

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

**1. COURSE ID:** ART 206    **TITLE:** Expressive Figure Drawing and Portraiture

**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 32.0-36.0 Lecture hours; 48.0-54.0 Lab hours; and 64.0-72.0 Homework hours

**Method of Grading:** Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)

**Recommended Preparation:**  
ART 204

**2. COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

Students explore contemporary artistic approaches to working with the human figure by drawing the human figure expressively from live models.

**4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Create a portfolio of figurative drawings 18" x 24" or larger which demonstrate an ability to understand and interpret potential motion, weight and gesture in the live model.
2. Demonstrate in their drawings the ability to capture the live model based on line and gesture within ten minutes.
3. Plan and execute figurative artwork in a variety of media including, but not limited to, charcoal, conte, ink, pastel and mixed media.
4. Describe, interpret and assess their own artwork and that of their peers and professional artists.
5. Execute figurative drawings that demonstrate an understanding of the use of the human figure in modern and contemporary art.

**5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Create a portfolio of figurative drawings 18" x 24" or larger which demonstrate an ability to understand and interpret potential motion, weight and gesture in the live model.
2. Demonstrate in his/her drawings the ability to capture the live model based on line and gesture within ten minutes.
3. Plan and execute figurative artwork in a variety of media including, but not limited to, charcoal, conte, ink, pastel and mixed media.
4. Describe, interpret and assess his/her own artwork and that of peers and professional artists.
5. Execute figurative drawings that demonstrate an understanding of the use of the human figure in modern and contemporary art.

**6. COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

1. Lectures, slides and videos of expressive figuration styles and techniques used by modern and contemporary artists
2. Warm-up exercises (drawing in charcoal, 18" x 24")
  - A. Dominant line (30 seconds)
  - B. Gesture
    - a. Organic line over the entire figure in one minute
    - b. Straight and curved lines
    - c. With mass (side of conte)
  - C. Mass - linear, tone.
  - D. Contour
    - a. Slow blind and semi-blind and quick (one minute)
    - b. Cross-contour
    - c. Contour of two models as a group.
3. Structure of the body

- A. Skeleton - from life and handouts
- B. Proportion - life and handouts
- C. Major Masses - torso, pelvis, head
- 4. Rhythmic line
  - A. Muscles and skeleton
  - B. The "S" curve
- 5. Motion studies with the model
- 6. Media: charcoal, conte, ink, pastel, mixed-media
- 7. Shape - the silhouette with model and profile portrait (cut paper)
- 8. Field trip to a museum

**Lab Content:**

- 1. The use of various drawing media, which may include charcoal, graphite, Conte Crayon, ink and mixed media to represent the human form.
- 2. Observational drawings from anatomical models employing a foundational principles and practices of sighting and measurement, proportional studies, contour and gesture, descriptive value, and development of volume.
- 3. Critique and evaluation of drawing assignments and exercises.
- 4. Expressive drawings from the live model.

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Lab
- C. Critique
- D. Discussion
- E. Field Trips
- F. Individualized Instruction
- G. Observation and Demonstration
- H. Other (Specify): Instructor demonstrates drawing exercises at an easel and on the board. Instructor critiques students' drawings in progress. Instructor initiates weekly class critiques with student participation, developing critical thinking skills such as analyze, compare and contrast, identify, distinguish. Media includes: three slide lectures of figurative art, a digital lecture demonstrating tools for creative image manipulation, two video interviews of contemporary figurative artists. Students are given monthly drawing homework which includes a written paper answering questions assigned for a field trip to a museum.

**8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

Students are assigned a paper in which they analyze and discuss a master artist who uses the figure as his/her primary means of artistic expression and how this relates to the student's developing sense of style, technique and aesthetic.

**Reading Assignments:**

Reading assignments are given from the required texts.

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Work
- C. Field Trips
- D. Homework
- E. Lab Activities
- F. Oral Presentation
- G. Papers
- H. Portfolios
- I. Portfolios of drawings from class (at least 25 drawings total). Duet student presentations: students present and critique their partner's work using learned critical terminology. Written paper answering questions about artwork seen at a museum field trip.

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Stevenson, J.. *How to Draw Figures Simple Anatomy, People, & Forms for Beginners*, 1 ed. Independently published, 2020

**Origination Date:** October 2021

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** November 2021

**Effective Term:** Fall 2022

**Course Originator:** Rebecca Alex