

# Fall 2018 School of Art + Design New Jersey Institute of Technology

## AD490: Life Drawing

**Instructor:** Jessica Ross

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**Tuesday** 6:30-9:30

**Room #:** Weston 256

## Syllabus

### Course Description

This course will cover the fundamentals of drawing the human figure. The goal of this course is for students to learn how to apply these fundamentals to more advanced applications such as character design, character modeling and character animation. Students will be trained in a wide variety of skills ranging from finding the center of balance in the figure, scale, how to render hair, skin, and various clothing materials through proper use of light, shadow, and texturing techniques. Other topics will include: gesture, portraiture, costume, drawing subjects of other cultures, ages, and body types. We will also learn about many figurative art masters-both from history and in the present- in the efforts to learn their techniques which can be applied to our own work.

Students will have the opportunity to draw from live models and gain thorough instruction in observational drawing from life, which is a crucial experience in understanding movement, lighting, and gesture. Students will train to render observationally, while learning to use basic figure drawing methods of measurement, used to render correct proportions in the body and face.

In addition to the human figure, students will have the opportunity to draw costume elements from live observation. Concepts such as drapery and rendering various cloth materials is another major learning objective. In addition to learning how to render these materials, students will have the opportunity to observe how the costume and textures follow the form of the pose and change according to the light source.

Each of these skill sets are key elements needed in creating strong character designs for games, film, or print media. By the end of this course, students will have a well-rounded foundational understanding of various rendering techniques, posing and drawing the human form and basic anatomy.

### Course Objectives:

- Figurative Art masters
- Human Anatomy
- Portraiture
- Specular highlights and Occlusion shadows
- Color media

- Form, contour, volume, scale, tone
- Observational drawing and rendering
- Photographing references
- Costume and drapery
- Rendering various materials
- Drawing and shading techniques
- Character personality

### **Required Texts:**

[Mastering the Human Figure by Jack Faragasso](#)

### **Recommended Reading:**

*Beginner's Guide to Digital Painting in Photoshop:* by 3Dtotal Publishing

*Art Fundamentals: Color, Light, Composition, Anatomy, Depth* by 3dtotal Publishing

*Beyond Art Fundamentals* by 3dtotal publishing

### **Supplies:**

- 18 x 24 pad of newsprint
- 9x12 sketchbook
- Canson
- Drawing Board
- Graphite Pencil Set
- Kneading eraser
- Rubber eraser
- X-acto knife
- Blending stumps
- Emory board
- Vine charcoal
- Paper towels or rag
- Ink (FW black or sepia tones)
- 3 round watercolor brushes (sizes 14, 04, 01)

### **Optional:**

- Grumbacher or Koi Watercolor set
- Canson hot or cold press watercolor paper ( 22 x 30 sheets)
- Cutting Matt (18 x 24)

- Scotch Blue tape
- Prisma Color Pencil set

## **Class Policies**

### **Assignments:**

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments that are not clearly labeled will not be accepted or graded. Late homework will be graded down one letter grade for every class late.

### **Academic Warning:**

Students who do not complete and submit assignments on time and to a satisfactory standard will fail the class. It is the student's responsibility to obtain missed assignments from other classmates and make up work in time for the next class.

### **Data Backups:**

You are expected to keep multiple backups of all course data and to have your current project files available at all times during class time. You are encouraged to keep a cloud storage account in addition to a physical backup.

### **Lab Policies:**

Lab door codes are to be kept private within the roster of enrolled students. Lab projectors and speakers are only for instructor use. You are expected to use good judgement in setting lengthy rendering tasks using lab facilities. Failure to adhere to these policies can result in your being locked out of the labs.

### **Academic Warning:**

Students who do not complete and submit assignments on time and to a satisfactory standard will fail the class. It is the student's responsibility to obtain missed assignments from other classmates and make up work in time for the next class.

### **Grading**

The following factors will be considered when assigning your grade:

#### **A. Ability to intellectually engage the material investigated in the course.**

Students are to thoughtfully engage the material presented in readings, presentations and discussions. Responses to questions should be directly and thoughtful related to topics investigated in the assignment.

#### **B. Communication.**

The ability to communicate ideas and concepts to others. This includes written, verbal, and visual communication skills. Outside critics may be brought in at the end of each project to review your work in an open forum environment. These presentations should be considered "client presentations" and should be presented with a level of professionalism consistent with your work.

#### **C. Independent thinking.**

Independent thinking will be evaluated and will be based on the ideas and thoughts developed on an independent basis by the student. Depth of creative thought is primary to the independent thinking

evaluation. Independent thinking must be clearly demonstrated in all aspects of the course including verbal participation in the classroom.

#### **D. Professional Attitude.**

Students are to express and articulate clearly their view toward the topics in this course in a method which reflects the quality of a professional in the field of design. It is the ethical responsibility of the student to support the learning community in this course in a positive and constructive manner. Maintaining a positive learning community is parallel to expectations one will experience in supporting a positive work environment after graduation.

Professional attitude includes, but is not limited to, the ability to maintain and contribute to a positive learning environment, professional attitude towards classmates, guests, and the instructor. To receive a positive evaluation, professional attitude must be clearly demonstrated on a consistent and daily basis. Do not take this portion of the course for granted--you are expected to demonstrate professional maturation processes within the course. The ability to receive and give critical feedback, respond to challenging situations with a positive attitude, and support an excellent working studio environment are all essential to receiving high marks in professional attitude evaluations.

#### **NJIT uses the following grades:**

A/4.0 (superior)  
B+/3.5 (excellent)  
B/3.0 (very good)  
C+/2.5 (good)  
C/2.0 (acceptable)  
D/1.0 (minimum)  
F/0.0 (inadequate).

#### **Kepler**

Project grading is not officially applied to student standing until project deliverables have been uploaded in the proper format to the Kepler system. Failure to upload work to Kepler will result in an F for the course.

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY, ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with either freshman or sophomore standing also have an attendance requirement overlaid on the grading criteria. No more than three unexcused absences are permitted without a grade reduction. Each unexcused absence above the three (starting with the fourth) will result in a grade reduction of 1 for the semester. In other words, four absences would result in a maximum grade of B (assuming everything done is of "A" quality), five absences would result in a maximum grade of "C", six in a maximum grade of "D", etc. Students do NOT receive extensions for submission of work due to any unexcused absences. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the individual instructor. Absences for illness in order to be excused MUST be accompanied by documentation from professional medical personnel who are NOT members of your family. Since religious holidays are known in advance, students who expect to be absent due to religious holidays must notify their instructor by the second week of class.

NJIT and instructors will endeavor to make any accommodations required and necessary for the success

of students with disabilities. However, in order to receive accommodations disabilities MUST be documented with the NJIT Disability Office AND notification of request for accommodation must be made to the instructor by the second week of class. No accommodations can be granted “after the fact” unless due to a situation (injury/illness/etc.) that occurs or is documented during the semester. In those instances accommodations will commence upon notification or observation of the disability.





























