Course Title: Beginning Drawing: Pencil and Charcoal
Course Code: ART 63
Course Dates/Time: January 12 – March 9 (9 weeks), Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:30 pm
Instructor: Trevor Tubelle, MFA

“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: Pencil and Charcoal is a studio art course that focuses on learning how to use pencil and charcoal and covers basic drawing techniques, ideas and methods.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details. This syllabus is subject to change. Students will receive an updated syllabus on the first day of class.

Objectives

- To become familiar with the basic methods, techniques & tools of drawing
- To take part in an online community of artists
- To enjoy the challenging and nuanced process of drawing

Methods

- Practice & repetition
- Experimentation & play
- Observation (inner & outer)
- Creative synthesis
- Mutual support & feedback

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St. Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
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 be on time, have regular attendance, and complete all assignments.

Grading options:

- **Letter Grades:** Not offered
- **No Grade Requested (NGR):** Default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- **Credit/No Credit** *(CR/NC):* A passing grade (for "Credit") = at least 70% of expectations accomplished. No more than two absences and completion of all assignments and active participation in discussions is required.

*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.*

Guidelines:

- Do arrive on time
- Do actively participate in discussions
- Do listen to the instructor and fellow students
- Do complete all projects, including home assignments
- **Do not** talk while the instructor or a fellow student is speaking
- **Do not** use a digital device in class (call/text outside)
- **Do not** be mean, rude, or disrespectful to anyone in the class
- Students who cannot follow the guidelines or instructions of the teacher might be asked to leave

Structure

We’ll be drawing the majority of the time, but there will also be slide lectures, demos, class discussions, and short writing projects. At the start of most classes we will have a warm-up before the main project. You’ll receive info via email before each class that explains what we’ll be doing that week, which materials to bring, and what to work on at home.
Materials

For the first class you will need:

- **Work Clothing:** Always wear old clothes or a smock/apron that can get dirty.
- **Drawing Pad:** A large, inexpensive sketchpad with “light weight” (50 lb.) sketch paper (size 18 x 24 in. or similar size that fits your drawing board). Common brands are Strathmore, Canson, etc.
- **Drawing Board:** A drawing board with clips, cutout handle and rubber band large enough to accommodate your big pad (or other type of drawing board).
- **Pencils:** Assortment that should include at least one middle-range (HB or #2), one hard (H5), and one soft (B5) pencil.
- **Eraser & Sharpener:** An eraser (white) and a small, portable pencil sharpener.

Later you will need:

- **Charcoal & Conté:** A small package (5-10 sticks) of vine charcoal, a small package (2-4 sticks) of compressed charcoal, a small package (1-2 sticks) of white Conté crayons and one “kneaded rubber” eraser.
- **Optional:** Chamois rag, gloves, quality paper (140 lb. or heavier watercolor or printmaking paper such as Arches, BFK Rives, etc.), 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. For your PAK you need:

- **Sketchbook:** Must be 5” x 7” or smaller.
- **Pencils and/or Pens:** A small assortment of your choosing.
- **Container:** A small and portable box/bag for supplies.

**Where to buy supplies:**

- **Accent Arts (Palo Alto):** 392 California Ave. @ Ash St.
- **University Art (Redwood City):** 2550 El Camino Real @ Center St.
- **University Art (SJ):** 456 Meridian Ave. @ Saddle Rack St.
- **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.
- **Maido Fine Stationery & Gifts (SJ):** 378 Santana Row, St. 1125, @ Olsen Dr.
Outline

Week 1:
- Introductions, syllabus & materials
- Class objectives & prior experience
- Demo: Location, position, set-up & gesture
- Project: Big Head & Crazy Stick! (Pencils)

Week 2:
- Slide Lecture: Landscapes
- Discuss: Definitions of drawing
- Demo: Charcoal basics
- Project: Landscape (Charcoal)
- Home Project(s): Do a plein-air landscape.

Week 3:
- Demo: Composition & gradation
- Project: Landscape #2 (Charcoal)
- Home Project(s): 1) Finish Landscape drawings. 2) Bring small objects for Still Life. 3) Bring drawings for a discussion.

Week 4:
- Slide Lecture: Still Lifes
- Discuss: First three projects
- Demo: Crosshatching & light basics
- Project: Still Life (Pencils)
- Home Project(s): 1) Two or more gestural drawings of objects in PAK. 2) Bring small objects for Still Life #2.

Week 5:
- Demo: Light basics
- Project: Still Life #2 (Pencils)
- Home Project(s): Finish Still Life drawings.

Week 6:
- Slide Lecture: Abstraction
- Demo: Mixing media
- Project: Abstract (Pencils)
- Home Project(s): 1) Bring last three drawings for a discussion. 2) Choose subject matter for Abstract #2 project.
Week 7:
- Discuss: Last three projects
- **Project:** Abstract #2 (Pencils or charcoal)
- **Home Project(s):** 1) Finish Abstract drawings. 2) Make gestural self-portrait or portrait drawings in PAK. 2) Bring three photos of yourself or someone you know.

Week 8:
- **Slide Lecture:** Portraiture
- **Demo:** Third eyes & absent noses
- **Project:** Portrait (Pencils)
- **Home Project(s):** 1) Finish first Portrait project. 2) Bring three photos of yourself or someone you know. 3) Optional: bring portable mirror.

Week 9:
- **Demo:** Ovoids & crosshairs
- **Project:** Portrait #2 (Pencils or charcoal)
- **Home Project(s):** Carry your PAK off into the sunset…