

Course #290SC	Figure Écorché	104 Total Hours		104 Classroom Hours
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COURSE TITLE: **Figure Écorché**

INSTRUCTOR: Morgan Dummitt (mdummitt@studioincamminati.edu)

COURSE SCHEDULE: Classes are scheduled between 8:30am and 3:45pm, Wednesdays

COURSE LENGTH: 2.5 Credit Hours, 6.5 Hours/Week 104.0 Hours/Term Meeting Pattern: 1 Day/Week
8:30am-3:45pm 16 Weeks

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course builds upon study of 2D anatomy and observation from life to provide a three-dimensional “road map” for the figure. While observation from life is most successful when focusing on a simplified understanding of the major masses of the body, a thorough understanding of the bones and muscles which underlie those forms is a crucial step forwards in understanding the human body for drawing, painting, and sculpture. We will endeavor to prioritize the overall formal conceptions from previous study even as we hone in on particular forms in Ecorche.

We will begin by modeling the bones at nearly half-life size in clay, then proceed from deep musculature to larger forms. While each muscle will be treated individually and in great detail, our aim will be to gain a practical, useful body of knowledge for future work; we are aiming to become better informed artists, not anatomists for the sake of anatomy. We will use a teaching skeleton, ecorche model, and demonstration from life to perceive these structures. We will also refer to Dr Paul Richer’s *Artistic Anatomy* and Eliot Goldfinger’s *Human Anatomy: Elements of Form*.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Develop a more profound understanding of the form of the human skeleton
- Gain a thorough understanding of the muscles of the human body
- A basis of comparative analysis between natural forms and their variation from ideals
- Learn to analyze the life model in terms of precise anatomical structures

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

Each class will begin with a lecture on the bones and/or muscles to be covered that day. Lectures will incorporate both 2D and 3D elements.

We will be making precise, careful clay models of each form under consideration. This takes a full day’s work for each student. Rather than a lengthy demo, the instructor will model an ecorche alongside the students. Students are encouraged to check in with the instructor’s work periodically to help stay on track. The majority of learning will take place through a student’s engagement with the model, skeleton, ecorche, and texts.

Each student can expect one critique in the am and one in the pm portion of the class. If additional feedback is required, they should feel free to ask at any time. There are no dumb or repetitive questions!

There is a lot of material to get through in this course. Each day will have a set goal of bones/muscles to study; if students do not complete this work during class hours, they are asked to finish by next class so as not to fall behind.

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Schedule

Please note that this schedule is tentative and will depend entirely upon student progress. Because we are literally building upon last week's lesson each class, PLEASE make every attempt to be in class every day. It may not be possible to repeat lectures.

Week Hours	Session Topic
Week #1	Introduction: Tune any deficiencies in existing armatures and build new armatures. Review syllabus, materials, texts etc. Bones of the pelvis, skull.
Week #2	Skull continued, ribcage, spine.
Week #3	Bones of the leg: Femur, Tibia, Fibula, patella, bones of the foot.
Week #4	Bones of the leg continued. Bones of the Arm: humerus, radius, ulna
Week #5	Bones of the hand. Bones of the shoulder girdle: clavicle, scapula. Last week of osteology. Complete any neglected areas.
Week #6	Muscles of the feet, deep muscles of the lower leg, surface muscles of the lower leg.
Week #7	Muscles of the upper leg.
Week #8	Muscles of the hips. Midsemester reviews
Week #9	Muscles of the lower and mid-back
Week #10	Muscles of the torso, shoulder girdle

Week #11	Muscles of the shoulder girdle, continued. Muscles of the upper back.
Week #12	Muscles of the hands and forearms
Week #13	Muscles of the upper arm. Muscles of the neck.
Week #14	Muscles of the neck, continued. Muscles of the head.
Week #15	Muscles of the head, continued.
Week #16	Final Feedback Catchall day: students should work on any areas of the figure they have neglected. Naturally some areas will be more thoroughly finished than others.

SUPPLY LIST/MATERIALS

Armature: 32-36" armature. In this class (Spring 2024) all students will be using pre-purchased armatures.

Clay:

We will be using oil based clay, which does not dry out and does not create dust. It can be reused essentially indefinitely and will serve us for both the fall and spring semesters. You will require 40lbs for the Spring Semester.

Many brands of oil clay are easily available. I recommend Chavant's "Sculptex" (Soft is easily workable and most versatile), available from Smooth-on. Smooth-on's Allentown store is only an hour's drive from Philadelphia, so if you are able to drive, I recommend saving the shipping costs.

Note that Sculptex is a replacement for a discontinued product called Klean Klay, which was for decades the standard for classroom oil clay. If you are able to get used Klean Klay, it is roughly equivalent to Sculptex soft.

Do NOT purchase cheap, low quality plastiline replacements such as Van Aken Protolina, it will not serve for professional level work. If you are in doubt about a product, please email instructor before purchasing a lot of it.

Tools:

Modeling Tools

- Clay modeling tools. You can purchase an inexpensive wooden or plastic set for under 10\$ from amazon or dick Blick. These tools are really for ceramics, not sculpture, but can be easily modified with sandpaper. These sets are useful but not required. You must however purchase the following tools:
- 11" modeling rake (<https://shop.sculpt.com/sculpture-house-11-wire-end-modeling-tool-210.html>)
- 8" hardwood tool for general modeling (<https://shop.sculpt.com/copy-of-boxwood-clay-tool-16-8in.html>)
- 10" calipers (dick Blick or the compleat sculptor)
- Cheap metal dinner knife
- **NOTE: More so than Figure Structure, ecorche is a detail-focused class and as such a variety of smaller, more slender wooden modeling tools and rakes will be critical!**
- Notepad and pencil for notes/sketches/diagrams

REQUIRED READING:

Artistic Anatomy, Richer, Dr. Paul

Human Anatomy: Elements of Form Goldfinger, Eliot

You must have both of these texts in class every day. Please note that we will be primarily relying on Dr Richer for osteology, and Goldfinger for Myology. If you have difficulty purchasing books or supplies please let me know.

Instructor: Morgan Dummitt, mdummitt@studioincamminati.edu

Please email the Instructor, Monitor or the Administration offices if you are going to be absent or late for class.