ENVS18 - Natural History Illustration

Instructor: Emily Underwood
E-mail: femmina@ucsc.edu

SYLLABUS

Course Description
In this course students will become proficient in graphite, ink, and color media and acquire training in the essential skills needed to create accurate and informative natural history illustrations. This is a fast-paced course, particularly in the condensed Summer Session format.

Remote Instruction
This course will be hosted on Canvas. You do not need to sign up for an account, login with your CruzID and Gold Password at canvas.ucsc.edu. See Canvas Getting Started Student Guide.
This class will be primarily asynchronous, meaning you will watch videos and presentations for each model and work on the assignments on your own. I would like to have a couple meetings on Zoom. One at the beginning of the class as an introduction and a critique (or two depending on how it goes). I will also break you up for peer review for some assignments. I will be available to give you feedback either through email, or we can schedule office hours on Zoom or over telephone. I live remotely and have pretty slow internet (despite a recent satellite upgrade) so just keep that in mind.

Submitting your work digitally
You will be submitting images of your assignments. A few tips for taking pictures:
Lighting is key! Bright, but not glaring light please. Try to avoid shadows on the page. Bright, but diffused light from a window works well for me. If you have access to a scanner, that it great and very appreciated. Some phones have scanner apps on them that work really well too.

Grading
There will be 10 modules (2 per week) and each module will be worth 100 points. In the normal academic year, this course is ten weeks, so the summer session modules are condensed. There are no art prerequisites for this course, so everyone comes into it at their own level. Some students are art majors and others have had little to no drawing experience. I grade this course on the time you put in and engagement with the subject matter. You will find that the more you draw the better you get, especially if it is new to you. A steady and committed art practice is immensely rewarding, even if it seems frustrating at times.

I will be matching students up for peer reviews for some assignments throughout the session. For these assignments participation will be 10% of your grade.
“Field Trips”
Normally, this class has a number of field trips where we do field sketching. There will a few virtual field trips for the summer session, one to Ano Nuevo and a couple to the UCSC Campus Reserves. I encourage you all to do as much drawing and sketching outside, directly observing the natural world. For students who are located in Santa Cruz County, here is a list of places I like to go:

- Wilder Ranch (and any beaches really)
- Big Basin
- UCSC Campus Reserves
- Natural Bridges (great tide pooling, best to go one hour before lowest tide)
- Westcliff Drive
- San Lorenzo river mouth for birdwatching
- Pogonip
- DeLaveaga Park
- Watsonville Wetlands
- Elkhorn Slough
- Seymour Marine Discovery Center
- Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

Seymour Marine Discovery Center and Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History are other great places to visit that are currently closed. I will keep an eye on it and let you know if/when they reopen.

There are many other great places, these are the first that come to mind. If you are located in Santa Cruz and are comfortable being outside in small groups you might consider arranging an field sketching trip with classmates. Of course, be safe, be smart.

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).

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

CLASS SCHEDULE
Pre-COVID, this class was scheduled to meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 22 - July 24. I will be loosely adhering to this schedule, although you will really be on your own schedule aside from a couple of Zoom meetings. Assignments will be due at the end of each week (specified in Canvas). As this remote learning format is new for this class I want to work some flexibility into this syllabus so I can see what works and adjust as we go along. I welcome your feedback as to what works well, at this point you all have had more experience with this than I. Here is an overview of what the modules will consist of. The first three modules will introduce media specific techniques, and the remainder are assignments for subjects where you will decide what media to use.

Module 1 (June 23) Class intro in Zoom. Drawing warm ups, (gesture demo, handouts, what is natural history illustration, email me with favorite illustrator), graphite rendering of subject of your choice.
Module 2 (June 25) Pen & Ink practice swatches, Pen & Ink rendering of a subject of your choice.
Module 3 (June 30) Color swatches, color rendering of subject of your choice.
Module 4 (July 2) Flower dissection botanical plate.
Module 5 (July 7) Virtual filed trip to campus reserves with Alex Jones (pre-recorded), illustration of species interactions in medium of your choice.
Module 6 (July 9) Drawing birds. Bird ID basics. Sketching birds from life, explore.org, or other resources. Draw and label diagram of bird feathers.
Module 7 (July 14) And Nuevo field trip. Sketch marine mammals (or other mammals) and create illustration of Sea Lion behavior (or other animal behavior).
Module 8 (July 16) Landscape-scale block diagram or cross-section. Watch reserve video on campus water pathways for inspiration.
Module 9 (July 21) Near-and-far. Show in one composition something up close and far away.
Module 10 (July 23) Field guide page. An illustration of at least three related organisms.

Important Summer Session Remote 2020 Deadlines:

Session 1:
Drop: Monday, June 29
Request for “W”: Friday, July 10

Session 2:
Drop: Monday, August 3
Request for “W”: Friday, August 14

8-Week:
Drop: Monday, July 6
Request for “W”: Friday, July 24

10-Week:
Drop: Monday, July 6
Request for “W”: Friday, July 24

Summer is unique. You will not be dropped for non-attendance or non-payment. You must drop yourself. Dropping before the deadline results in a full-tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund).

For all dates and deadlines, including ‘change of grade option’ (P/NP) and grades due, here is the summer academic calendar: https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html

For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email summer@ucsc.edu.
DRC Remote Accommodations:

The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. Operations continue via remote appointments. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, email the DRC Schedulers at drc@ucsc.edu for an appointment.

Small Group Tutoring

Small Group Tutoring (SGT) supports students academically to advance educational equity by designing inclusive learning environments outside of the classroom. In SGT, you can expect the Tutor to facilitate cooperative group activities designed to have students work together on the course content and develop study skills for the course. SGT is offered at least three times each week for the entire quarter. The Tutor is an undergraduate student who took the class, did well, and is trained to facilitate group sessions to focus on students’ needs to succeed in the course. SGT is open to all students enrolled in the class and they must sign up on our online system: TutorTrac. When students sign up for SGT, they are committing to attend every week. For Summer 2020, students can begin signing up for tutoring on Monday, June 22nd and tutoring will begin Wednesday, June 24th. Students only have to sign up once for tutoring and their appointments will repeat weekly. Sign-ups will close on Friday, August 14th for all Summer Session Sign-Ups. This means that after August 14th, no new students can sign up for tutoring.

Want SGT to be successful for you? Bring your books, lecture notes, questions, and be open to working collaboratively with your peers. You can sign up using this link: https://ucsc gordrock.com/tracweb40/NoAccess.4sp?errText=insufficient%20credentials%20to%20view%20content

You can also find the link on our website: https://lss.ucsc.edu/index.html

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.
In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student’s transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the Academic Integrity page at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

**Title IX:**

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. Information about the Title IX Office, the online reporting link, applicable campus resources, reporting responsibilities, the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment, and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at titleix.ucsc.edu.

The Title IX Office is actively responding to reports and requests for consultation. If you are not currently working with someone in the office and want to make a report/request a consult, you can expect the fastest response by using our online reporting link.

For more information please visit the Title IX Operations under Covid-19 page.