

ARTS-120: FUNDAMENTALS OF PAINTING

Effective Term

Fall 2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Art (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

ARTS - Arts

Course Number

120

Department

Arts (ARTS)

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Fundamentals of Painting

Short Title

Fundamentals of Painting

CB03 TOP Code

1002.10 - Painting and Drawing

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

non substantive update

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This introductory studio course focuses on the basic techniques and materials of painting, employing a wide range of painting media and subject matter. Topics include basic color theory, materials, development of both representational and abstract approaches, and strategies for intuitive, individual response to subject matter and materials in directed assignments. Designed for students with no prior experience with painting.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites**Advisory Prerequisite(s)**

Completion of ARTS-101 with a minimum grade of C.

SECTION D - Course Standards**Is this course variable unit?**

No

Units

3.00

Activity Hours

108

Outside of Class Hours

54

Total Contact Hours

108

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval**Is this course offered through Distance Education?**

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Hybrid	Emergency Only
Entirely Online	Emergency Only

SECTION E - Course Content**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Create paintings that incorporate historical and contemporary approaches to representation, material practices, and color theory.
2.	Evaluate and critique paintings and receive criticism from others.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Understand and successfully manipulate the physical and working characteristics of painting materials specific to oil, alkyd, watercolor or acrylic based paints, pigments, and mediums.
2.	Identify, organize and apply the basic formal properties of painting including shape, line, value, texture, pattern, composition and color.
3.	Understand and apply all safety rules and precautions related to the handling, storage and disposal of all painting materials and residues.
4.	Evaluate and apply the basic principles of color theory, including primary, secondary, and tertiary color relationships, hue, intensity, and value, complementary, analogous and harmonious color relationships in the creation of mimetic, representational or expressive paintings.
5.	Design and construct solid, properly prepared surfaces and supports.
6.	Analyze and apply observational methods and theories specific to the practice of painting.

7. Competently identify and manipulate the wide range of brushes and other application tools unique to painting, including flats, filberts, rounds, fans and a variety of knives.
8. Successfully apply a wide range of painting techniques including alla prima, al fresco, scumbling, glazing and others.
9. Create and implement strategies for selecting, developing and evaluating individualized content and approaches with an emphasis on solving formal and representational problems.
10. Examine and describe historical and contemporary developments, trends, materials, and approaches in painting.
11. Develop expressive content through manipulation of color, mark, value, and composition.
12. Assess and critique paintings in group, individual, and written contexts using relevant critique formats, concepts and terminology.

Course Content

1. Basic physical properties and working characteristics of painting materials specific to oil, alkyd, watercolor or acrylic based paints, pigments and mediums.
2. Organization and application of the basic formal properties of painting including shape, line, value, texture, pattern, composition, and color.
3. Safety rules and precautions related to the handling, storage and disposal of all painting materials and residues.
4. Evaluation and application of the basic principles of color theory.
5. Construction and preparation methods for painting surfaces and supports.
6. Observational theories and methods specific to painting.
7. Use and manipulation of the wide range of brushes, knives and other application tools unique to painting, including flats, filberts, rounds, fans and a variety of knives.
8. Paint application techniques including alla prima, al fresco, scumbling, glazing and others.
9. Strategies for developing individual content and approaches to painting in the context of formal, expressive, and pictorial problems.
10. Historical and contemporary developments, trends, materials, and approaches in painting.
11. Critical evaluation and critique of paintings in group, individual, and written contexts using relevant critique formats, concepts and terminology.

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Lecture	Image and video-enhanced lectures covering core concepts, terminology, and historical development of painting followed by all-class or small-group discussions on the same topics.
Lab	Instructor-guided lab / studio time to apply concepts and skills to course content through guided painting exercises. Lab time will include both one-on-one and all-group instruction.
Observation and Demonstration	Painting demonstrations covering techniques, concepts, and material applications. Observational group discussions about techniques and processes core to the demonstrations.
Critique	Oral or written group critiques analyzing finished examples of student work related to specific course assignments. Peer critiques reinforcing students' capacity to think critically about course assignments and enhance their ability to explain the results of this analysis to other students.
Field Trips	Student in this course may view artwork in the professional contexts of a gallery or museum, an activity that helps to reinforce student understanding of historical and contemporary approaches to drawing and its relationship to their own studio work.
Other	Student presentations on historical and contemporary painters covering work from a diverse range of cultures.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Chat Rooms
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
Discussions
Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation**Methods of Evaluation**

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Portfolios	Portfolios will be assessed based on successful completion of each major assignment. The particular parameters of each assignment will be applied in the assessment. The assessment of portfolios would general include evaluation evaluation of composition, accuracy in representation, completeness, craftsmanship, creativity and effort.
Oral Presentations	During group and individual critiques in oral formats students will be assessed on their participation, use of appropriate terminology and their ability to provide and accept meaningful feedback.
Class Participation	Students will be assessed on their contributions and participation in the interactive group atmosphere of the studio / lab environment. Including maintaining studio decorum, cleanliness and collegiality.
Homework	Outside-of-class assignments expanding on topics and methods presented in class will be assessed by the instructor as they relate to each specific assignment.
Projects	Individual projects based on instructor-generated assignments will be assessed as each students builds their portfolio of finished course work.
Exams/Tests	Written assignments, which may include quizzes, essays, exams, or reports.

Assignments**Reading Assignments**

Selected readings from textbook, periodicals or library collection.

For example:

1. Complete the reading from the assigned text on the expressive uses of value.
2. Complete the reading from the assigned text, covering the history and materials of oil paint.

Writing Assignments

1. Written critical analysis of a completed student or professional painting.

For example:

- a. Write a one-page essay analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of your tonal painting, keeping in mind the parameters of the assignment and related reading material.
- b. Using proper terminology and visual descriptive language write a one-page essay analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of a famous painting.

Other Assignments

Creation of a portfolio of finished paintings:

1. Completion of several paintings based on instructor generated assignments.

For example:

- a. Create a representational painting from the still-life using a split-complementary palette, adhering to the basic rules of dynamic composition.
 - b. Produce a series of small-format paintings from an interior architectural space that utilize strong contrasts of color and value to create dynamic, expressive content.
2. Verbally analyze, compare/contrast and assess student and professional paintings in group and individual critiques applying appropriate terminology and theoretical considerations.

For example:

- a. Each student in a group critique is responsible to verbally address how a painting deals with or displays a particular element of Art.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials**Material Type**

Textbook

Author

Ocvirk, Otto G

Title

Art Fundamentals: Theory and Practice

Edition/Version

12th

Publisher

McGraw Hill

Year

2012

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Mark David Gottsegen

Title

Painter's Handbook

Edition/Version

1st

Publisher

Watson-Guptill

Year

2006

Material Type

Other required materials/supplies

Course Codes (Admin Only)**ASSIST Update**

No

CB00 State ID

CCC000292348

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No