

## ART 7A DRAWING AND COMPOSITION I SPRING 2026

**Time** M/W 1:30-4:30 pm

**Instructor:** William Smith

**Office Hrs.** M/W 1-1:30, Rm. 740 (classroom) or Rm. 764 (Adjunct Office)

**E-mail:** lsmith2@santarosa.edu

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Art 7A is an introductory studio course in drawing and composition. With the aid of still life, the art elements of line, value, shape, color and texture will be explored in this course. Furthermore, students will be introduced to a variety of drawing materials and methods of use.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course objectives are three-fold.

1. The primary goal of this course is to promote visual awareness and to develop the student's skills of problem solving.
2. It is the intent of this course to expand the student's understanding and definition of drawing and art in general.
3. Lastly, this course will provide students with the skills necessary for advancement within the visual arts.

That said, taking art classes will benefit you in all fields of study. Students who take art classes are more visually aware of their environment. They approach tasks with a sense of playfulness. They persevere through challenges and learn to embrace the notion "that making mistakes is not a bad thing rather it is part of the process of discovery and creation."

**In addition, students are encouraged to explore art resources (museums, galleries, libraries and the web) on and off campus as much as possible. Part of your studies in art should include viewing the art of others.**

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **COVID-19 INFORMATION** SRJC COVID-19 Helpline: (707) 524-1500. Students must adhere to all Covid-19 safety protocols. If you have been exposed or tested positive, contact SRJC Student Health Services immediately at (707) 527-4445 or email covidnurse@santarosa.edu
- **Class Participation** This includes attending class, having materials, reviewing PowerPoint lectures, completing assignments in a timely manner, following directions, and verbal participation in critiques and class discussions.) Participation is approximately 20% of your grade.
- **Work Ethic** Students **MUST** keep an open mind and be accepting to all art making experiences. Success and completion of assignments requires motivation and total focus. Students are expected to work for the entire class time.
- **Attendance** **Four or more absences may result in the lowering of at least one letter grade.** Students are expected to be punctual and remain for the entire class period. Excessive absences and lates or leaving early

will have a negative effect on final grades. Eight absences may result in you being dropped. (Three lates or leaving early counts as one absence and will lower your participation grade). **NOTE: If you are sick or exhibiting any of the symptoms related to Covid-19, do not come to class and get yourself tested before returning. You will not be penalized for absences due to Covid if you provide proof of a positive test or a doctor's note.**

- **Homework (not required but ...)** In order to receive an "A" grade, students must complete the homework assignments. Total homework grade must be above average (85%) to receive credit. Follow the directions and number each assignment. Homework will be "reviewed" weekly.

**The objective of homework is to create a disciplined work ethic and commitment to drawing weekly. There are no make-ups for homework. Follow the directions and number each assignment.**

Homework assignments should average 1-2 hours per week. (*SRJC policy for homework is 2 hours per every hour of lecture. That's about 4 hours a week for this class.*)

- **Sketchbook** Students will maintain a journal of ideas, technical notes and homework assignments relevant to this class. Think of your sketchbook as a "How to . . ." book. **Sketchbook should always be with you.** Note: *Try to get into the habit of drawing daily in your sketchbook.*
- **Portfolio** Students are responsible for making up missed work regardless of whether an absence is excused or not. Students will store and maintain all class work. Wrinkled, folded and/or damaged work is unacceptable. Selected work will be submitted on Canvas as a digital portfolio prior to the last week of class. **Late portfolios will be lowered one letter grade.**
- **Class Conduct** SRJC is committed to cultivating an environment of antiracism and cultural competency. This classroom is a space for ideas and exploration. Although discriminatory language or behavior of any kind will not be tolerated, everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate and share their perspective. It is imperative that we listen to one another and respectfully acknowledge diverse views with curiosity and kindness.

