

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