

# Course Syllabus

## De Anza College

### ARTS4A - Beginning Drawing

Winter 2024

**CRN: 33685 (Hybrid)**

**Lab Tue 9:30am-12:20pm A94, Lecture online**

**Instructor:**

**Darren Kerr**

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**Alternate email:**

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**Instagram:**

**@TuesdayLifeDrawing**

**Website:**

**DarrenKerrArt.com**

**Office Hours:**

**Tue: 9-9:30am A94**

**and 12:20-12:50pm A94**

#### **Important Dates:**

- First day of class: Tue Jan 9th 2024 9:30am A94
- Last day to add course: Jan 20th 2024
- Last day to drop without W (and receive refund): Jan 21st 2024
- Last day to drop with W: Mar 1 2024

- Final critique (last class meeting): Tue Mar 26th 9:15am A94

# Welcome to ARTS4A

## Beginning Drawing!

This is an introductory course exploring the basic elements and principles of observational drawing using traditional and experimental media.

### Summary

In this hands-on course, we will experiment with many drawing mediums and techniques for creating representational drawings. The lectures, labs, exercises, and assignments are designed to help you to improve how you see our world through the eyes of an artist, while improving your drawing and compositional skills. For art majors, these foundations will be useful building blocks for future coursework. In any case, drawing and art appreciation enriches your lives, is useful in other fields, and is tons of fun in and of itself.

### Required Materials:

- **Class Notebook** - Spiral-Bound, 9x12" medium weight unlined drawing paper 40+ sheets
- Large drawing paper (for projects): 18x24", heavy weight, medium tooth, 24-sheet (Canson or Strathmore)
- Large sketch pad or newsprint (for class drawing exercises), 18x24", 50 sheets
- Compressed charcoal pencils: two 2B and two or more 4B or 6B *Generals* brand or equivalent
- Vine or Willow Charcoal 10+ pieces of assorted sizes
- 2 black "Conte a Paris" soft compressed charcoal sticks
- Artist's chamois (soft leather used for erasing large areas)

- Kneaded Rubber Erasers (for detailed erasing)
- Pigma Micron Pen Sets, Black Ink, 3-Pen Set (01, 03, 05) or equivalent
- Pigma Brush Pens, Pens, Black QTY2 in kit or equivalent

## **Additional Recommended Materials:**

- Artist Drawing board with clips, 18x26" or larger (otherwise use instructor's boards during lab)
- Portfolio bag big enough to hold drawing board and drawing pads (to safely transport drawings to class)
- Utility knife for sharpening charcoal pencils and misc projects
- Black India ink, ink quill with drawing nib, 2 or 3 watercolor brushes for ink wash
- 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 (Prospect, Derwent, Acurassee) - may purchase or borrow from instructor
- White Artist Tape, 3/4" x 30+ feet for masking drawings or taping reference photos
- Graph Rulers, 2" x 18"

You can purchase the "Kerr ARTS4A" Materials kit from the DeAnza bookstore for around \$110, which has most of the above materials for a discounted price and buy the missing materials separately, or if needed, may borrow missing materials from the instructor. The kits are missing the proportional divider, India Ink, and Conte crayons.

## **Weekly Class Format and Time Commitment**

**Tuesday Morning Lab in Drawing Studio (3 hours per week, 30% of final grade)**

- Arrive at Tuesday morning lab with your materials and ready to draw by 9:30am sharp

- We start each day with discussion about the week's topic and Q&A about the online content
- Next we go over instruction for the day's Lab exercises including occasional live demonstration, then begin drawing
- Instructor will provide individual instruction as needed
- At end of lab (12:15pm), photograph your in-class drawings and submit to Canvas for Drawing Lab Participation grading

### **Online Instruction and Exercises in Canvas Module (2 hours per week, 20% of final grade)**

- Read the weekly Canvas module and watch any included instructional drawing videos
- Take notes in your 9x12" Class Notebook - include date and module title at top of page
- Complete the online exercises, drawing in your Class Notebook. Push yourself to try new techniques covered in the lessons.
- Photograph your completed exercises and notes and submit to Canvas by Monday evening

### **Homework Drawing Projects (4 hours per week, 50% of final grade)**

- The Weekly Canvas Module has instructions for homework drawing projects to reinforce that week's lesson
- Photograph finished homework project and submit to Canvas by due date (usually weekend following lesson)
- At the Midterm, students will present their two best homework drawings to the class for positive feedback
- Similarly, during Finals week, students will showcase their two best drawings from second half of course

## **Grading Rubric**

- Participate enthusiastically in class discussions and drawing assignments
- Completeness - read and/or watch module lessons, follow instructions fully, and put in the allotted time

- Experimentation - push yourself to try new techniques covered in online lessons and in-person labs
- Drawing skills - demonstrate usage of lessons taught up to this point
- Creativity and Artistic Vision - for homework projects extra credit is acknowledged for unique designs
- Timeliness - submit your assignments to canvas by due date and time, even if drawing is not finished to your standards
- Presentation - for homework projects your drawings should be done on good quality paper, unwrinkled, smudges erased, good composition, and photograph with clean lighting and no distortion

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- The student will demonstrate freehand drawing skills using a variety of traditional drawing media such as charcoal, graphite and ink.
- The student will create representational, objective drawings using references such as drawing from observation (still-life) and photographs.
- The student will demonstrate the ability to create drawing compositions based on linear perspective, the basic elements and principles of design.

## **Course Objectives:**

- Demonstrate the use of freehand drawing skills using a variety of techniques.
- Demonstrate the use of basic elements and principles of composition.
- Apply drawing skills in the interpretation of subject matter using various media.
- Demonstrate ability to draw from an objective point of view as well as from the imagination.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the creative process.
- Compare and contrast works of art representing a diversity of art traditions and cultures.

## **Weekly Module Topics**

Week	Topics
1	Introductions, Syllabus, Grading, Notebook, Charcoal Drawing Materials,
2	Spectrum of Representational Drawing, Shapes and Contours, Proportions and Measuring
3	Chiaroscuro - study of light and shadow, methods of shading, methods of lighting an object, value statements
4	Proportions of complex objects, the human figure, methods of measuring and correcting drawings. Using photography.
5	Composition theory and hints, do's and don'ts, composing your own still life
6	Ink drawing Materials, mixed drawing media techniques, more lines, contours, and hatching. Drawing the human head.
7	Midterm Critique of two best homework projects
8	Perspective and creating depth - foreground, mid-ground, and background, interior drawings
9	2-point perspective, exterior and drawings including people and architecture
10	Conceptual drawings from model and/or imagination incorporating composition and perspective

<b>11</b>	Drawing from live model. Developing personal style and vision. Blurring line between representational and abstract.
<b>12</b>	Final Critique of two best projects from second half of the course