Arts 5315.401 MFA Studio Art: Painting

Instructor:  Joe Pena
Spring 2017
Class Schedule: M/MW 6:30 – 9:20 pm
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Office Hours: T/TH 5:30 – 6:20

A. MFA Studio Art: Painting (Arts 5315.401)
A Graduate painting course with the focus of working towards a total body of work.

B. FOCUS, PURPOSE AND GOALS OF COURSE:

1. COURSE PURPOSE:
Graduates pursuing a Fine Arts degree in painting at TAMUCC are expected to advance and expand at the highest level of quality of work that is possible for this program. Graduates 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.

2. COURSE GOALS: - expected student outcomes:

Technical Competency
Graduates will demonstrate a reasonably high degree of competency of technical execution appropriate to the chosen medium.

Understanding
From a selection of projects, oral presentations, critiques, sketchbooks, portfolios and/or written papers, Graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the social, visual, psychological and/or aesthetic components of art-making.

Critical Thinking
From a selection of projects, oral presentations, critiques, sketchbooks, portfolios and/or written papers, Graduates will demonstrate an awareness of the contemporary concerns in art, and can assess critically their own contribution.

Art-making
Graduates will make works of art that reflect a synthesis of competent technical execution, written understanding and critical thinking appropriate to the chosen medium. This work may involve a variety of strategies including possible combinations of traditional and nontraditional media and text.
Critiques:
The scheduled time is for painting, but Graduates 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.

Critiques are an essential part of the creative process. Graduates 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.

**Graded Activity**

**Critique 1**
1. Graduates will begin to choose a selection of three contemporary artists who influence them in some form for their presentation
2. Graduates identify the four areas (content, imagery, application, and influence) for the analysis of their chosen contemporary artists.
3. Graduates select quotes from the master painter to connect the artist’s influences to their work.
4. Graduates identify the same four areas (content, imagery, application, and influence) pertaining to their own work.
5. Graduates present at least 2 new paintings that are 40% complete, pointing out demonstrable ways in which the four areas above are evident in their work.

Critique 2
1. Graduates will present 2 paintings that are 70% complete, pointing out demonstrable ways in which the four areas (content, imagery, application, and influence) above are evident in their work.
2. Graduates will describe their paintings’ content, composition, and style.
3. Graduates will explain the personal meaning of their paintings, and how their ideas and feelings came together in imagery, color, and form.
4. Graduates will articulate the choices they made in the production.

Critique 3
1. Graduates will present 2 paintings that are 100% complete, pointing out demonstrable ways in which the student grew and developed through their work.
2. Graduates will incorporate the analysis of an artist that they identified as having influenced them in their paper as they present their own paintings.
3. Graduates will show their presentation of three contemporary influential artists.

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

Grading Criteria:
Grading will be based on the six works you complete throughout the semester and determined by progress, craftsmanship and creativity. Of the six, the lowest grade will be eliminated. The letter grade and its corresponding numerical value is as follows:

“A” (90 – 100)
- Excellent work and consistent, exemplary effort
- A strong compositional sense (ordering of edges, shapes, values, clarity, detail etc.)
- All illusions of spatial movement and volume are clear and easily understandable

“B” (80 – 89)
- Above average work, shows considerable growth
- Compositional sense is becoming stronger.
- All spatial movement and volume are clear and easily understandable

“C” (70 – 79)
- Satisfactory work, some progress, good attendance
“D” (60 – 69)
- Work needs improvement, poor attendance
- Spaces and volumes are unclear and ambiguous
- Lack of control over materials and illusions

“F” (Below 59)
- Shows little progress and effort
- Insufficient growth in skill

Sample grading: 85 + 75+ 45+ 70 + 90 + 85 = 405 / 5 = 81 (B) Final Grade

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory for your success, will be recorded during each class session and is considered as part of the professionalism element of your final grade.
You will lose a single letter grade on your fourth (4) absence.
Five (5) absences will result in the drop of another letter grade.
Six (6) absences will result in the failure of the course.
Three (3) late arrivals or early departures will result in the recording of one (1) full absence.
Students are required to attend class for the duration of the scheduled time or until the Professor dismisses the class.

Attending critiques are mandatory.

PROFESSIONAL REQUESTS:
1. Get to class on time and don’t leave early.
2. Be courteous to your fellow students.
3. I do not mind music with headphones, but it must be turned off while I speak.
4. You are here to paint, not to socialize. Hold conversations until break time.

Academic Honesty
Student Handbook: Students who violate academic integrity and regulations (see current University Catalog) by plagiarism, other academic dishonesty or disruptive behavior will be held accountable by faculty and may have their grades adjusted accordingly.

Cleanup
Keep your area clean. Unnecessary clutter will hinder your productivity and performance. All paint must be properly disposed of. Turn your lights off when you leave. Anything left behind after the cleanup will be discarded (projects, supplies, etc.)

Conduct Policy:
Here at Texas A&M University we expect students to be kind and respectful. Mean, threatening or bullying behavior or language will not be tolerated. Homophobic,
racist, sexist or hateful language or behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Disrespectful behavior of any kind will not be tolerated, including (but not limited to) talking during class after being asked to stop, disrupting classmates, talking nonstop on your phone during class, distracting classmates or making classmates uncomfortable.

If we find that a student has done any of the aforementioned, you will be asked to leave class and we will report your behavior to the chair and that day will be counted as absence.

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**GRADE APPEALS PROCESS**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf)). For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
MFA Committee Review
A committee of three faculty members, decided upon by the student, will review the student's progress each semester.