

**ENVS 18 - Natural History Illustration**  
Norris Center, room NS2 233  
UC Santa Cruz, Summer 2018  
Tues/Thurs, 9am-3pm  
Lunch break 12-12:30

**Juniper Harrower**

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**Office hours:** By appointment (email me)  
before class, room ISB 420

**Course Description**

In this course students will become proficient in graphite, ink, colored pencil, and watercolor and acquire training in the essential skills needed to create accurate and informative natural history illustrations. Students will be able to create illustrations using basics of representational drawing by studying organisms at the Norris Center for Natural History, as well as those living on and around UCSC campus. Using these techniques and methods, students will be able to create compositions that illustrate a variety of natural history subject matter and research occurring on the UCSC campus. This course will meet 6 hours twice a week and students will spend approximately **18 hours per week** outside of class working to complete assignments. There will be two field trips that will occur during class time. This is a fast-paced course.

**Course Requirements**

**Class participation:** The majority of class periods will consist of in-class work, preceded by presentations and demonstrations by Juniper Harrower or class guests. There will occasionally be scheduled art critiques where students will be asked to give constructive feedback about each others' work. Student participation will be evaluated based on attendance and active participation in class, as well as completion of assignments throughout the quarter. As we only meet for 10 sessions, any absences will result in a loss of credit. Please be professional and respectful of our time and be in class by 9am and back from lunch by 12:30.

**Final Sketchbook/Portfolio:** The final exam for this class consists of a final sketchbook/portfolio to be turned in at the end of the quarter. In addition to the specific assignments given, students are expected to use the sketchbook as a place to play with technique, work out compositions, and try out ideas.

**Grading**

The course grade will be assigned as follows:

20% - Participation (being in class, on time)

30% - 3 graded assignments: Client Assignment I, Client Assignment II, and UC Reserve submission

50% - Final sketchbook which will include all other assignments

**Class policies**

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, as soon as possible in the academic quarter, preferably within 1 week and discuss with the instructor ways to ensure your full participation in this course.

Students are expected to adhere to the UCSC policy on academic integrity ([www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic\\_misconduct](http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct)).

All assignments should be done individually and be original works for this class.

**Deadlines: Drop by Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, or withdraw by Friday, July 13.** Neither Summer Session nor instructors drop students for non-attendance or non-payment. Students must drop themselves. Dropping results in full tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund).

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### Week 1

**June 26<sup>th</sup>:** Introduction to Natural History Illustration, syllabus, materials list, warm up exercises: gesture, contour, negative space.

*Assignment 1: Shaded skull - Create line drawings of three views (3 separate sheets of paper) and choose one to develop into a shaded graphite drawing.*

Introduction to pen and ink, stippling, hatching, texture.

*Assignment 2: Experiment with ink textures in sketchbook. Fill a sketchbook page with texture (scales, feathers, fur, surfaces) and tone (grading from light to dark). Experiment with various mark making like hatching and stipple.*

*Assignment 3: Create a detailed ink rendering of a specimen of your choice.*

**HW** - Get all supplies and complete Assignments 1-3. *Assignment 4: Do a detailed graphite study of a specimen of your choice.*

**June 28<sup>th</sup>:** Critique of skulls and ink work (what was difficult for you, what did you like? Tips for moving forward). Lesson on composition and style. Color experimentation with colored pencil and watercolor in class, techniques and tips. Practice with value, hue, tone, color mixing, application and special effects. *Assignment 5: Colorful insect study and composition of 3-5 insects - match colors with colors on specimens.*

**HW**-*Assignment 6: Use watercolor and colored pencil to build layers and grade from light to dark. Try combinations of mediums to create small studies of organisms found in nature or online. Fill 2-3 pages. Watch watercolor video. Also, research a chosen organism from class for tomorrow's in-class illustration.*

### Week 2

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>** : Norris Center tour with Alex Krohn. Call-out windows and natural history descriptions with Sophie Holin. Composition and style. *Assignment 7: Illustration of chosen organism with call-out windows and description.*

*HW- Assignment 8: Creative composition – create a stylized design for a t-shirt, card, large print or tattoo using organisms and medium of your choice.*

**July 5<sup>th</sup>** : Critique of call-out windows and composition work. Researcher Jon Detka presents – manzanitas and climate gradient. *Client Assignment I – needs both a practice sketch and a final piece.* Intro to biodiversity at the border <https://defenders.org/border-wall>.

*HW- Complete Client Assignment I. Read this article: <https://defenders.org/border-wall-report/read>. Check out: <https://newsroom.defenders.org/in-the-shadow-of-the-wall/>. Assignment 9: Choose organism from google doc that would be impacted by proposed border wall. Research it and begin illustrating (\*changed due date to July 12<sup>th</sup>)*

### **Week 3**

**July 10<sup>th</sup>** : Field trip with Alex Jones at the UCSC campus reserve. Lesson on field sketching and silent journal time in field. *Assignment 10: Composition - Leaf study, lichen, seeds or grasses.*

*HW- Complete Assignment 9, border illustration. Bring a flower to class tomorrow (if you want!)*

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** : Critique field studies. Flower dissection and microscopy lesson.

*Assignment 11: Draw a flower from a plant of your choice (bring one in or choose from some in class). Dissect the flower to find and draw the different reproductive parts. Use hand lens or microscope to get a magnified view.*

*HW- Assignment 12: Choose a flower from one of the UC reserves (look it up online or visit in person! Campus reserve and Younger Lagoon are both close) and create a stylized illustration.*

### **Week 4**

**July 17<sup>th</sup>** : Field trip to the Año Nuevo UC reserve. Lesson on perspectives. *Assignment 13: “Near and Far” In one composition, show both a close up and distant element of the landscape.*

*HW- Catch up on Assignments. Develop a plan for your UC Reserve submission piece and create the initial sketch.*

**July 19<sup>th</sup>** : Class discussion on UC Reserve submission ideas. TBD – either lichen study or print making (depending on supplies).

*HW – Watch trout and feather illustration video from class. Develop/complete UC Reserve submission piece.*

### **Week 5**

**July 24<sup>th</sup>** : Devon Pearse – Trout illustration and study. Client Assignment II.

*HW- Bring all assignments to class tomorrow. Finish Client Assignment II and UC Reserve submission.*

**July 26<sup>th</sup>** : Feather illustration and composition in class. Final critique, turn in all sketchbooks and assignments.