Graduate Figure Drawing
ARTS 5323 - 002

Instructor: Lindsey Creel
MTWTR 2-4:40pm/8 Week/Fall 2
Studio Classroom: ART 202
Lindsey.Creel@sfasu.edu
Office: ART 123B
Office Hours: MW 10:00am-12:00pm by appointment

Course Description:
Gesture, anatomy and composition.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing in art

Course Contact Hours and Study Hours:
Graduate Figure Drawing is an art studio course focused on capturing the subtle, organic forms of the human body. Figure Drawing builds foundational skills to expand students’ capacity for both technical and creative work. Students will pursue an in-depth investigation of the human figure -- studying skeletal and muscular anatomy, gesture, movement, and portraiture. This face-to-face course involves lectures, research, in class live model drawing, and student presentations of art historical figurative works.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO’s):
1. Graduate students will demonstrate proficiency in studio foundation courses, which will prepare them for advanced coursework in their chosen field.

2. Graduate students will exhibit proficiency in the application of technical and problem-solving skills appropriate to their designated concentration, as well as developing individual creativity.

3. Graduate students will compare their progress against models of excellence in the visual arts, which are provided through high quality extracurricular and extramural art activities.

4. Graduate students will design and implement art activities for the larger art community appropriate to their designated field.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Graduate students will observe the human body and create believable depictions of the forms, shapes, values, and textures they observe using a variety of drawing media and methods.

2. Graduate students will expand their understanding of the use of drawing materials, develop strategies to convey meaning with those materials, and give attention to refining decisions in mark making.

3. Graduate students will strengthen perceptual skills and organizational principles through the act of drawing and apply relevant vocabulary to critically evaluate artwork.
4. Graduate students will research and present the role of figure drawing within art history and contemporary art.
5. Graduate students will assist in facilitating critiques with undergraduate students.

**Communication:**
We will be primarily meeting face-to-face, with some class meetings on Zoom. You must check Brightspace D2L and your email regularly for updates and/or changes in course formatting.

**Course Requirements and Attendance:**
Attendance is mandatory. You must attend every class, trip and meeting. We will be meeting face to face unless otherwise indicated by your instructor. You must consistently check your email and d2l for any changes to course meeting locations and/or format.

- Unexcused absences over 3 absences will result in the loss of one full letter grade from the final grade. Your grade will continue to drop a letter grade with each additional absence. If you know you’ll have more than two absences for school-related activities (sports, etc) talk to me at the end of the first class.
- You must arrive on time and participate the entire time. In this course, you will need to complete work in and out of the classroom.
- Students not participating in class are considered absent. If we have critiques on Zoom, your images must be uploaded to the appropriate location as specified on Brightspace or by your instructor before class begins.

**Assignments:**
All assignments are due at the beginning of class the day of the specified due date unless otherwise noted. The assignment due dates are listed on the calendar portion of this syllabus but are subject to change at the Professor’s discretion. Professor reserves the right to refuse late or underdeveloped work. If your assignment is unfinished, bring what you have done to class. You are allowed to resubmit one unfinished assignment per semester (Assignment 1, 2, or 3) so long as it was originally submitted by its due date.
All students are expected to participate in critique even if their work is unfinished. Additional sketchbook assignments will be assigned throughout the semester.

**Studio Expectations:**
Participation in discussion and classroom activities is expected. Artists will clean their work area and put away studio furniture so that the room is left in an orderly fashion for the next class. You must leave your workspace in the same or better condition than you found it. No excuses.

You will be assigned simple, weekly tasks to keep the studio in working order. While studying at SFA, these studios are yours. You must be invested in the maintenance of your creative spaces.

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class
or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Students will regularly be drawing the human form from live models in class. Students will not directly speak to or otherwise disrupt the models while they are working in the classroom.

***NO PHOTOS are allowed while models are in the classroom. No exceptions.

**Devices/Cell Phones:**
Studio time in this course is meant for focus and drawing practice. Cell phones and other devices are often a major distraction to the process of art making (unless specifically being used in the process). Please refrain from using these devices during the working sessions of this studio class. To be clear: text on your breaks. Headphones are allowed during active drawing time so long as you can hear my voice when/if the classes attention is needed.

**Course Materials and Studio Fees:**
Basic drawing materials will be provided using the course fees already applied to this course. You are responsible for replacing lost and used materials when necessary. This list includes some of the materials which will be provided:

- Vine Charcoal
- Graphite pencils: HB, 2B, 6B
- Charcoal pencil
- White block eraser
- Gray kneaded eraser
- Compressed charcoal
- Drawing Paper
- Newsprint

*Other recommended materials include: chamois cloth, conte crayon, sharpie, chalk pastel, micron pens, and/or a wider variety of graphite/charcoal pencils. As the semester progresses, I will let you know if additional materials will be required.

