Course Description 3 hours. Visual observation of the figure and interpretation through various graphic techniques.

Student Learning Outcomes: This course will provide direction to the student in the area of life drawing. Students will learn basic anatomy and will begin to develop an understanding of the way a figure inhabits space, and will be able to successfully reproduce this space in two dimensions. Beginning students will be required to successfully render the figure naturalistically and with proper anatomical proportion. Intermediate students will be encouraged to further their skill with regards to naturalistic rendering, while also injecting their pictures with higher forms of artistic discourse involving complex and intriguing compositions, conceptual experimentation, and/or thematic concerns. Advanced students will be asked to stretch their basic ideas about what it means to be a figurative artist in the contemporary art climate. You are to examine the “why” of figurative art, and to come to new and bold conclusions as to why you continue this practice. Above all, you are expected to learn something new about your inclination to work in a figurative manner, and to question your place in this figurative framework.

Structure: Our course will be divided into two halves, the first of which will emphasize proportion, observation and scale. In the second half, we will apply those aspects to more thoroughly finished drawings, which will be stylistically unique to each student.

In addition to completing drawings, you will begin to develop a critical voice in regards to your own work and the work of others. We will critique drawings regularly, though not every assignment will require a critique. Attendance during critiques is absolutely required and will not be excused. Learning to speak effectively and knowledgably about art will be a critical part of this course.

I may occasionally require Gallery and Museum Visits during the semester to Dallas and/or Fort Worth. You will be given at least two weeks notice to make travel arrangements. You will write a short review of the artwork seen during these Gallery trips. Looking at art will be integral to your growth as an artist, and will help make your art relevant to our time. You are encouraged to go to all gallery openings.

Evaluation and Assessment: Drawings will not be graded as products in a vacuum. The grade given for each drawing assignment will reflect several qualities involved in the course of its production. These include, when appropriate:

• Accomplishment of any stated parameters
• The level of ambition taken to the project
• A commitment to craftsmanship at the highest level possible
• Use of class time—reflected in work ethic, attendance, and punctuality
• Participation in discussions or group activities
You will be formally graded twice in the semester, once at midterm review, and once at final review. However, your standing in the class may be discussed with me at any time before or after the class period.

Specific grades will be issued as follows:

A (90-100): Outstanding level of production and ambition, exceptional commitment to tasks, and significant, active class participation.
B (80-90): Above average production and ambition; notable, if inconsistent, commitment, and uncoerced class participation.
C (70-80): Completion of assignments with the least possible effort and investment, minimum dedication to tasks, and meager class involvement.
D (60-70): Less than acceptable completion of tasks or performance.
F: Failure to accomplish even the minimum expectations of the course.

**Attendance:** Attendance is a crucial part of this course, as demonstration and interaction with myself and your classmates will provide information and considerations otherwise unavailable. Also, class time missed in working toward a project can be very difficult to make up and will affect your participation grade during that unit. Attendance will be taken at the start of class. Ten minutes after the start of class, as student is considered tardy.

**Policy Statement:**
Four absences will be allowed during the semester. Further absences, without significant mitigating circumstances (which will require documentation), will each result in the lowering of the cumulative grade by one letter grade. Three failures to arrive on time and prepared for class (tardy) will be the equivalent of an absence.
When a class is missed, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed and what is expected of you. If you come to me, I will catch you up as best I can without affecting my responsibilities to the rest of the class. If you get the missed material from classmates, you are accountable for all information, whether they tell you or not.

**Late Work:** Work that is not submitted on time will devalue one letter grade per class period following the original due date. If an absence occurs due to mitigating circumstances and prevents the completion of work, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor at the next class session to arrange a new due date. Any new due dates set will be subject to the same policy.
Storage of Materials and Work, and Studio Rules: It is strongly suggested that students get a large locker in which to store supplies. It is not safe to leave materials in the drawing studio...they will be stolen. In addition, Brookhaven College does not provide long-term storage of work.

There will be no smoking, eating, or drinking allowed in the classroom. I do not allow the use of headphones or cellphones during class.

While critiques may become heated, personal attacks will not be tolerated. Honesty will be appreciated and encouraged about artwork and concepts, but negative comments about individuals themselves are unnecessary and counterproductive, and offending parties may be asked to leave critique. Art is personal, and the need to discuss personal themes may arise, so we as fellow artists must walk a thin line during critiques. Keeping a mature, thoughtful head will be a must for students in this class.

I reserve the right to make changes to anything about this class, including requirements, schedule, assignments, etc., at any time during the semester. All changes will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to be in class to hear possible changes and adjust accordingly. No excuses for failure to adjust to changes in this course will be heard.
**Required Materials:**

- Newsprint pad-24” x 36”
- Drawing Pad-24” x 36”
- 3 sheets Rives BFK, white-24” x 36”
- 3 sheets black pastel paper- 18” x 24”
- Vine Charcoal
- Compressed “Char-Kole” (brand name, available at HMS and Voertman’s black pastel can be substituted for this)
- “Tear away” Charcoal pencils
- Conte’ black, white, red
- Roller ball pen
- India Ink
- Bamboo Brush
- Bamboo Pen
- Plastic ink cup
- Drafting tape
- Gum Erasers
- Pink pearl erasers
- White vinyl erasers
- Kneaded erasers
- Blending stumps, various sizes
- Blending chamois
- Spray Fixative

Throughout the semester, I will add other materials to the supply list as we need them. If you wish, you may add other dry media and drawing surfaces (butcher paper, for example) to your supplies, and will be able to experiment a great deal during the second half of the semester. You will be expected to replenish any materials that are running low before class begins each day.

Advanced Figure Drawing students will be asked to supplement their kit with color media, as well as experimental media of their choice.
Figure Drawing

Jim Burton

I have read and understand the contents of the syllabus for the above course, including the course risk factors. I am responsible for following all regulations for this course as outlined in the syllabus.

Print name_____________________________________

Sign name_____________________________________  Date______________

Email_________________________________________