

Community Education – Fall Quarter 2026

Course Title: Portrait Drawing: You Can Do It!

Instructor: Diana Thewlis

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Course Details

Dates: 9/25 – 11/6 (no class 10/16)

Day: Friday, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Room 316, Columbia Tech Center Campus, 18700 SE Mill Plain Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98683

Course Description

This course will guide you through the fundamentals and more of drawing the portrait whether you are a beginner or have more experience. With step-by-step instruction, individual help, and plenty of practice, you'll build confidence and discover that drawing realistic portraits is easier than you think, and lots of fun! Topics will include approaches to drawing, structure, proportions, relationships, drawing features, etc.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Know at least two different approaches to setting up the drawing.
- Be able to draw the basic form of the head from at least three views.
- Have learned to draw the features of the face and head from at least three views.
- Understand proportions and relationships of the face and head.
- Be able to capture a likeness.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Friday, 9/25.

- Welcome and introduction: some things you need to know.
- Review of any drawings brought in.
- Approaches to drawing the head.
- Proportions.
- The side view. Features.

Week 2: Friday, 10/2.

- Critique.
- Possible continuation of the side view: design of the face.
- The front view. Features.
- Sightings and relationships.

Week 3: Friday, 10/9.

- Critique.
- The $\frac{3}{4}$ view. Features.
- Perspective. Apparent versus factual relationships.

No class on 9/16.

Week 4: Friday, 10/23.

- Critique. Possible $\frac{3}{4}$ back view. Features.
- Hair, beards, eyebrows, and hats.

Week 5: Friday 10/30.

- Critique.
- Unusual angles: look up, looking down, etc.

Week 6: Friday, 11/6.

- Critique.
- Edges and planes.
- Final discussion.

*If you have any questions about the course description, objectives, syllabus, and/or supply list, please don't hesitate to email me at dthewlis@comcast.net.

*The syllabus is subject to change depending on class needs and unforeseen circumstances.

Resources

Recommended references for further study:

- There are hundreds of books on drawing the figure and head and hands available to you. Some are likely out of print but could be found through www.amazon.com or www.powellsbooks.com.
- These are just a few of my favorite books. All are informative and contain information on drawing heads and hands.
 - For general drawing: "The Drawing Bible" by Craig Nelson

- “Drawing People: How to Portray the Clothed Figure” by Barbara Bradley
 - “Figure Drawing for all it’s Worth” by Andrew Loomis
 - “Drawing the Head for Artists: Techniques for Mastering Expressive Portraiture (Volume 2) by Oliver Sin. This is an advanced book, but excellent.
 - “Drawing the Head and Figure” by Jack Hamm
 - “Drawing the Head and Hands” by Andrew Loomis
 - Study the works of master draftsmen such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Nicolai Fechin, Peter Paul Rubens, Frans Hals, Albert Dorne, Austin Briggs, Norman Rockwell, Rafael, and Robert Fawcett.
 - Check Youtube, but be careful as not all videos are particularly good.
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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 don’t receive one, contact:
 - Email: continuingeducation@clark.edu
 - Phone: 360-992-2939
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Inclement 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.
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More Classes

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