Introduction to Natural Science Illustration
Lucy Conklin
lucy@lucyconklin.com

Week 1. July 25th and 27th
Monday: course objectives and expectations, syllabus, materials, graphite
HW: assemble supplies, choose a subject for assignment 1, make preliminary drawing, in
your sketchbook do a 1 minute drawing, 3 minute drawing, 5 minute drawing, and 15
minute drawing of one subject.

Wednesday: Meet at UCSC Arboretum, how to draw plants, botanical terms.
In class: draw 3 plants and describe them using the terms on your handout
HW: finish graphite illustration, bring ink supplies on Monday, bring something to draw on
Monday

Assignment 1: Graphite drawing on vellum bristol (subject suggestion: skull or bones),
+preliminary drawing

Week 2. August 1st and 3rd
Monday: view graphite drawings, how to draw birds, pen and ink demo, introduce textures
assignment.
HW: finish textures assignment. In your sketchbook: draw 1 bird from life, or 3 from photos

Wednesday: Meet at UCSC Arboretum. In-class: draw the entire habit of a plant
HW: In your sketchbook, record all of the living things in your house (or room)

Assignment 2: ink textures assignment
Assignment 3: Ink drawing on vellum bristol (subject suggestion: botanical plate)
+preliminary drawing

Week 3. August 8th and 10th
Monday: Meet in classroom, view finished stipple drawings, how to draw quadrupeds,
ink/colored pencil on duralene, walk over to Norris Center to draw from the collections
HW: In your sketchbook draw one quadruped from life, or 3 from pictures, preliminary
drawing for your colored pencil on duralene assignment

Wednesday: Meet in classroom, diagrams, insects, color on duralene, walk over to Norris
Center to draw from the collections
In class: draw insects from 3 orders (or parts of insects)
HW: Draw a diagram with labels

Assignment 4: Ink or black colored pencil on duralene film (subject suggestion: insect)
+preliminary drawing
**Week 4. August 15th and 17th**

**Monday:** Meet in the classroom, field sketching techniques, rocks/clouds/trees, thumbnailing, then walk outside
In class: 4 thumbnails  
**HW:** Draw a Plant and its Pollinator in your sketchbook

**Wednesday:** Composition crash-course, depth, observations, geology, physics, microscopic subjects  
**HW:** preliminary drawing for final project, put together your portfolio (see checklist)

**Assignment 5:** Black and white colored pencil drawing on toned paper (subject: skeleton + outline of an animal)

**Week 5. August 22nd and 24th**

**Monday:** Turn in portfolios and sketchbooks, discuss preliminary drawings for final project  
**HW:** finish assignment 6

**Wednesday:** Last day of class. Final critique, portfolios returned, Photoshop tips and techniques and putting your work online, going forward, Q&A about science illustration, potluck picnic

**Assignment 6:** Final Project. Graphite on bristol, ink on bristol or black colored pencil on duralene film, +preliminary drawing