Arts 5315.401 MFA Studio Art: Painting

Spring 2013
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Office: Center for the Arts 209A
Office Hours: Campus Office - M/W 11:50 am – 12:35 pm or by appointment
Hamlin Studios Office – M/W 5:15 – 6:45 pm

Class Schedule: TR 6:30 – 9:20 pm
Location: Hamlin Studios

Course Description
Students pursuing the Master of Fine Arts in painting are expected to advance and expand at the highest level of quality of work that is possible for this program. Students must demonstrate superior studio art proficiency, knowledge of how their paintings are thematically related, and what master influences helped to define their vision. This course is part of a broader curriculum that prepares students for art-related careers and teaching at the college/university level. This entails leadership among the undergraduates through your own work ethic and through dialog with the undergraduates as needed.

The scheduled time is for painting, but students will be required to participate in scheduled critiques also. Critiques will afford the students with an opportunity to speak about their work within the context of contemporary painting, but also the larger history of painting. Influences will be investigated based on the following criteria:

Content: The theme or parameters for what needs to be said visually.
Imagery: The vehicle for the content. Imagery needed to express the content.
Application: How the paint is applied to the canvas and why.
Influence: The issues or elements that the artist was concerned with in making a painting.

All methods and mediums of producing work including drawing media will be encouraged and explored based upon the desires of each individual student.

Developing by working and reworking is an important part of the intuitive process.

Learning Outcomes
1. Students will find their way toward individual expression by having frequent critiques with the professor and committee members.
2. Students will clearly present the visual and conceptual qualities of their work.
3. Students will develop their ideas for personal growth and relate these concerns to a broad historical background of achievements in the field of art.
Graded Activity
By the end of the semester, students will have:
1. completed a total of 2 paintings, with no fewer than 40 – 60 studies completed during the first part of the semester. 2 of which will be discussed throughout the semester
The final two works will be discussed/ critiqued during the final.
2. completed a 10-15 minute presentation on their work up to date in front of their peers.

Course Critique Schedule:
Every other Wednesday, from 9:30-10:30-ish, we will CRIT at Hamlin. Students will sign up for critique. We assume that 3-4 students will critique during each hour-long session. This means that at least once per month, you will present your work to the group for critique. It can be and probably will be, work in progress. In addition, you can schedule individual critique with any of the faculty at any time. (You are encouraged to do this.)

As we feel as much feedback as possible is necessary for direct growth as artists, we will be scheduling a critique with no fewer than two - three outside guest curators / instructors during these graduate critiques.

Additional Class Activities:
As I feel the figure is always a useful tool, regardless of your chosen imagery, you will be given the option to work from the figure in Professor Scoon’s class which is running concurrently on campus. If you are not in the class using the model, you must be here in the studio working.

And lastly, as I feel that engagement with participants in the art market is important in your development as a practicing artist, I will be setting up a visit with a local collector to view their collection.

Final Grade
Critique 1 25 points
Critique 2 25 points
Critique 3 25 points
Presentations 25 points
Total 100 points

Ten-Point Grading Metric
Final grades represent many factors: however the metric below does well in describing what you can expect from your efforts.

A  100-90 Excellent work and consistent, exemplary effort
B  89-80 above average work, shows considerable growth
C  79-70 satisfactory work, some progress, good attendance
D  69-60 work needs improvement, poor attendance
Participation in Critiques
Critiques are an essential part of the creative process. Students learn as much by offering constructive feedback as by receiving it. At the graduate level, students must question the quality of their work on an ongoing basis throughout the semester.

Because painting involves personal creativity and self-expression, it is easy to feel either deflated or defensive about criticism. For this reason it is important to both give and receive criticism in a kind and caring manner.

When giving criticism, always describe what you are seeing and experiencing, rather than your opinion as it relates to your personal taste. For example, rather than saying, “I don’t like this.”, it is more constructive to say, “I’m not sure what you want me to look at first.” or, “I was drawn to this first, but then I got confused about where to go next.”, or, “This makes me feel such and such.”

When receiving criticism, listen with an open mind but be selective about the criticism you accept as valid. There may be disagreements among members of the class about your work. Everyone has a different level of visual acuity, and everyone has different personal experiences and associations that shape their opinions. The value of being in school, and in a small studio class, is not only to give and receive as much feedback as possible, but to learn how to make the most of it.

Do not take what is said about your work personally, no matter how difficult this seems. These assignments require that you take risks and try new things. Your effort and willingness to learn is a reflection of your worth as an artist.

Attendance Policy
The professor is an important facilitator in the student’s development. The graduate student must have excellent attendance to be successful in the class. Students who habitually come to class late, leave during class or leave early demonstrate negative interest and energy level. This will always affect the quality of the product in a negative way. Unexcused absences and tardiness will jeopardize your grade.

MA Committee Review
A committee of three faculty members, decided upon by the student, will review the student’s progress each semester.

Recommended Textbook
The Artist’s Handbook of Materials and Techniques by Mayer, Ralph
Mayer is the standard reference work for all technical questions on both modern and historic materials and techniques and covers everything from traditional procedures to
recipes for mediums and the chemical formulation of pigments and paints, etc.

**Studio Safety**
Because art studios use materials and tools that could be dangerous, safe and cooperative behavior by students is absolutely necessary. The studio course instructor will be the ultimate judge of cooperative as well as safe and unsafe behavior. Individuals engaging in uncooperative and/or unsafe behavior will be cautioned and instructed once by the instructor. If a second occasion of uncooperative and/or unsafe behavior occurs, that student will be un-enrolled from the course and given a “wd” with no refund of tuition and fees.

Do not use spray fix or spray adhesive inside Hamlin or near any exit. Also, please do not use tools or equipment from another lab (sculpture, painting, ceramics, printmaking, etc.) without permission.

**24 Hour Access:** You are free to use the Hamlin studios 24 hours a day for your work, but bear in mind any safety issues late at night. If you are at the studios past midnight with another person and you decide to leave, have them watch you walk to your car and drive away. If you are the only person and do not feel comfortable leaving by yourself, call the campus police at 825-4444 at anytime to escort you to you car. Remember: “When in doubt, don’t take risk and call the University Police.”

**Studio Cleanliness**
Everyone needs to help in keeping the Hamlin studio clean, your productivity and safety depends on it. The last day of class is devoted to a mandatory critique and cleanup. Anything left behind after one week after the last day of class will be discarded.

**Notice to Students with Disabilities**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.) please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class please see me as soon as possible.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466

**Grade Appeal Process**
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlines in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2 Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.