ARTZ 321.01: Painting II - Contemporary Themes

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Recommended Citation
Bell, Kevin J., "ARTZ 321.01: Painting II - Contemporary Themes" (2021). University of Montana Course Syllabi. 12488.
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ARTZ 321, section 02, Painting II: the Figure and Landscape.

3 Credits

Instructor: Kevin Bell
Office: Room 203, Fine Art Building, kevin.bell@umontana.edu (Email is best).
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00am-1:00pm
Meeting times: 3:00-4:50pm, Tues. and Thurs, FA 404
Autumn 2021

COURSE DESCRIPTION (catalogue): “Development of painting skills and concepts with an emphasis on contemporary ideas, process and materials. Studio practicum, lectures, critiques, reading and writing.”

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Contemporary artists regularly revisit and reconfigure traditional subjects to speak about our world around us. The human figure and landscape are both have long fascinated artists and recently reemerged as an important subjects for current painters. This course introduces the rich discussion that surrounds the figure and landscape in painting. Our goals are three-fold: 1.) you will explore issues and ideas of the figure/landscape in our post-modern culture and 2.) you will become familiar with various contemporary approaches, processes and strategies. 3.) you will gain proficiency with technical issues important to both subjects.

FORMAT:
Painting. The majority of our time will be spent painting. We will intersperse learning from live models with larger assignments relating to the figure, body, narrative and identity. While each project provides structure, I encourage you to interpret all assignments loosely and creatively, based on your personal interests and direction. Your solutions might even veer away from actual depictions of the figure at times!
Reading. Periodically I will be assigning you readings that relate to assignments and issues addressed in class. They will be placed on reserve in the Resources Room, and you are required to read them!
Critiques. Critiques are valuable to artists at all stages of their career. These discussions allow students to learn from each other and their instructor, evaluate themselves, and to utilize their growing visual vocabulary. I will guide these discussions and offer my feedback, but ultimately expect the class as a whole to speak more than myself in response to each other’s artwork. Please come ready to talk and offer your insights and suggestions.
Presentations. Looking at other artists is important to your development as a painter. Learning how others use paint and approach different subjects can add depth and richness to your work. To this end, I will ask you to read about an artist, write a short essay, and present a short discussion to the rest of the class. I will provide a list of potential artist you can choose from. You are also welcome to select an artist that does not appear on the list, with my consent.
Homework: Expect to spend 5 hours a week outside of class. If you are not sure what you need to be doing over the weekend, make sure you come see me before you leave on Wednesday’s class. This studio is available for your use when no other class is meeting. (No classes are scheduled in this studio on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and are a perfect time to work.)
Two hours go by quickly in a studio so it is also important that you are set up and ready to go by 10:00am. Information about assignments is usually discussed at the beginning of the class and it is distracting to others to be setting up late.

PARTICIPATION. Participation is an important part of this course, and you will be expected to engage in every class. Please make sure you show up will all material each class.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT
Grades will reflect
- Quality of work (75%)
  - Completion of assignment with a high level of commitment.
  - Understanding of new concepts
  - Willingness to take chances
- Presentation (5%)
- Participation (20%)
  - Attendance
  - Contributions to critiques
  - Classroom etiquette, and facility care

If you are present, engaged and working to understand new things, progress will come inevitably.

I will give you verbal feedback on each of your paintings during scheduled group critiques and through written comments on completed assignments. A final one-on-one critique will be scheduled at the end of term to discuss your work. Additionally, I would be happy to meet before this to discuss your progress if you wish.

Attendance: Success in painting is almost entirely a function of effort. It is important to arrive on time, with all materials, and be ready to work. Usually at the beginning of each class I will discuss important concepts and issues that will guide the day’s assignment, and each assignment builds on previous work. It is therefore nearly impossible to make up missed class and it is essential that you are committed to arriving on time and attending every class. More than 3 missed classes or consistent lateness will result in a lowered grade. (For example, from B+ to B).

If you miss a class, please ask a fellow classmate about what you missed. It is often very hard to find a time to meet and summarize the class for you. Instead of contacting me to find out what you missed, instead have the email of at least one fellow classmate you can contact. I will post all lectures and assignments on Moodle.

MATERIALS.
You are welcome to work in either acrylic or oil, which ever is your personal preference. If you choose oil, you MUST make underpaintings in acrylic, as too much solvent on a canvas produces harmful vapors.
Stay connected:
Please join SVMA social media to stay informed about events and happenings in our school.
  - Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/umt_svma/
  - Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UMTsvma

Student Art Collective  *(this is primarily for art students)* The collective is a student-organized and student-led group that sponsors art related workshops, events, and the Annual Juried Student Art Show. Look for informational posters. *The Director recommends soliciting student participation in art classes.*

UM COVID Guidelines for in-person instruction

- Mask use is required within the classroom or laboratory.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don’t come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. (Add specific information about how you, as the instructor, will continue providing course materials to students in quarantine or isolation.)
- (If instructors are comfortable sharing or including this) UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
- Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.
- (If applicable) Mask use is required in vehicles when traveling to field sites as part of class/fieldwork.
- (If applicable) Please note this class is being recorded. Notifying students is a requirement if this is the case.

If a student requires a COVID-related accommodation in order to safely attend, they should be referred to the Office of Disability Equity (ODE).

**Student Support Resources**

**Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:** “This Code of Conduct embodies and promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, and duties associated with citizenship as a student in our community at the University of Montana. This Code exists to protect the interests of the community and dignity of its members, and to challenge those behaviors which are not in accordance with our policies”. The Code is available for review online at https://staging.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/student-code-of-conduct-2021-2022.pdf

**Accommodations:** “Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting the DSS office. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction
through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). For more information, please consult http://www.umt.edu/disability.”

The Writing and Public Speaking Center provides one-on-one tutoring to students at all levels and at any time in the writing process. Visit now. Visit often. We’re ready when you are. www.umt.edu/writingcenter.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy: The University of Montana is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, visit https://www.umt.edu/diversity/resources/mental-health.php

College of the Arts and Media Statements.

Land Acknowledgement: "The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come."

Inclusion Policies:
The University of Montana values leadership, engagement, diversity, and sustainability, because our institution is committed to respect, welcome, encourage, and celebrate the differences among us. As members of the University of Montana community, we aspire to:

- Respect the dignity and rights of all persons.
- Practice honesty, trustworthiness, and academic integrity.
- Promote justice, learning, individual success, and service.
- Act as good stewards of institutional resources.
- Respect the natural environment.