In addition, this classroom is a shared space. It is important to be considerate of the working conditions for all who use this room. Students **MUST** refrain from excessive talking and other disruptive behavior so that all students may be successful. Furthermore, weapons are not allowed. Please no food or open containers in class. No messaging of any kind on cell phones in class. Students may listen to music through one headphone during drawing sessions yet streaming of videos is not permitted. Headphones must be removed, and phones put away for class discussions. Not adhering to these rules will have a negative effect on final grades. **Two warnings may lead to a suspension of up to two classes.**

**STUDENT CONDUCT & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Students will conduct themselves in a manner which reflects an awareness of common standards of decency and the rights of others. All students are expected to know the Student Conduct Code ([http://www.santarosa.edu/for\\_students/rules-regulations/scs/section1.shtml](http://www.santarosa.edu/for_students/rules-regulations/scs/section1.shtml)) and adhere to it in class. Students who violate the code may be removed from class for up to two (2) class periods and referred to the Dean, DSPS & Student Conduct, for possible discipline sanctions.

All written work is to be original; any act of academic dishonesty of any kind will result in a failing grade ('F') on that assignment. Students could be dropped from all their classes for a second offense of cheating or plagiarism. All Academic Integrity cases are documented District-wide through the Vice President, Student Services Office and reviewed by the Dean, Student Affairs & Engagement Programs for possible additional sanctions. Please read the college policy/procedure on Academic Integrity at: <http://www.santarosa.edu/polman/3acadpro/3.11P.pdf>.

**STUDENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES:** Students who feel their rights as a student have been violated by an instructor or staff member should first attempt in good faith to resolve the matter with the source of the complaint. If the student is dissatisfied with the outcome of this meeting, they may take their complaint to a Department Chair or Administrator for further review by a third party. If a resolution is not reached at this level, the student may file a formal grievance with the appropriate Dean/Supervising Administrator. For support and advice on the complaint/grievance process, a student may consult an Ombudsman in the Student Affairs Office on either the Santa Rosa or Petaluma Campus. For Santa Rosa, call (707) 527-4424; for Petaluma, (707) 778-4141. For the complete procedure, see <http://www.santarosa.edu/polman/8stuserv/8.2.2P.pdf>. The procedure is the same for complaints about academic matters including grades and curriculum. The student should begin by first talking to the instructor to attempt resolution. If this is unsuccessful, the student may then proceed with the steps as listed above. The appropriate path is faculty member, Department Chair, area Dean and finally, Vice President, Academic Affairs. Complaints involving sexual harassment, race discrimination, sex discrimination and discrimination against those with disabilities, should contact the Vice President of Human Resources Office at (707) 527-4954. Reports of complaints of discrimination that proceed to investigation will be investigated by a person knowledgeable about discrimination matters and the investigation process will include, at a minimum, interviewing the complainant, other relevant witnesses, and gathering pertinent documentation. Student appeals relating to Financial Aid decisions, rules and regulations should contact the Student Financial Services office in order to initiate the Financial Aid appeal process which follows established guidelines. The phone number is (707) 527-4471.

## SERVICES

Health issues (physical and mental) can interfere with your academic success. Student Health Services is here to support you. Details are at [shs.santarosa.edu](https://shs.santarosa.edu). Student Health Services is in the Race Building (527-4445).

On the Santa Rosa Campus students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this SRJC class are encouraged to contact Disability Resources (527-4278), 3rd floor Bertolini, as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. The DRD's Testing Office is in Analay Village.

## EVALUATION OF CLASS WORK

Most class work will be evaluated on a point system. Not all projects address the same objectives therefore the criteria for each project will vary. Typically, we will discuss and critique a project at which time students will have an opportunity to make improvements before submitting a project for final evaluation.

Criteria for evaluation may include but not limited to the following:

1. **Presentation** (Craft and handling of materials)
2. **Objectives** (follows directions, addresses challenge of project)
3. **Principles of Design** (compositional balance, unity, etc.)
4. **Use of Art Elements** (Line, Value, Color, etc.)
5. **Image Dynamics, a.k.a. "The Wow Factor"** (Use of the concepts explored in class to create a strong visual and psychological impact.) *\*Note: Not all work has this. Consider your favorite musician. You may like all their songs yet some touch you in a more deep and intensive way than others.*

## DOCUMENTATION AND SUBMISSION OF CLASS WORK

All work will be submitted Canvas as a **JPEG file**. It is imperative that you take exceptional pictures of your artwork. The evaluation of your work will be based on the quality of your photographic representation. Below are some guidelines:

