

**ART 3050: Life Drawing I**  
**(ART 3052: Life Drawing I)**  
The University of Wyoming  
Monday/Wednesday  
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
FA 227

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*“Those who are motivated only by desire for the fruits of action are miserable, for they are constantly anxious about the results of what they do.” - 2:49 - Bhagavad Gita*

*“Ability to copy lines, shapes, tones, amounts to little. Ability to correlate lines, shapes, tones, is the rare and necessary quality of the artist. All good art is compositional.” – Robert Henri (The Art Spirit) 1923*

*“What was any art but an effort to make a sheath, a mold in which to imprison for a moment the shining, elusive element which is life itself.” – Willa Cather*

#### Course Description:

An advanced course in drawing introducing the skeletal and muscular construction of the human figure as it relates to the action and proportions of the figure, including drawing from a live model with an emphasis on composition, monochromatic media, and drawing techniques. Lectures, drawing sessions, and structured critiques are used to develop the formal, conceptual, and technical understanding of the drawing process as it relates to the figure. Acts as the first in a series of two life drawing courses.

#### Course Aims:

- A. General Objectives:** Through working from a live model, the student will have the opportunity to develop basic knowledge of the human form, its underlying construction, and overall proportions. Study and practice will accent accuracy, composition, expression, and design as it relates to the human figure – both on its own and within a larger space.
- B. Specific Objectives:**  
Students successfully completing this course are expected to:
1. Draw the figure with accurate proportions.
  2. Apply knowledge of the skeletal structure of the figure as it relates to life drawing.
  3. Apply knowledge of the muscle structure of the figure as it relates to life drawing.
  4. Develop and apply an understanding of foreshortening as it applies to the figure.
  5. Enhance their drawings by the variation of visual elements, i.e.: line, shape, form, space, value, and texture.
  6. Apply and discuss how principles of design relate to all aspects of life drawing.
  7. Apply and discuss how expression and mood relate to life drawing.
  8. Integrate the figure into larger compositions.
  9. Select drawing media and surfaces by anticipated outcomes.
  10. Use rapid sketching for the development of preliminary studies and final drawings.
  11. Critique their drawings and the drawings of others using appropriate terminology.
  12. Exhibit familiarization with historical and contemporary drawing trends.

#### Content Outline:

- A. Student Level: Undergraduate/Advanced.
- B. Prerequisites: Art 2050
- C. Text: Figure Drawing by Nathan Goldstein
- D. **Studio Requirements:** This course involves participation in a minimum studio experience of 6 hours of supervised instruction per week, 3 hours unsupervised studio per week (students will be afforded sufficient and convenient access to studio space to meet the above requirements), with additional work and research outside of the studio required.
- E. **Evaluation:** Evaluation will be based on periodic assessment of drawings, quizzes and a written examination or critique concerning concepts and processes studied.

### Class Organization:

Regular **in-class activities** will be given to help focus students on the various elements of life drawing. Successive classes will build upon each other as the student works through the fundamentals of figure construction, design, expression and the integration of all of these aspects in complete drawing statements. The focus will be on successfully internalizing each new concept while balance the need to create solid creative product.

Follow-up **out of class assignments** will also be given to allow the students a longer time to practice certain concepts. These assignments will be due on a regular basis.

Concise **in-class critiques** will introduce the students to the verbal language of art and create a sense of closure for each exercise before moving on.

**Quizzes** will be given to evaluate the internalization of principles and concepts presented in class lecture, handouts and reading assignments

The class will be **based on observation**. The figure will be the main focus of the course. Looking at and responding creatively to the model will be the continual method of drawing. Other sources for responsive action, such as music, setting, text, and/or lighting will also be incorporated. As the class progresses, the interests of the artist and their expressive desires beyond visual accuracy will be given more space for development. But, it is understood that arbitrary expression without foundation is not a valid direction in this course. All things must come from and relate back to the observed.

### Grading:

Grading will be based upon several aspects of **the student's involvement** in the course:

1. Internalization and execution of course content as described in the syllabus.
2. Attendance – on time for every class.
3. Preparedness for each day (including supplies and desire to work).
4. General use of class time
5. Finished out of class assignments handed in on time.
6. Constructive participation in class critiques and discussions.
7. Overall improvement of approach to drawing as an activity.

