

ART S1530 – Painting Basics

Summer Session B: June 29-July 31
Tues. & Thurs. 1 – 4:15pm
Green Hall Rm. 210

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Please contact me if you would like individual feedback or studio visits outside of class time.



Noah Davis

Course Description

This introductory studio course focuses on the tools, techniques, and concepts of basic painting, emphasizing the development of strong observational skills. Students explore composition, value, texture, color theory, and pictorial space through assignments and individual projects in oil paint. Both traditional and contemporary approaches are introduced, with lectures and artist visits providing historical and conceptual context.

This class will afford you a certain kind of freedom and ask of you a high degree of artistic risk taking. In order to facilitate this, there are a few rules I ask you to observe in order to maintain an environment of mutual respect: There is no texting, phone, or unnecessary laptop use in class. Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. You are expected to be an active member of class discussion.

As we will undoubtedly have differences of opinion (and we *should!*) I ask that you remember that this is a school environment, and therefore we are all here to learn. Please give your

classmates the kindness and respect that you would like to receive. Make no assumptions about what they 'should' know, or what their experiences in the world have been like. Remember that being generous with each other is fundamental to our collective learning. Our goal in this class is to discover what more we can learn when we decide to learn together.

"Dominator culture has tried to keep us all afraid, to make us choose safety instead of risk, sameness instead of diversity. Moving through that fear, finding out what connects us, reveling in our differences; this is the process that brings us closer, that gives us a world of shared values, of meaningful community."

— bell hooks

Learning Objectives

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

- Create paintings that evince a working knowledge of the physical properties of painting materials.
- Organize and apply the basic formal elements and principles of design in paintings.
- Apply the principles of perceptually and theoretically based color theory to painting projects.
- Construct and prepare painting surfaces and supports.
- Develop expressive content through manipulation of mark, color, value, and composition.
- Safely handle and use studio painting materials and equipment.
- Examine and describe historical and contemporary developments, trends, materials, and approaches in painting.

Requirements

As a studio-based course, we will spend the majority of class time *painting*. Every class will begin with a discussion of the assigned homework reading, a slide lecture of a handful of artists, both historical and contemporary, a demonstration of a painting skill, quick painting exercises and extended work on your own projects.

Assignments

Outside Assignments

Every week, you will be given assignments to complete outside of class. All the outside class assignments are linked to the development of the in-class projects and are crucial for fully understanding the class material. These paintings will be part of your final portfolio.

You will have to dedicate between 5 to 10 hours of time per week beside the scheduled class time towards this course. Be mindful of your time and try to isolate time each week for your studio work. Painting requires drying time and this is something you cannot rush.

All assignments are due at the beginning of the specified class and are to be presented at the

scheduled critique to receive full credit. Work should be properly installed and presented for critique.

Readings

When readings are due, we will take time for short reading discussions. The readings range from short texts on painting, articles on artists or exhibitions and critical theory texts that relate to painting. In this section of the class your participation is vital for the development of the course. I will be there as support, but the development of the dialogue depends on the group's active participation.

For each of the reading assignments I will ask every student in the class to formulate one question in relation to the reading and bring this question to class for the day of the discussion.

Sketchbook

You will need to keep an active sketchbook practice during the term. Beside using your sketchbook as a visual journal and thinking tool for the exploration of painting projects and ideas, the sketchbook will be your recipe book. In many ways painting relates to cooking, and you will find the right surface preparation for your style and ideas, the just right medium preparation that suits your gesture and brush stroke, the timing for drying, etc. Use your sketchbook to record this information as you develop ideas in it. It will become an invaluable source of information for the future.

Assessments & Grading

60% - Projects: weekly assignments + sketchbook

10% - Readings + questions/comments + critique participation

15% - Attendance and Participation

15% - Self-directed final project and personal statement

Course Policies

Attendance & Lateness Policy

Regular attendance in all classes is required. Students are expected to arrive on time and remain in class for the entire period scheduled. The responsibility for work missed due to any type of absence rests with the student. Attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences will result in a student failing the class. Three early departures or late arrivals is equivalent to one unexcused absence. Any exceptions are up to the discretion of Alexandria. You will be allowed **one** unexcused absence before it affects your passing grade. I suggest you use this very wisely. Three unexcused absences results in failing the course.

Cellphone and Electronic Device Policy

Cellphones and other mobile devices should not be used during class time under any circumstances and should be away for the duration of class. This means: no texting, no phone calls, no email, no waiting for messages. Students are strongly encouraged to take notes by hand in their sketchbooks devoted to this course.

All enrolled students are permitted use of the classroom outside of class time to complete assignments. Students are responsible for properly cleaning up after painting sessions. Classroom access ends after the final class on Thurs. July 30th.

Academic Integrity

This class is committed to the principles of intellectual honesty and integrity. Students are expected to present only that which is their own work in projects and assignments. Copying and using AI without acknowledging the original author and citation is considered [plagiarism](#).

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging

This class is structured as an inclusive community, dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and the development of critical thinking skills. It acknowledges the differences in our community and the variation of our knowledge and skill sets because of (but not limited to) race, class, gender, identity, and experience. As a community we will strive to preserve the freedom of thought and expression of all our members in a culture of inclusivity, empathy and openness. The respect and wellbeing of every individual in our class is important.

Accessibility

Any student who feels they may require accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately at the beginning of the semester to discuss specific needs.

Academic & Wellness Supports

All students have extensive access to academic and wellness support. If you are struggling, please do not hesitate to consult myself or your college dean or utilize the links below for support:

<https://yalecollege.yale.edu/getting-help/getting-academic-help>

<https://yalecollege.yale.edu/life-yale/health-well-being>

Class Schedule

subject to revision according to class needs

Week 1 : The Still Life

Week 2: The Landscape

Week 3: The Self-Portrait

Week 4: The Remix

Week 5: Freedom in Constraint: Independent Project