Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
Department of Art

Arts 5315.001 MFA Studio Art: Painting

Fall 2019
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Office Hours: M/W 12:00 – 2:00 pm or by appointment
Course Schedule: M/W 9:00 – 11:50am
Location: CA 209

Course Description

A. MFA Studio Art: Painting (Arts 5315.001)
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. 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.

Methods of Evaluation:
Students will be evaluated on the development and execution of their technical progress, attendance, overall improvement, their oral participation in critiques and discussions, the completion of each assignment, and the excellence of their total body of work. All work presented in class critiques must be completed unless otherwise discussed with the instructor.
Sample course schedule:

- Week 1: Introduction to Graduate Painting. Discuss materials and expectations.
- Week 2: Show preparatory sketches and resources to begin First and Second Painting
- Week 3: Continue first and second painting.
- Week 4: **Critique first and second painting completed at 40%**
- Week 5: Continue first and second painting. **Graduates will show a presentation of three contemporary artists or a skype call with a single artist. Write down desired date.**
- Week 6: Continue first and second painting.
- Week 7: **Critique first and second painting at 80%**. Show preparatory sketches and resources to begin third and fourth Painting
- Week 8: Continue Third and fourth painting. **Graduates will introduce a specific topic on art theory to the class. Write down desired date.**
- Week 9: **Critique Third and fourth painting completed at 40%**.
- Week 10: Continue third and fourth painting.
- Week 11: **Graduates will discuss no fewer than four (4) podcast episodes. Provide name of podcast, episode, and guest artist or curator**.
- Week 12: Continue working on Media Project #2. Figure Studies.
- Week 13: Thanksgiving Break begins on Wednesday
- Week 14: Critique on third and fourth painting completed at 80%. **Graduates will discuss no fewer than two (2) selections from books on art criticism.**
- Week 15: Continue paintings 1 - 4
- Week 16: **Final Critique on all paintings completed at 100%**

Final Critique: TBA
This schedule is subject to change.

**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

**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. Watching any videos, movies, shows, etc. during class is not allowed.
5. You are here to paint, not to socialize. Hold conversations until break time.

**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.)

**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.

**Textbooks**
In lieu of a textbook, the instructor will provide printed materials for the students.

**Late Work Policy**
You must be present on the day of critique. Paintings one class period late: 10 point deduction, two class periods late: 20 point deduction. After that you will receive a ZERO.

**Lockers:**
See Art Office to reserve a locker in the hallway.

**Disabilities Accommodations**
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 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.
**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.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **November 8, 2019** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Grade Appeals**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*, 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.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**Statement of Civility**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**
**Definition:** In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation of academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on [MLA documentation rules](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/) and [APA documentation rules](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/) is available at Purdue University’s OWL: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/), and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Supply List for MFA graduate painting.**

Please bring your preferred materials during the first week of class. We will be discussing your tools, techniques, applications, research processes and materials, etc. as well. Recommended size and number of works due at the end of the semester will be based on your specific process. In other words, if you prefer to work large, the required number of works may be dropped (again) based on your preferred process and application. However if you work small then the required number of works may be increased. If you feel that you are in an exploratory mode, then the number of works may be split between a larger number of experimentations and fewer completed works. Recommended materials may be purchased by myself and given to you to further your specific process.

**MFA Committee Review**

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