

Course Title: Beginning Drawing

Course Code: ART 22 W

Instructor Name & Bio: Trevor Tubelle, MFA

Tubelle works with hybrid forms of drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, and performance. He has taught at the Stanford Arts Institute (Honors in the Arts program), UC Santa Cruz, and elsewhere. His work is included in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Tubelle received an MFA in painting from the San Francisco Art Institute.

Instagram: [@trevortubelle](https://www.instagram.com/trevortubelle); Website: www.tubelle.com

Class Meetings & Recording:

Dates: April 17 - June 2 (7 weeks)

Meeting Days/Times: Fridays at 12:00 PM Pacific Time

Location: Zoom

The sessions will be recorded for anyone who can't attend live. Regular Zoom attendance is highly encouraged to get the full benefit of the course, but is *not required* to earn a "Credit" grade.

Course Features:

- Live Sessions (Once a week on Zoom)
 - Demonstrations, Q&A, group discussions, practice time for students
 - Interaction & active participation is highly encouraged (not required for "Credit")
- Assignments & Coursework
 - Assignments & course materials posted in Canvas
 - Posting & commenting in discussions in Canvas (required for "Credit")
 - Students will submit weekly assignments (required for "Credit")
 - Instructor will provide feedback on assignments

"In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert's mind there are few."

—Shunryu Suzuki, *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*

Summary*

Beginning Drawing is an online studio art course for beginners to explore some basic pencil drawing strategies and techniques in a safe, supportive, and judgement-free environment. Having an open mind and a willingness to experiment and play is especially helpful, but no previous experience is necessary.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details. This syllabus is subject to change.*

Objectives

- To become familiar with some of the basic methods, techniques & tools of drawing with pencils
- To explore the creative process through drawing
- To take part in a community of artists
- To have FUN

Methods

- Practice via repetition
- Experimentation & play
- Observation (internal & external)
- Mutual support & feedback

Requirements/Grading/Guidelines

Please make a *commitment* to the work we're going to do together. Students who want to get the most out of this class should complete all projects and be active participants in discussions and Zoom sessions.

Guidelines:

- **Do** actively participate in online discussions and Zoom sessions
- **Do** behave in a sociable and supportive manner with peers
- **Do** follow the instructions of the teacher and complete all assignments
- **Do** follow Stanford's terms of use and guidelines for etiquette and acceptable online behavior
- **Do not** be mean, rude, condescending, or disrespectful to anyone in class
- Students who cannot follow the instructions of the teacher and/or the guidelines of Stanford University may be asked to leave the class

Grading Info:

- No Grade Requested (NGR): Default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of completion can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit* (CR/NC): A passing grade (for "Credit") equals at least 70% of expectations accomplished. This means at least 5 of the 7 weekly warm-ups and 5 of the 7 weekly projects completed and posted online. Also, active participation (responding to the posts of others) in at least 5 of the 7 weekly warm-up and/or project discussion threads. Attending the Zoom sessions is *highly encouraged*, but not required for Credit.

**Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose Credit/No Credit. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Structure

Every week we will start by reading about basic drawing methods and ideas, as well as one or more short “warm-up” exercises that involve drawing, research, and/or writing, the results of which you can share with the class in online discussion threads. These warm-ups are designed to accompany and inform our weekly drawing projects, which will use a variety of approaches and techniques for exploring basic drawing. The weekly projects will include step-by-step instructions, demo images, and discussion threads for students to give and receive feedback and to help build a supportive creative community. There will also be links to websites, images, or videos intended to demonstrate or comment on particular artists and/or drawing methods and ideas. Additionally, the instructor will hold a “live” one-hour online video conference session on Zoom once a week. In these sessions students will participate in short drawing exercises and have the opportunity to ask questions, share experiences, and get community support.

Materials

Recommended Materials:

- Work Clothing: Wear old clothes or a smock/apron that can get dirty.
- Table or Drawing Board: A drawing location, such as a sturdy table, where you can (preferably) make a mess. If you don't have a designated table to work on, then a portable drawing board could work.
- Pencils: An assortment of hard and soft graphite pencils (no charcoal or other non-graphite pencil types please). At minimum: 4H, HB, and 4B.
- Eraser & Sharpener: A white eraser (e.g., Staedtler Mars Plastic eraser) and a small pencil sharpener.
- Blending Stump(s): One or more small to medium (sizes #2-4) paper blending stump(s).
- Blending Stump Sharpener: One small blending stump sharpener. Alternatively, you can use a piece of sandpaper or a sharp utility knife.
- Drawing Pad: An inexpensive sketchpad with 60 lb. (98 gsm) or similar weight drawing paper, size 14" x 17" (or larger). Common brands: Strathmore, Canson, etc.
- OPTIONAL: Drawing stumps/tortillons, artist chamois, charcoal, ruler, etc.

Portable Art Kit (PAK):

- A PAK is a small, portable container with supplies and a small sketchbook. ***The key aspect of the PAK is that it is truly portable—it must fit in a backpack, pocket, or purse.*** Use it to write down ideas, plan a piece, sketch on the fly, and brainstorm freely without judgment. You will need:
 - Small Sketchbook: **Must be 5" x 7" or smaller.**
 - Pencils, Pens & Other Types: A small assortment of drawing tools of your choosing.
 - Container: A small and portable box or bag for supplies.

Where to buy supplies near Stanford:

- University Art (Redwood City): 2550 El Camino Real @ Center St.
- California Art Supply Company (San Mateo): 3600 S El Camino Real
- Michael's (Sunnyvale): 818 W El Camino Real @ S. Pastoria Ave.
- Michael's (Mountain View): 2415 Charleston Rd @ Independence Ave.
- Michael's (Cupertino): 20640 Homestead Rd @ Forge Way
- Michael's (San Mateo): 1750 S Delaware St. near Concar Dr.

Where to buy supplies online:

- Jet Pens: <http://www.jetpens.com>
- Dick Blick: <http://www.dickblick.com>
- Clever Hands: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/cleverhands> (For getting a Journal Bandolier)

Tentative Outline

Week 1: Gesture Drawing

Warm-ups:

- Get Your Supplies
- Pencil Experiments

Week 2: Landscape 1

Warm-ups:

- Test Landscape
- Write Your Own Definition of Drawing

Week 3: Landscape 2

Warm-up:

- Plein-air Landscape

Week 4: Still Life 1

Warm-ups:

- Hatching & Crosshatching Practice
- Gradation Variations

Week 5: Still Life 2

Warm-ups:

- Gestural Still Life

Week 6: Drapery

Warm-ups:

- Practicing Chiaroscuro
- Toned-Paper Test Drapery

Week 7: Abstraction

Warm-ups:

- Playing with Repetition