1. **Orientation:** Make sure that the image shows top edge "up." If your image is sideways your composition may be off balance.
2. **Lighting:** Generally natural light is best (outdoors). Situations where light is evenly dispersed is best (e.g., overcast days or light from left and right sides of artwork). A single light source from one side will create a gradation of light. Avoid dark or bright areas that will "wash-out" an image or make it difficult to see (e.g., a dark closet or direct artificial light or sunlight). Don't use a flash.
3. **Shadows:** Avoid shadows from yourself or other objects to cross your image.
4. **Glare:** Avoid "hot-spots" in your image where direct light is creating a white spot or bright area.
5. **Cropping:** Keep your work flat and crop to the image or paper when required. **No carpet, tabletops, beds, toes, etc. in the image.**

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Create compositions, revise preliminary sketches and experiment with a variety of tools and approaches to drawing.
2. Make critical choices about their own work and assemble a portfolio of drawings demonstrating ability.
3. Practice drawing dynamics to create value using a variety of drawing materials and synthesize art historical approaches with self-expression.

## FINAL EVALUATION

The majority of your grade is determined by your in-class performance and the skills you acquire from attending this course. Although grading is specific to the achievements of each individual, students are expected to have a general understanding of the basic concepts explored throughout this course.

Higher grades require an advanced level of achievement and commitment to the work inside and **outside** of class. **Letter grades will be based on conceptual comprehension, adherence to course requirements, originality, craft and the evidence of growth.**

**A= Excellent Work, Coursework and Portfolio grade of 87%. Homework grade of 85% or higher. No more than 3 absences or equivalent lates and leaving early (90% attendance grade).** Total Participation. Commitment to Course Requirements inside and outside of class. Respect for your work and the work of others. Willingness to take chances and grow. Confidently and completely meeting the objectives of the assignments with originality, commitment and enthusiasm.

**B= (Strong Work) Completion of all in-class work with a grade of 80%. No more than 3 absences.** Above average participation and commitment to course requirements and meeting the objectives of each project, and respect for your work and the work of others.

**C= Average Work** (Meeting minimum requirements of the course). Alternatively, students exhibiting a lack of motivation, failure to follow instructions, disruptive behavior, unfinished work and poor attendance will receive average or below average grades.

**D or F = Incomplete work, poor work ethic, and/or Failure to Appear**

**P= Meeting minimum requirements of the course** (this includes submission of a portfolio for final evaluations.)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**
- Feb. 1 Last day to drop a class without a "W"
- **Feb. 16 Washington's B-Day Holiday**
- **Mar. 16-22 Spring Break**
- Mar. 23-Apr. 19 Midterm Grades Posted
- Apr. 19 Last day to drop a class with a "W"
- **Apr. 27 Last day to turn in late work.**

- **Sun., May 3 Digital Portfolios Due on Canvas.**
- May 15 Last day to opt for P/NP
- **Final Exam Mon., May 18 at 1pm – 3:45 (attendance is mandatory for the entire class time).**

### **ART 7A MATERIALS (All materials required)**

*Students without materials by the third meeting may be dropped.*

#### ***Riley St. Art Supply has art kits available for \$85.00***

18" x 24" (60lb. or 80lb.) Strathmore drawing pad  
 18" x 24" newsprint pad  
 (2) half sheets of Black Stonehenge Paper (15 x 22 in. each)  
 9" x 12" or 8.5" x 11" spiral bound sketchbook (hardbound or soft)  
 Magic White plastic eraser  
 Kneaded eraser  
 2 Felt Tip Markers (F and B tips) (Faber Castell Pitt Pens, Microns, etc.)  
 Compressed charcoal 12 pack  
 Soft Vine charcoal 3 pack  
 2 Charcoal pencils (6B)  
 Kimberly's General Graphite pencils (HB, 3B, 6B)  
 Prismacolor Colored Pencils (2 white, black, crimson red, ultramarine, canary yellow)  
 India ink (Higgins Brand), Pen and Globe Nib (Fine line)  
 24" metal ruler  
 #4 Rafael Watercolor brush

#### **OPTIONAL MATERIALS**

Tote bag and or tool box

*More materials may be needed as the course progresses.*

#### **MATERIALS SUPPLIERS**

**Riley St.** 103 Maxwell Ct., Santa Rosa (707) 526-2416  
**Santa Rosa Junior College Book Store**

## **Art 7A (tentative) Course Outline Spring 2026 – Wm. Smith**

### **WEEK 1**

**1.12 INTRO:** syllabus and materials

**HOMEWORK** “The List” drawing project. For the first Eight weeks, you will need to draw 3 to 5 objects from the list of items created in class on the first day.