**Sketchbook:**
A sketchbook is **required** for this course. Keeping a sketchbook will help you to encourage more practice of sketching ideas between the class sessions. Also, your sketchbook is the
place to keep out of class assignments, notes, comments, and ideas from our classroom discussions. This sketchbook can be shared with another class but must be organized, free of personal writings, and have enough blank pages to make it through this semester. Sketchbook assignments are factored into each project grade. Purchase a sketchbook that is manageable in size—something to carry around with you (11”x 14” max).

Text and Readings:
No textbook is required for this class. I will share occasional readings with you, in the form of handouts or web links. You will be expected to read these articles and participate in discussion and/or write responses in your sketchbook or on the D2L course discussion board. You are expected to check D2L frequently for class updates and further course resources. Outside research will be required for your class presentations. Please reference legitimate sources for these short presentations (no Wikipedia).

Suggested Texts:

Projects:
There are 4 projects for this course. Each project is 20% of your final grade. The remaining 20% comes from your weekly presentations. Participation and sketchbook assignments are tied into their correlating project.

Artist/artwork presentations are condensed explanations of your contemporary artist research. Over this semester you will give eight 4–6-minute presentations of your ongoing art historical and/or contemporary artist/artwork research for the undergraduate Figure Drawing students. Visuals of each artist/artwork discussed are required. Preparation for this exercise requires a minimum of 2 hours per week. This research will benefit your artmaking practice—dig in.

Grading Rubric for Projects:
Each project in this course will be graded in the same 4 categories. Each category is given a letter grade. Those letter grades average to comprise the project grade.

The 4 categories are:
1) The project displays artistic intent, is complete, and is fully resolved within project parameters
2) The project demonstrates an understanding of visual elements and principles of drawing and design as they relate to the human form (including but not limited to proportion, composition, balance, value/contrast, mark-making, shape, form)
3) The project is well developed from ideation to completion
4) The project displays craftsmanship, strong overall presentation, and command of drawing materials

Explanation of Grading Criteria:
A Excellent: Displays a strong grasp of the process, concepts, and materials that far exceed
normal expectations. Deep understanding of elements and principles of drawing and two-dimensional design conveyed in the work. Drawings convey a solid framework through gesture in the initial stages and of in-depth development in their progression. Handling of materials, rendering of form and approach to scale, proportion, and composition are mature and convey insight and invention. Self-motivated, disciplined and committed to practice. Comes to class prepared at all times. Work is always on time. Very active in critiques and discussions.

B Above Average: Displays a good grasp of the process, concepts, and materials that exceeds normal expectations. Solid understanding of elements and principles of drawing and two-dimensional design conveyed in the work. Drawings convey a relatively solid framework through gesture in the initial stages and of good development in their progression. Handling of materials, rendering of form and approach to scale, proportion, and composition are mature and convey some insight and invention. Mostly self-motivated, disciplined and committed to practice. Comes to class all of the time. Work is on time. Active in critiques and discussions.

C Average: Displays an average understanding of the process, concepts, and materials that meet normal expectations. Some demonstrated understanding of elements and principles of drawing and two-dimensional design. Drawings convey little framework with underdeveloped gestures in the initial stages and development in their progression lacks closure. Handling of materials, rendering of form and approach to scale, proportion, and composition lack maturity, but convey some insight or invention. Some self-motivation, discipline and commitment to practice, but relies on outside stimulus for guidance. Comes to class prepared and work is on time. Somewhat active in critiques and discussions.

D Below Average: Lacks an understanding of or engagement with the process, concepts, and materials and falls below normal expectations. Little demonstrated understanding of elements and principles of drawing and two-dimensional design. Drawings lack framework and gesture is generally underdeveloped in the initial stages; drawings feel incomplete. Handling of materials, rendering of form and approach to scale, proportion, and composition lack maturity and convey little insight and invention. Lacks self-motivation, discipline and commitment to practice. Comes to class prepared most of the time. Work is mostly on time but lacks in-depth investigation. Not engaged with or active in critiques and discussions.

F Failure to turn in projects, excessive absences, not engaged with or active in critiques and discussions.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1):**

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from
the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a
test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or
attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key,
homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior
classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another
person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying
research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit,
(6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational
activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another
source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was
used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas,
illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that
material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a
program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic
assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of
any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing
the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading
information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other
assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or
another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5):**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic
chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course
work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one
calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade
automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH
will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of
computing the grade point average. For additional information, go to
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

**Accommodation of Disabilities:**
To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids,
students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services
Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004

(TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor
and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request
services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Student Wellness and Well Being**
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person - mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741