects each week
- Photograph finished homework project and references and submit to Canvas by due date (usually Sunday evening)
- At the Midterm, students will present their two best homework drawings and two best in-class life drawings to the class for positive feedback
- Similarly, during Finals week, students will showcase their two best homework and in-class drawings from second half of course

### Grading Rubric for all assignments (in-class, homework, and projects):

Rubric category	Percentage of grade
Completeness - did all aspects of assignment with good effort	60%
Timeliness - in class by 12:30, turned in assignment by due date	20%
Drawing skills - line quality, values, proportions, gesture, balance	10%
Presentation: neat, nicely cropped, photographed well	5%
Excellence: Original, tasteful, good artistic choices	5%

### Final Grade

A+	97-100%
A	93 - 96.9

A-	90 - 92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	70-76.9
D	60-69.9

## Student Learning Outcomes:

- The student will reproduce the human figure using a variety of drawing techniques using a variety of media including charcoal, graphite, ink, or conte crayon.
- The student will create drawings that show an understanding of basic human anatomy and proportion.

## Weekly Module Topics

<b>Week</b>	<b>Weekly Topics - <i>subject to modification</i></b>
<b>1</b>	Introductions, Syllabus, Expectations of Online and In-Person participation, Grading, Notebook, Materials, How to photograph and upload drawings to

	<p>Canvas. Basic instruction on drawing the figure from life using vine charcoal and conte crayon using the concept of <i>moveable masses</i>.</p> <p>Skeletal structure and major bones and skeletal proportions</p> <p>Jan 6 &amp; 8 Models: Sol and Rachel</p> <p>HW Exercises: draw and label skeleton front, side, and back</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>Major muscle groups and fat pads</p> <p>Jan 13&amp;15. Models: Kawena and Susan</p> <p>HW Project #1: Master copy of female figure drawing</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>Muscles of the torso</p> <p>Jan 22 (No class on Mon Jan 20 - MLK) Model: Brian</p> <p>HW Project #2: Master copy of male figure drawing</p>
<b>4</b>	<p>Jan 27 &amp; 29 Models: Tracy and Jenn</p> <p>HW Project #3: Draw figure from photo of sculpture</p>
<b>5</b>	<p>Feb 3 &amp; 5 Models: Mae and Rachel</p> <p>HW Project #4: Drawing from ref photo emphasizing musculature - front view</p>
<b>6</b>	<p>Midterm Critique of two best homework projects and in-class drawings.</p> <p>Feb 10 &amp; 12 Models Kawena and Chrissy</p>
<b>7</b>	<p>Feb 19 (No class on Feb 17 - Presidents day) Model Jenn</p>

	HW Project #5: Drawing from photo ref side or rear view
8	Feb 24 & 16 Models Sol and Brian  HW Project #6: Drawing from photo emphasizing legs/feet
9	Mar 3 & 5 Models Mae and Brian  HW Project #7: Clothed full length self portrait - emphasize face and hands
10	Mar 10 & 12 Models Kawena and Jenn  HW Project #8: Two figures from photo reference
11	Mar 17 & 19 Models Tracy and Chrissy
12	Mar 26 11:30am - Final Critique of two best projects from second half of the course

### Topics to cover:

- Drawing:
  - Materials and techniques for line and shadow
  - Measuring relative proportions on paper using proportional divider
  - Measuring object from distance using proportional divider
- Anatomy
  - Major skeletal systems
  - Major muscle groups
  - Fat pads
- Drawing styles
  - Line vs value
  - Shading with hatching vs side of charcoal/pastel
  - Graphic vs. representational

- Types of hatching
  - Blending vs. leaving initial artist marks
- Master copying
- Drawing from photo reference
- Techniques for drawing from life
  - Gesture - shorthand, movement, balance, limited details
  - Contour lines - to force observation of edges at expense of proportions
  - Blocking masses
  - Construction using “beans”, mannequins, simplified shapes, and/or armature
  - Envelope with extensive measuring and/or angles
  - Locating landmarks of the human form
- Proportions
  - Classical
  - Stylized - hero, comic, fashion
  - From measured averages
  - Actual model proportions
  - Effects of perspective and foreshortening
- Using Pastels to add color and nuances of form