

Figure Drawing in Black & White Syllabus
Instructor: Norn Noszka (they/them/theirs)
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Spring Semester 2022
April 6th – June 2nd

Wednesdays & Thursdays 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Course Description: Train your artist's eye to accurately and expressively render the human figure. Intended for students with some artistic experience, this course will focus on drawing from a live model using charcoal and ink. Gesture, contour, and anatomical studies will be among some of the in-class exercises demonstrated to improve the accuracy and vivacity of your figurative works.

Objectives:

- **Understand the Media:** Though we will not be working in color, you will learn that charcoal and ink have a wide range of applications. Charcoal comes in chalk-like form, powder, and compressed sticks, or even as a pencil. Through continuous application, a rich, matte black tone can be built, or used more like a brush for rapid, vivid lines. Ink, while more fluid than charcoal, also provides a rich range of values but is not erasable.
- **Understand Technique:** In class, the teacher will demonstrate a variety of drawing techniques, including, but not limited to, gesture drawings, toned paper drawing, negative space drawing, contour, and reductive drawing. If there are other specific methods you, the class, would like to cover, please suggest them! My goal is to tailor the class to meet my student's drawing needs and goals.
- **Improve Accuracy:** By observing and sketching the nude figure, student work will reflect an improved knowledge of anatomy and proportion. Contemporary and historic examples of figurative art will be examined. Anatomical diagrams and drawing techniques will be reviewed in lecture during the first 15-20 minutes of class, after which the live model drawing session will begin.
- **Cultivate Expression:** Students will use their understanding of the fundamentals to express themselves through figure drawing. Style and genre will be discussed in class sessions. By knowing which fundamental "rules" to break, students will exaggerate proportion, line-weight, value, etc, to underscore an emotion or concept.

Supply List (~\$65)

Students in adult classes at Abington Art Center are expected to provide their own supplies. Please make sure to review the following list & bring the appropriate materials for the first day of class. Contact your instructor if you have any questions about the supply list.

I strongly suggest purchasing your materials from **Artist & Craftsman Supply** in Chestnut Hill, as they give students a 10% discount. You may also order them online at Blick. Avoid “craft” supply franchises like Michael’s or Jo-Ann’s—their products are usually low quality and over-priced.

- 1 large package or bundle of vine charcoal (10ish pieces)
- Charcoal Pencils (2), one soft one hard
- At least 2 oz of Drawing Ink
- Set of bamboo or watercolor brushes (3) of varying sizes (fine, medium, large)
- (2) Small Inkwells or Jars
- 1 soft rubber eraser
- 2 pkg kneaded eraser
- 1 roll of tape, painters or masking
- 1 newsprint pad 18”x24”, at least 100 sheets*
- 1 fine-art drawing paper pad 18”x24”*

Optional Supplies

- 1 chamois or soft rag for blending
- 1 tortillion or blending stump
- 1 large drawing clipboard
- 1 portable clip-lamp or head-lamp
- box of sanitary/disposable gloves
- ***alternatively, you may want to buy one large roll of drafting/kraft paper and one roll of fine paper, as this is more cost effective, and you will have left over paper for your other classes or your home studio. Please cut your paper into 18x24 inch sheets before the start of each class.

Course Outline

Unless noted otherwise, every other class will begin with a demonstration or brief lecture, after which we will begin drawing from the model's poses. Early classes will focus on short, rapid poses. As mastery is built, we will move on to longer poses and more detailed drawings. Weekly Lesson Plans subject to change based on class size or interest.

1. Intro to Gesture Drawing
2. Anatomy Lesson: Head, Neck, and Torso
3. Anatomy Lesson: Proportions
4. Introduce Drawing in Ink
5. Mid-semester Review: Drawing weight and force
6. Drawing the Head and Face (OR) Drawing Hands and Feet
7. Poses with Prop (short session) and begin "Final" in-class
8. Open Studio
9. Last Class: Critique & Review (with snacks, maybe?)

Classroom Conduct Policy

Please arrive early or on-time to set up your workstation. Treat all AAC models, staff, and students with respect. No food is permitted inside the figure drawing studio. No hate speech, including homophobia, transphobia, racism, ableism, classism, et cetera is appropriate or tolerated in this class. Respect and abide by AAC's COVID-19 regulations.

Mask & Vaccine Policy

In accordance with Abington Art Center [policy](#), **all students are required to show proof of vaccination upon or before the start of the first class.** You may email a photocopy of your card to studioschool@abingtonartcenter.org, or submit your record in person at the front desk. If you have a religious or medical exemption, documentation must be submitted to the staff at the front desk.

As a building owned by Abington Township, we are required to follow its municipal regulations. Therefore, **you are required** to wear a proper face covering **over your nose and mouth at all times** while inside the premises. Acceptable face coverings include clean cloth masks, surgical masks, N95s, & KN95s. Bandanas and gaiters are not allowed. Lowering your mask to drink water or other liquids is permitted.

Please **sanitize your hands upon entering the building**, and at regular intervals throughout your studio time. We have multiple hand sanitizing stations and sinks around the art center.

If you are feeling sick or experiencing symptoms of a cold or flu, **stay at home.** Let us know you are not feeling well and we will make alternate arrangements for when you are feeling better. Check the CDC website for the latest list of symptoms.