San José State University  
Department of Art & Art History  
Art 137-Figure Modeling, section 1  
Fall 2015

Instructor: Monica Van den Dool  
Office Location: IS 124  
Telephone: (408) 924-4683  
Email (preferable): Monica.vandendool@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: MW 11-11:45  
Class Days/Time: MW 3-5:50  
Classroom: IS 166  
Prerequisites: Art 13 and Art 55 or permission of instructor

Course Description
Representation of the human figure in three dimensions. Sculpting in clay from a live model.

Art 137 is a life modeling class designed for students interested in studying the human figure as a subject for art. Working primarily from live models and sculpting directly in water and oil-based clay, you will concentrate on the observation of form and learn to render realistically in three dimensions. The emphasis in the studio projects will be on developing an understanding of the human form and the practice of accurate observation and representation, rather than on the production of a permanent sculpture. Class time will be divided between supervised studio time working from the models and on self-portraits, demonstrations, critiques, and PowerPoint lectures. Through the lectures and a written assignment, you will be introduced to an overview of both historical and contemporary approaches to figurative sculpture.

Other Requirements: Students will be expected to spend an average of six hours weekly in the studio outside of class time.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
CLO 1 – select and use appropriate materials and modeling tools  
CLO 2 – effectively rough out a form in clay and model a detailed, realistic figure  
CLO 3 - construct and alter an armature for a portrait head and standing figure  
CLO 4 - practice techniques in self-portraiture, including the use of calipers, grids, photographs, and mirrors  
CLO 5 - prepare solid clay sculptures for the kiln firing (ceramic) process  
CLO 6 – identify historical and contemporary approaches to representing the figure in art  
CLO 7 – develop critical skills (critiques, class discussions)

Recommended Reading:  
Anatomy for Sculptors, Understanding the Human Figure, Uldis Zarins with Sandis Kondrats  
Modeling the Figure in Clay Bruno Lucchessi, Watson-Guptill Publications, 1996  
Tools/Materials:

- You will need water based clay (Clay Planet’s “Smooth Sculpture”) and later in the semester plastacine, an oil based clay. In addition, you will need an assortment of modeling tools sold as a kit (includes small and large loop tools, rib, needle tool, wire, fettling knife). These materials are available as needed through the SJSU Ceramics Guild (cash or check only, payable to SJSU Ceramics Guild).
- Additional and necessary modeling tools and calipers are all available locally at Clay Planet, located at 1775 Russell Ave., Santa Clara. Hours are M-F 9-5 and Sat 10-3. For modeling tools purchased at Clay Planet I recommend a rubber-tipped modeling tool, JA22 wood modeling tool, K23 cleanup tool, JA37 wood modeling tool, and 8” or 10” calipers (Kemper brand is best). You must have all your tools, including detail tools and calipers, by the third day of class.
- Additionally, there are a wide variety of other useful modeling tools available and many other potential sources to explore, including the SJSU bookstore and art supply stores. Everyone will develop their own preferences for favorite tools.
- You will also immediately need a lock for your locker, a metal fork, plastic to wrap your wet work (dry cleaning plastic or lightweight garbage bags are best), a decent sized mirror (8 x 10” is good), and a small stiff paintbrush.

Estimated cost: $90

Classroom Protocol

Come to class on time and plan on staying through the entirety of the class. There is no way to make up a session with a model if you miss class time. Late/early arrivals, excessive ins and outs, eating, phone conversations, etc. are extremely disruptive to the modeling sessions. As a courtesy to all, use of cell phones, headphones, or any electronic media is generally prohibited during class meeting times, with the exception of music by class consent.

If you are ill or unable to attend more than one class, I expect you to contact me (e-mail preferable) as soon as possible. Not doing so could negatively affect your grade. Do not schedule work time or other obligations during our class time.

Clean up: Clean up begins 20 minutes before class ends. ALL areas that you have used must be cleaned before you leave the studio. For the safety of everyone sharing the studio, take care not to generate excessive dust (sanding) and do not use any toxic materials in the studio. All clean up of dry clay materials will be done with a wet sponge. An additional and mandatory department wide cleanup will take place on the date scheduled for our final exam.
Grading Policy
I expect a high degree of commitment to this class. Your studio assignments will be graded on the basis of their proportional accuracy, attention to detail, completeness, problem solving, and clean presentation. Your individual effort will be taken into account (these projects will always be easier for some than for others), but this will be a straightforward evaluation of your projects’ overall success with the clear and consistent goal of accurate representation.

The class participation grade includes your overall improvement and growth during the semester, the quantity and quality of your effort during studio work time and outside of class, preparedness for assignments, basic studio maintenance and etiquette, and your engaged and constructive participation in class critiques. Includes participation in studio cleanup day, scheduled on date on final exam.

Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade)

Access to your grades as well as copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment, handouts, notifications etc. will be made available through the SJSU Canvas system (http://sjsu.instructure.com), accessible through your SJSU One account. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU.

