

Visual Art Classes

Course: Scientific Illustration: The Art of Drawing Bones

March 21 – May 23, 2022
8 Mondays, 6:00-8:30pm
Online

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A welcome note from your instructor:

This is a class to explore osteology, or the study of bone anatomy, in a visual way. Each class we will focus on a different set of bones, and we will sketch them along with discussing the parts of the bone, muscle attachment significance, and compare the same bone from different creatures to examine the variation. We will label our drawings with translucent overlays. After the class, you will end up with a portfolio of bones and a deeper understanding of skeletal variation.

I was an instructor for the comparative anatomy lab at UW–Madison for several years and absolutely love going through the various aspects of skeletal anatomy and thinking of ways to group and navigate these terms to help students learn. This class is a way to continue sharing that experience – but without examinations (unless you want one of course)!

Sample schedule (may alter slightly):

Week 1 Intro, Skull

Week 2 Skull (continued)

Week 3 Vertebrae, ribs

Week 4 Upper limb (radius, ulna, carpals)

Week 5 Upper limb continued (scapula, humerus)

Week 6 Lower limb (tibia, fibula, tarsals)

Week 7 Lower limb (femur, pelvis) unique qualities of bird skeletons

Week 8 Full skeleton

Tips for success: Every journey begins with something we are curious about and want to learn more. Identify what you would consider a successful outcome: do you want to have a set of beautiful bone drawings? Do you want to familiarize yourself with skeletal terminology, or refresh what you already know in a new way? How will this class work for your goals? Our greatest learning moments happen when we are in an uncomfortable place and it is okay to embrace that.

Materials Fee:

Basic fee: None

Optional materials for purchase: None

Supply List (suggested):

- Graphite pencils (2H, HB, 2B, 4B, 6B) - or just stick with regular pencils, that's equally fine! When I take notes I usually just have a regular pencil...
- Erasers (kneadable and regular block style)
- Ink (Micron pens: a couple different pen sizes, ex: 01, 02, 04)
- White gel pen
- Sketch paper
- Strathmore Bristol paper (smooth) for fine line work. But if you have a paper that you like and works well for you, go for it!
- Tracing paper or drafting vellum for layovers (any brand)
- Waterbrush (this is a type of brush that has a fillable handle where water can come out through the bristles themselves. I've had best luck with Pentel waterbrushes - they don't suck color back up into the waterwell, which happens with some brands)
- Gouache liquid tube of white paint (small) plus small dish for mixing
- Several sheets of toned paper (Canson Mi-Tientes works well for light washes of gouache – any color)

