ART-9-51492-2022FA

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Spring 2023 Face to Face  
ART 9  
52453 BEGINNING PAINTING COURSE SYLLABUS  
Instructor: T. Carrera  
Phone: 559-638-0300 ext. 3250  
Office: Art 154

Office Hours: M-F 8 am -9am

Please send email and majority of communication via Canvas email (Inbox) . If for some reason you   
can’t access Canvas, THEN use my RC Email: tracy.carrera@reedleycollege.edu

CONTENT:  
This course is an exploration of the creative act of painting using representational, abstract, and   
non- objective forms.  
Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of composition and the ability to handle materials. Students   
will learn basic color theory, value, line, shape, texture and techniques including direct paint   
application, glazing, brush strokes and impasto. Issues concerning canvas differences, brush   
cleaning, mixing glazes and toxicity are addressed. Through lecture and studio practice, students   
gain introductory skills of painting within the context of a historical perspective.  
Will focus on developing basic skills  
Upon Completion of this course students should be able to: Effectively and safely use oil/ and or   
acrylic painting materials

Explain basic color theory (subtractive method) and effectively use color mixtures to create   
secondary, and tertiary and neutral hues in painting  
Use at least 4 color systems in four separate paintings

Use effectively and intelligently the elements and principles of design within paintings  
Recognize important historical periods and painters identifying specifically the culture, style,   
period and influence on contemporary painting

Critique paintings intelligently, using the vocabulary of form and content  
Paint in representational, abstract, non- objective and conceptual styles.

LECTURE CONTENT

Introduction to materials  
1. Oil and acrylic paint  
3. Substrates (canvas, paper, canvas paper, experimental supports)  
4. Toxicity  
5. Color mixing and brush techniques

Introduction to visual elements as relating to oil and acrylic painting, lectures and painting   
projects concerning application of the following elements:

1. Value structure  
2. Positive/negative space  
3. Line quality  
4. Shape relationships  
5. Texture  
6. Light  
7. Mass  
8. Space

Introduction to the principles of design as relating to oil and acrylic painting, lectures and   
painting projects concerning application of the following design principles:  
1.Unity and Variety  
2. Balance  
3. Emphasis and subordination  
4. Contrast  
5. Repetition and rhythm  
6. Scale and proportion  
D. Color theory, lectures and painting projects which apply the following color principles:  
1. Color Wheel  
2. Color systems  
3. Intensity, saturation, chroma  
4. Temperature  
E. Evaluation/ Critiques  
1. Individual Critiques  
2. Group Critiques  
3. Basic Understanding of Art Criticism Multicultural concepts included in this course:  
Lectures will mostly focus on western or European painting, but International painting examples   
will be included. Students will be expected to demonstrate they understand and can speak to   
historical and contemporary international painters.

Projects & Sketchbooks

1. Active participation in (studio) learning activities. Students follow instructions, engage in   
instructor directed exercises and assignments; participate in discussions and critiques, and work   
to build painting skills with focused, disciplined, measurable effort.

2. The following painting assignments may include, but are not limited to the following:

a. Value studies

b. Color studies

c. Compositional Studies

d. Direct application paintings

e. Glazing techniques used in paintings

f. Impasto paintings

g. Basic volume summaries with value, and light

h. Basic volume summaries with color systems

i. Paintings specifically addressing design principles

j. Representational paintings

k. Abstract paintings  
l. Non-objective paintings

m. Conceptual paintings

GRADING and weight of projects

 90% painting projects  
05% Midterm painting critique (written) 10% Final painting critique (written)  
05% Assigned Painter Research Paper due at end of semester

LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.  
TURN IN ALL PROJECTS BY THE DUE DATE AND TIME. NOT DOING SO WILL RESULT IN 0 POINTS FOR THAT   
PROJECT

GRADING: Final grades are earned. They reflect the amount of energy, effort and thought you put   
into class, your work and yourself. All work is graded on a 100-point scale:  
GRADING SCALE: 100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C; 69-60 D; 59 and  
below F.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE:  
Painting with oil paint requires serious attention to SAFETY. STUDENTS MUST FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS   
HERE. YOU ARE TO USE ONLY SAFFLOWER OR WALNUT OIL TO THIN OIL PAINT AND CLEAN BRUSHES.  
DO NOT USE LINSEED OIL. LINSEED OIL IS ETHNOTHERMIC AND CAN CATCH FIRE SPONTANEOUSLY! LINSEED OIL   
HEATS UP ON ITS OWN AND COULD POTENTIALLY BURN YOUR HOUSE DOWN.

THIS IS WHY I 100% INSIST STUDENTS USE WALNUT OR SAFFLOWER OIL ONLY.  
If a student disregards this warning and chooses to use linseed oil, they need to get a fire safe   
metal can with a lid , fill that can half way with water and dispose of used paper towels with   
linseed oil/ paint on them in that can and make sure they get submerged in the can. Keep the used   
paper towels wet. When you are ready to take them out to the garbage bin for collection, put the   
wet paper towel ‘mush’ into a plastic bag which can hold water inside of it. Make sure the sack has   
plenty of water in it. The wetter the paper towels are- the less chance they could potentially   
catch fire. I don’t want to scare you but your safety is very important to me and I want you to   
know how to ensure safety.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a learning environment. All   
members of the academic community must be confident that each persons work has been responsibly and   
honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Academic dishonesty is an extremely serious matter,   
with serious consequences. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration,   
please consult with me or the appropriate institutional department.

Suggestions for success in this class:  
Follow instructions and be totally present when you are working on assignments. Make good use of   
your time.

ART 9 SUPPLIES LIST  
Masonite board with clips or piece of masonite tempered on both sides and use blue painters tape to   
secure oil painting paper to board.  
Week 3 All painting supplies are due!

Gamblin 1980 Paint Set 9 tubes $59.00  
Strathmore brand Oil Painting paper (10 sheets) 9x12 inches OR Gessoed cotton duck canvas Panels   
NOT STRETCHED CANVAS. 8x10 inch or 9x12 inch (10 count). The reason I prefer you not get stretched   
canvas is because the student grade (cheaper ones) are not stretched properly and the surface is   
buckled. The panels are flat and coated with acrylic gesso and are widely available.  
Paper towels (at least 5 rolls)  
Palette knife (metal, not plastic- must taper to a point at the end) Brushes: 3 filbert hog bristle   
oil painting brushes sizes 2, 8 and 10  
Fast Orange hand cleaner (auto parts store) Glass Baby food jar (with lid) to hold oil  
Palette (glass or disposable paper palette with tear-off sheets or resin palette or wood if you   
prefer). Should be at least 9x12 approx. if not larger. Painting with a small palette is like   
cutting a watermelon on a tiny cutting board!  
Tackle box or container to carry materials Painting apron to protect clothing  
Questions about supplies? The time to ask is not the first day of week 3.  
I will expect students to ask questions week 1 or week 2 if they have questions around supplies   
they need to buy.  
Email me with questions. Remember, I am here to help you.  
Message me through Inbox in Canvas

Remember, I am here to help you. Please ask for clarification and help when you need it.