Studio assignments (totals 85% of final grade):

1. The Thumb (5%): Using Plastacine and your own hand as a model, sculpt a realistic, highly detailed thumb (with surrounding area) at life size scale. Introduction of detail tools and oil-based clay, learn to control form and texture, and to observe and model high levels of detail. (CLO 1,2) Due 9/14

2. Reclined Figure (10%): Sculpt a reclining figure at a scale of 1/3 life-size. We will begin with several quick studies to learn to quickly rough out form and handle the water-based clay, then move on to one well-developed study. Preparing solid clay sculpture for kiln firing will be demonstrated but not required. (CLO 1,2,5,7) Due 9/23

3. Self-Portrait (25%): Sculpt a fully developed self-portrait head and bust in water-based clay on an armature of your construction. Preparation for kiln firing is again optional. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,7) Due 10/19

4. Seated Figure (20%): The third project will be a seated figure in water-based clay at a scale of 1/4 life-size. You will be including narrative elements of your choosing. Kiln firing optional. (CLO 1,2,5,6,7) Due 11/9

5. Standing Figure (25%): Sculpt a standing full figure at a scale of 1/3 life size from oil-based clay on an armature of your construction. (CLO 1,2,3,7) Due 12/7

Written Assignment (5%): response to research and readings on hyperrealism in sculpture and the value of representation (CLO 6) Due 12/2

Class participation (10%): described above, (CLO 7)

I will assign you a numerical grade for each of your projects in this class, as follows (a “C” and above constitutes a passing grade for the course):
97-100 = A+
93-96 = A
90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+
63-66 = D
60-62 = D-
59 and below = F

A= Excellent work
B= Above average work
C= Average work
D= Below average work
F= Unsatisfactory work

All work must be finished and turned in according to described deadlines and instructions. Late assignments will be accepted at any time until the end of the semester, but they will be downgraded by one full letter grade.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.
Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course:

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students’ Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
# Art 137, Figure Modeling, Fall 2015

## Course Schedule (subject to change with fair notice by classroom announcement/email)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M 8/24</td>
<td>- Introduction to class, tools, and materials, discuss professional behavior with models.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 8/26</td>
<td>- <strong>Demonstration</strong>: working in solid clay and blocking out with knife and paddle. Quick study from model. MODEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>M 8/31</td>
<td>- <strong>You must have all your tools, including detail tools.</strong> Quick study from model. Introduce assignment “The Thumb” MODEL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 9/2</td>
<td>- Handouts/textbooks made available and discussion on general proportions. Begin first assignment, modeling the reclined figure in solid clay. (remember to build pad, wedge and score) MODEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>M 9/7</td>
<td>no class, Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 9/9</td>
<td>- Introduce self-portrait assignment. Bring digital camera for next class period. MODEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>M 9/14</td>
<td>- Take initial photographs. “The Thumb” assignment due, beginning of class, MODEL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 9/16</td>
<td>- Last class day for reclined figure, finish up photographs. MODEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>M 9/21</td>
<td>- <strong>CRITIQUE</strong> reclined figures. <strong>Demonstration</strong>: how to hollow out/prepare solid clay for kiln firing. Do it ASAP. Show additional materials necessary for self-portrait. Bring them to next class.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 9/23</td>
<td>- Reclined figures due for grading at beginning of class. <strong>Demonstration</strong>: building armatures for self-portrait head, introduce techniques for self-portrait assignment: calipers, mirrors, photos, grids. Build it! Discussion of approaches to developing portrait head. Start working.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>M 9/28</td>
<td>- Work on self-portrait</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 9/30</td>
<td>- Work on self-portrait <strong>Slides</strong>: Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>M 10/5</td>
<td>- Work on self-portrait</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 10/7</td>
<td>- Work on self-portrait <strong>Slides</strong>: Roman, Gothic, Renaissance</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>M 10/12</td>
<td>- Work on self-portrait.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>M 10/19</td>
<td>- Self-portraits due for grading at beginning of class. Begin third assignment (seated figure). MODEL</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 10/21</td>
<td>- Demonstration on hollowing self-portrait. <strong>MODEL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 M 10/26</td>
<td>- <strong>MODEL</strong>, seated figure</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 10/28</td>
<td>- <strong>MODEL</strong>, seated figure</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 M 11/2</td>
<td>- Last class day for wet work on seated figures. Introduce last project. Bring $’s for materials to next class. <strong>MODEL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>W 11/4</td>
<td>- <strong>Critique</strong> seated figures. Sell materials (armature wire and plastacine) <strong>Demonstration:</strong> Building armatures for full figure assignment and applying preliminary plastacine. Armatures must be built, and preliminary plastacine applied before next class period!</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 M 11/9</td>
<td>- Seated figures due for grading at beginning of class. Set the pose for standing assignment. <strong>MODEL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>W 11/11</td>
<td>- Veteran’s Day, no class</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 M 11/16</td>
<td>- <strong>Slides:</strong> Modern/20th Century Figurative. <strong>MODEL,</strong> work on standing figure</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 11/18</td>
<td>- <strong>MODEL,</strong> work on standing figure, introduce written assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 M 11/23</td>
<td>- <strong>Slides:</strong> Contemporary Figurative. <strong>MODEL,</strong> work on standing figure</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 11/25</td>
<td>- work on standing figure</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 M 11/30</td>
<td>- <strong>MODEL,</strong> work on standing figure</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 12/2</td>
<td>- <strong>MODEL,</strong> work on standing figure, written assignment due at beginning of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 M 12/7</td>
<td>- Last class day, <strong>standing figures due for grading (NO CRITIQUE).</strong></td>
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**Final Exam**
- Friday 12/11
- 12:15-2:30
- Mandatory **CLEANUP** and strip all model stands.