**1.14 LINE: Developing a Sense of Touch: Line and Weight techniques in pencil and ink pen** (contour, cross-contour, line weight variation). (Tools)

### **WEEK 2**

**1.19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY**

**1.21 CHARCOAL:** (Cross-Contour, Mass, Scribble) Gourds

### **WEEK 3**

**1.26 MINI SCULPTURE: Cross Contours** (graphite pencils)

**1.28 IDEAL SOLIDS:** Rendering Ellipses, Planar Analysis, Form and Light

### **WEEK 4**

**2.2 ORGANIZATIONAL LINE DRAWING:** Proportion and Sighting: Positive/Negative Relationship (bottle study). Identifying Ideal Solids within ordinary objects. Emphasizing the Negative Areas.

**2.4 LINEAR PERSPECTIVE:** Explained and Imagined

### **WEEK 5**

**2.9 ORGANIZATIONAL LINE DRAWING:** Multiple Object Still Life (graphite)

**2.11 SUBJECTIVE VALUE:** Jasper’s Alphabet (charcoal)

### **WEEK 6**

**2.16 WASHINGTON’S B-DAY HOLIDAY (No classes)**

**2.18 VALUE:** Categories of Light Reviewed (graphite)

### **WEEK 7**

**2.23 VALUE:** Expressive Light (Mark-making: Scribble and Single Hatch)

**2.25 Introduction to Composition and the Distal Cues**  
Additive and Reductive Drawing (atmospheric perspective)

### **WEEK 8**

**3.2 INK:** “The Exquisite Corpse” Exploring Techniques and Application

**3.4 INK:** Tondo composition

### **WEEK 9**

**3.9 INK:** Still Life (Ideal Solids wash technique)

**3.11 DRAWING IN REVERSE, INTRODUCTION TO COLOR PENCILS:**  
White pencil on black paper

### **WEEK 10**

**3.16 – 3.22 SPRING BREAK**

### **WEEK 11**

**3.23 COLOR PENCILS:** Optical Mixing (white objects)

**3.25 COLOR PENCILS:** Still Life

### **WEEK 12**

**3.30 INTRODUCTION TO LINEAR PERSPECTIVE**

**4.1 ONE-POINT LINEAR PERSPECTIVE**

### **WEEK 13**

**4.6 Critique: ONE-POINT LINEAR PERSPECTIVE** Intro 2pt.

**4.8 TWO-POINT LINEAR PERSPECTIVE:** Imaginary Space

### **WEEK 14**

**4.13 TWO-POINT LINEAR PERSPECTIVE:** Imaginary Space

**4.15 TWO-POINT LINEAR PERSPECTIVE:** Imaginary Space

### **WEEK 15**

**4.20 CUBISM**

**4.22 CUBISM**

**Wednesday 4.27, Last day to turn in “late” work.**

### **WEEK 16 INTRODUCE FINAL PROJECT:**

**4.27 PORTRAITS** Focus on Features

**4.29 PORTRAITS** The Rule of Thirds



## **Portfolios due Sunday May 3 .**

### **WEEK 17**

**5.4 PORTRAITS**

**5.6 PORTRAITS**

### **WEEK 18**

**5.11 FINAL PROJECT:**

**5.13 FINAL PROJECT:**

### **WEEK 19**

**5.18 FINAL CRITIQUE**

**FINAL CRITIQUE MONDAY, MAY 18, 1 pm - 3:45 pm (Our final consists of a final project and critique. Attendance is mandatory for the entire class time)**  
*(Note: class meets one half hour earlier)*