

Fig1 – Figure Drawing

Brainstorm

Instructor: Steven Michael Hampton

Course Objectives:

In this course, you will develop sensitivity to analyzing the figure utilizing both traditional and non-traditional techniques. Principles of gesture, form, anatomy, and design will be discussed in lecture and applied to in-class models. This course will emphasize the figure as a vehicle for communication, creating accurate anatomy and proportion, and developing a heightened analytical and historical perspective of figurative art.

Required Materials

Required: Students may start with any materials they are comfortable using. A large drawing pad is recommended (newsprint or otherwise). Choice of drawing medium is students' preference. Homework should be done digitally.

Week 01:

Intro: Syllabus

Lecture 1: Gesture

- Historical background
- Aims and Goals
- Interpreting poses
- Realism through abstraction

Assignment:

- 100 gestures
- Present for critique only your best 5 and worst 5

Week 02:

Intro: Critique Work

Lecture 2: The Skeleton

- Proportions

- Tilts
- Shapes
- Landmarks
- Perspective

Assignment:

- 20 figures

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Week 03:

Intro: Critique Work

Continue Skeleton: Part 2

Lecture 3: Construction, Planes, and Lighting

- Discussion of planes
- 8 Conditions of light, form shadows, and edges
- Planning value to match story
- Shape and Design
- Shadow as an echo of underlying anatomy

Assignment:

- 20 figures with light and shadow maps

Week 04:

Intro: Critique Work

Lecture 4: Head Drawing

- Discussion of construction
- Introduction to age and gender
- Structural vs. Subcutaneous fat
- Features

- Likeness
- Light and Shadow

Assignment:

20 heads with light and shadow

Week 05:

Intro: Critique Work

Continue Head: Part 2

Lecture 5: Introduction to Surface Anatomy - Torso

- Part, Placement, Perspective
- Designing active vs. passive forms

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- The rules of 3's
- Overview of the core and hips

Assignment:

- 20 figure constructions adding the anatomy/planes of the torso

Week 06:

Lecture 6: Legs

- Discussion of the Upper leg (front, inside, outside, back) and knee.
- Lower Leg
- Feet

Assignment:

- 25 figure studies including all anatomy discussed

Week 07:

Intro: Critique

Legs: Part 2

Lecture 7: Arms

Week 08:

Intro: Critique

Lecture 8: Arms Part 2

Week 9:

Intro: Critique

Lecture 9: Neck, Hands, and Feet

Week 10:

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Final: Critique

Recommended references:

<https://www.bodiesinmotion.photo/>

Human Anatomy for Artists, Eliot Goldfinger

Vilppu Drawing Manual, Glenn Vilppu

Bridgman's Complete Guide to Drawing from Life, George B. Bridgman

Dynamic Anatomy, Burne Hogarth

Any book by Andrew Loomis

Atlas of Human Anatomy for the Artist, Stephen Rogers Peck