Portfolio reviews will be done at midterm and final exam times.

What each grade means:

- A – Excellent** one who answers all of the course requirements and performs at a level which is visibly outstanding.
- B – Good** one who answers all of the course requirements and performs at a level measurably above average.
- C – Average** one who answers all of the course requirements and performs at the average level compared to the standards set for the class by the faculty.
- D – Poor** one who answers all of the course requirements, but performs at a level measurable below average.
- F – Failure** one who either does not answer all of the course requirements or does so inadequately to indicate comprehension of the course.

### Approach to Class Time and Classroom Regulations:

1. Students are expected to arrive **on time**. Breaks will be given between most drawing sessions, however students are expected to return and be prepared for the next session in a timely manner. Students are encouraged during longer drawing sessions to walk around class and take a look at each other's work in order to freshen their own individual approach and energy. This course works in a cumulative way, each technique and conceptual approach building upon the previous one. Any absence will hinder the student's ability to follow and stay focused on the current class activities. An extended absence may prove to be insurmountable.
2. **Final semester grade will be dropped one letter grade for each unexcused absence over three.** Three (3) tardys (or early departures from class) equal an absence. Studio classes

cannot be “made up”. Doctor’s appointments, meetings with advisors, etc. are not excused. Plan these outside of class time.

3. The end of each class will involve a **shared cleanup** of the room resulting in a organized and clean room ready for the next instructor and class. This will include wiping down table surfaces, picking up floor and table messes and returning chairs, horses etc to organized position, and returning still-life items to their original location. **Everyone is expected to participate.**
4. Students are expected to **keep all class handouts.**
5. Students are expected to **be prepared to work each class.** Bring all necessary materials and wear clothes that are comfortable and suitable for making art. You will get charcoal and other drawing materials on you and your clothes. You may end up sitting outside on the ground or on the floor in the building. Be prepared.
6. Students are expected to participate constructively in all class discussions. The interaction between students and your perceptions and comments to each other may prove to be some of the most instructive information you receive.
7. Students are expected to be respectful and tolerant of each other and each other’s work. During appropriate times, open classroom discussion is encouraged. Remember this: we are discussing each other’s drawings. We are not talking about the person. Be mindful of this distinction when you give or receive comments or criticisms of drawings. Open and intelligent exploration of our opinions will often provide new insights into the drawing process and product. No personal attacks on other students during this class will be tolerated.
8. Beverages (soft drinks, etc) will be permitted in class – but **no food** whatsoever.
9. Non-enrolled guests will not be allowed in the classroom, unless cleared with me before hand.
10. To avoid distractions in class: **All beepers and cell phones are to be turned off or in silent mode. No headphones or personal stereos.**
11. Music will be permitted as approved by the instructor.
12. Talking is permitted in quiet moderation. If the instructor – or any student – requests quiet in order to concentrate – that request will be immediately honored with no questions or further comment. You are in the class to concentrate on drawing.

Assignments:

Turn in all assignments on time.  
Late assignments will be lowered the equivalent of one letter grade.  
All work is to be presented neatly, organized and clearly labeled with the artist’s name and date.  
(Remember you are learning to draw and to be professional)

DRAWING MATERIALS CARD:

**IMPORTANT:** For this class you are required to purchase a **Drawing Materials Card**. You may purchase the card at the Cashier’s Office in the west wing of Knight Hall (where student financial aid is located.) The cards are \$15.00 each. Once purchased, please bring the card to class where the professor will collect them. Any student, who has not purchased and handed in his or her card, will receive an incomplete for the course.

Studio Access:

The Fine Arts building is open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Sunday. The drawing studio will be available to students when it is not being used by other classes. Turn off lights/music and close any open windows when you leave. You may bring a friend with you and be “smart” and use the buddy system when you are on campus late at night.

Students and Teachers Working Together Website:

Please take the time to review the following material:

[http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/a&s/Current/2005Stud&TeachersWorking%20Together\(7-29-05\).doc](http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/a&s/Current/2005Stud&TeachersWorking%20Together(7-29-05).doc)