



Alt text: *Clark College Community and Continuing Education logo. The design features a stylized building with a clock tower and tree, set against radiating lines, with the text “Clark College” above “Community and Continuing Education.”*

Community Education – Winter Quarter 2026

Course Information

Course Title: Comic Drawing Essentials for Beginners	Number of sessions: 6
Instructor: Caitlin Cook	Day and time: Wednesdays, 7:00pm-8:30pm
Email: ccook@clark.edu	Course dates: 02/04 - 03/11
Location: Clark College Ridgefield Campus 7000 Pioneer St, Ridgefield, WA 98642 Room 206	

Course Description

Interested in drawing your own comics but not sure where to start? Learn the process, become comfortable with the pencil drawing, and consider different storytelling tools that make for a great comic. Class will culminate with students turning in a one-page comic, which will be printed in a booklet for each student to keep. This class is for people of ALL drawing abilities.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Understand the process of making a comic.
- Know how to consider different storytelling tools (such as art style, lettering, and color) as they go about making a comic.
- Have completed a number of drawing exercises to get them comfortable with drawing and encourage them to think about drawing in new ways.
- Create a one-page comic to be put into a class zine for distribution at the end of the course.

Supply List

- Pen or a pencil
- Sketchbook
- Other art supplies (optional, for final project)

General Course Structure

- Drawing Exercise 1 + discussion (15 min)
- Mini Lecture 1 (30 mins)
- Drawing Exercise 2 + discussion (15 mins)
- Mini Lecture 2 (30 mins)

Course Schedule

1. Week 1 (2/4) – Introduction/Establishing Your Art Style

- Drawing Exercise 1: ???
- Mini Lecture 1: Introduction
 - What to expect for the next six weeks
 - Instructor and students get to know each other
- Drawing Exercise 2: ???
- Mini Lecture 2: Establishing Your Art Style
 - Going over different types of comic/cartoon styles
 - Discussing the different elements of those styles
 - Tips for determining one's own art style
 - Details about final project
- Drawing Exercise 3/Homework: ???

2. Week 2 (2/11) – Story Essentials and Scriptwriting

- Drawing Exercise 1: ???
- Mini Lecture 1: Fundamentals of Story
 - Examining the 5 things every story needs
 - Learning about different plot structures
- Drawing Exercise 2: ???
- Mini Lecture 2: Writing a Comic Script
 - Learning what a comic script looks like
 - How to write and read a comic script
 - Different methods of writing a comic script
 - Looking at real life examples from one of the instructor's projects
- Drawing Exercise 3/Homework: ???

3. Week 3 (2/18) – Panels and Lettering

- Drawing Exercise 1: ???
 - Skip discussion and head straight into lecture
- Mini Lecture 1: The Power of Panels
 - Types of panel layouts and how they can be used
 - How to create a page that flows well for the reader
 - Looking at examples of interesting panel layouts
 - Discuss Drawing Exercise 1
- Drawing Exercise 2: ???
- Mini Lecture 2: All About Lettering
 - Discuss different lettering methods
 - Learn about fonts
 - How to properly letter dialogue and captions
 - Effective ways to letter sound effects
 - How to make a heavily-lettered page flow
 - Examples of interesting lettering
- Drawing Exercise 3/Homework: ???

4. Week 4 (2/25) – Sketching, Inking, and Coloring

- Drawing Exercise 1: ???
- Mini Lecture 1: From Thumbnail to Ink
 - How thumbnailing works and why it's done
 - Turning your thumbnails into sketches
 - Different inking methods
- Drawing Exercise 2: ???
- Mini Lecture 2: How to Use Color
 - Going over color theory basics
 - How color can be used in comics for thematic purposes
 - Looking at examples of excellent use of color
- Drawing Exercise 3/Homework: ???
- ***** BRING ANY NECESSARY ART SUPPLIES TO CLASS NEXT WEEK. THERE WILL BE AN OPEN STUDIO FOR YOU TO WORK ON YOUR FINAL COMIC. *****

5. Week 5 (3/4) – Editing/Open Studio

- NO drawing exercise to start
- Mini Lecture: Editing Methods
 - Learning how to edit comics
 - Tips for looking at your own work with a critical eye
 - How the editing process works in the publishing world

- Drawing Exercise: ???
- Open Studio
 - Students can use this time to work on their final comics and ask the instructor any necessary questions
 - Students can also work on their artist statements during this time
- ***** FINAL COMICS AND ARTIST STATEMENT DUE MONDAY 3/9 AT MIDNIGHT. IF THEY ARE NOT TURNED IN ON TIME, THEY WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE CLASS ZINE. EMAIL COMICS AND STATEMENT TO CCOOK@CLARK.EDU. *****

6. Week 6 (3/11) – Publishing/Final Presentations

- Drawing Exercise 1: ???
- Mini Lecture 1: How to Publish Your Comics
 - Self-publishing vs. traditional publishing
 - How to successfully self-publish
 - How to get a book deal
- Drawing Exercise 2: ???
- Final Presentations
 - A panel-by-panel reading of final comics for the class
 - A short statement covering...
 - Where the inspiration for the comic came from
 - Process and supplies that were used
 - What was learned through this process
- Gifting of class zines

Resources

Recommended references for further study:

- *Understanding Comics* by Scott McCloud
- *Making Comics* by Scott McCloud
- *Reinventing Comics* by Scott McCloud
- *Comics and Sequential Art* by Will Eisner
- *Graphic Storytelling and Visual Narrative* by Will Eisner
- *Why Comics?* by Hillary Chute
- *Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature* by Charles Hatfield
- *Drawing Words and Writing Pictures* by Jessica Abel and Matt Madden

- *Unflattening* by Nick Sousanis
- *Cartooning* by Ivan Brunetti
- *The Art of the Graphic Memoir* by Tom Hart

Class Evaluation

- Class evaluations are sent by email.
- If you don't see it right away, check your junk/spam folder.
- Evaluations are anonymous and come directly from Clark College.
- If you do not receive one, contact Continuing Education at:
Email: continuingeducation@clark.edu
Phone: 360-992-2939

Incident Weather

- If the college closes due to weather, updates will appear at www.clark.edu.
- Community Education may also cancel classes independently if travel is unsafe.
- If canceled, you will be notified by both phone and email.
- Please check that your contact information is correct on the class roster.

More Classes

Looking for more Community Education courses? Visit: www.clark.edu/cce/