LIFE DRAWING

Summer I, 2017 – 5/30/17 – 6/30/17
Arts 3301.001

Instructor: Kevin Mercer
Email: Kevin.Mercer@TAMUCC.edu
Office: 107 Photography / Mod 2
Schedule: M, T, W, & TH – 8:00 am – 11:45 pm
Location: CA-206
Office Hours: M & T – 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

LIFE DRAWING

Life Drawing is just as it sounds: A traditional drawing course centered around drawing the human figure from direct observation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Learn to identify, draft, and model particular human anatomical structures.
- Master a variety of materials such as charcoal, ink wash, and conte crayon.
- Capture poses, body language, expressions, light, and volume through drawing.
- Build upon traditional methods of observation and drawing in order to further develop your own styles, ideas, and methodologies.
- Engage in discussions and critiques
- Craft drawings on a large scale

TEXTBOOK

Students will be given handouts.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory for your success, will be recorded during each class session and is considered as part of the professionalism element of your final grade.

- You will lose a single letter grade on your fourth (4) absence.
- Five (5) absences will result in the drop of another letter grade.
- Six (6) absences will result in the failure of the course.
- Three (3) late arrivals or early departures will result in the recording of one (1) full absence.
- Students are required to attend class for the duration of the scheduled time or until the Professor dismisses the class.
- Attending critiques are mandatory.
MAKE-UP WORK

Projects and assignments turned-in after their predetermined due date will not be graded; the resulting score will be 0. However, should appropriate documentation* accompany the late project, the work will receive full consideration for grading.

APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION

Examples of appropriate documentation include: a note from a doctor, dentist, police officer, lawyer, firefighter, EMT, academic advisor, Art Department Chair, or the University’s Dean, Provost, or President. Additional forms of documentation may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

PHONES

As we will be drawing directly from a nude model, I must insist that you not have your phone out and in use during class. Every cell phone now has a camera lens. Out of respect for the model, please keep phones put away. If you must answer an important call or text, please excuse yourself to the hallway.

LOCKERS

See Art Office to reserve a locker in the hallway.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY / PLAGAIRISM

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in removal from class.

CLASSROOM / PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
STATEMENT OF CIVILITY

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information, please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at
For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

MATERIALS LIST

22” x 30” pad of rough newsprint, possibly two
22” x 30” & 26” x 40” drawing papers: Canson, Strathmore, etc. White, grey, brown, etc.
vine & compressed charcoal
white gesso
conte crayons in black, white, & sepia
charcoal pencils & colored pencils
chamois cloth & tortillions
kneaded & vinyl erasers
X-acto knife
sandpaper
painter’s tape
India ink
22” x 30” or larger foam core drawing board
sketchbook
My signature below indicates that I have read and understand this syllabus and have been given a copy of my own to keep. I understand how the attendance and tardiness policies work.

____________________  ____________________
Student Signature     Date
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COURSE CALENDAR

Week I: 5/30/2017
Introductions, Exercises, & Practice

Materials: Rough newsprint, vine & compressed charcoal, erasers, chamois cloth, & sketchbook

Syllabus, Expectations
Gestures, Contours, Speed
Geometries of the Body
Light Critique
Sketchbook Assignment

Week II: 6/5/2017
Seeing Clearly, Moving Quickly, & Embracing Permanence

Materials: Rough newsprint, vine & compressed charcoal, erasers, chamois cloth, sketchbook, charcoal pencils, & black Sharpie markers

Gestures
20 Minute Poses
Lecture
Critique
Sketchbook Assignment

Week III: 6/12/2017
Longer Drawings with an Emphasis on Faces & Hands

Materials: Rough newsprint, vine & compressed charcoal, erasers, chamois cloth, sketchbook, charcoal pencils, black Sharpie markers, good drawing paper (18 x 24 inch or larger), white charcoal, and Conte crayons
Week IV: 6/19/2017
Authorship & Concept While Fully Developing Value Ranges

Materials: Rough newsprint, vine & compressed charcoal, erasers, chamois cloth, sketchbook, charcoal pencils, black Sharpie markers, good drawing paper (22 x 30 inch or larger), white charcoal, Conte crayons, India ink, brushes, and white gesso/acrylic

Week V: 6/26/2017
Final Drawings; Combining All That We Have Learned

Materials: Rough newsprint, vine & compressed charcoal, erasers, chamois cloth, sketchbook, charcoal pencils, black Sharpie markers, good drawing paper (22 x 30 inch or larger), white charcoal, Conte crayons, India ink, brushes, and white gesso/acrylic

HELPFUL LINKS

Paper:
http://www.dickblick.com/products/stonehenge-paper/

Chamois:
http://www.walmart.com/ip/Automotive-Car-White-Microfiber-Cuboid-Cleaning-Towel-20-x-19/47303234

Conte Crayons:
http://www.dickblick.com/products/conte-crays/

FIGURATIVE ARTISTS
Euan Uglow       Jerome Witkin       Jenny Saville       Jim Dine       Antonio Lopez Garcia
Lucien Freud       Rembrandt       Caravaggio       Eric Fischl       Roger Ballen
Jennifer Balkan       Benjamin Bjorklund       John Singer Sargent       Peter Paul Rubens