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ARTZ 321.01: Painting II - Contemporary Themes

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SCHOOL OF VISUAL
AND MEDIA ARTS

Course Information

Painting II: Contemporary Themes
ARTZ 321 01
71076
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Instructor Information

Steven Krutek
steven.krutek@umt.edu
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Room 412, Fine Arts Building (FA)

Class Meeting Time and Place

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00 PM – 4:50 PM, Room 404, Fine Arts Building (FA)

Course Description

Continued development of painting skills and concepts with an emphasis on contemporary ideas and approaches. Topics may include: figuration, place, process, abstraction, and other contemporary themes.

Course Objectives

At painting's (and art's) core is the exploration of ideas. This class will engage with contemporary themes and will ask you to respond with your own "take" on a variety of ideas important to modern culture. Many assignments this term are inspired by the topics of major national art exhibitions. Your work therefore will parallel the discourse in the greater art world and wider culture.

Contemporary painting is not just one style or outlook, but is in fact open to a wide variety of possibilities, from new ways of working and combining to unexpected subject matter. During this class we will utilize experimental, nontraditional, and alternative-methods approaches important to artists working today.

Format

Painting Assignments: The majority of our time will be spent painting. While much of the class will be spent on several larger assignments, we will also may have smaller exercises so that you become familiar with various new processes. While each project provides structure, I encourage you to interpret loosely and

creatively, based on your personal interests and direction. Accompanying most major assignments will be a written description and/or like images, which will be available on Moodle.

Demonstrations: At several points throughout semester I will be demonstrating various techniques, including printing with paint, encaustic, digital and various gessos.

Reading: Periodically I will be assigning you readings that relate to assignments and issues addressed in class. They will be on Moodle, and you are required to read them! I ask that you keep a journal recording your impressions from the reading.

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 *may* ask you to read about an artist, research images and present a short discussion to the rest of the class. You will select any artist of your choice, but he/she must be living and you must provide me with a link for approval.

Homework: Expect to spend at least 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 Thursday's class. The painting 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.)

Learning Outcomes

- Creative Thinking: Knowledge and competence in creative problem-solving as it relates to meaningful visual, audio and narrative communication.
- Critical Thinking: Knowledge and competence in the ability to analyze creative content from the past and present, and articulate the cultural and social impacts.
- Technical Skills: Knowledge and competence in technical skills and basic processes in a variety of media, appropriate for chosen field of study.
- Creative Literacy/Language/Informed Aesthetic: Demonstrate knowledge of audio, visual and/or narrative language in both creation and analysis of creative work, which include stylistic, comparative, historical and formal analysis.

Course Workload

You will find a syllabus below, which lists the concepts we will undertake by the week. Expect at least five hours of work outside of class per week for completion of projects and assignments. Individual and/or group critiques may coincide with the completion of the art assignments. Students are required to thoroughly evaluate their own artwork, others' artwork, as well as understand/accept criticism given by others.

To be successful in this class, each student must:
Participate with all materials/resources in class and on Moodle
Actively participate with discussions concerning work
Complete all assignments on time
Keep notes on technical information
Help maintain a safe, clean, and organized studio
FYI: I will not accept work turned in for another course

Syllabus

August 30 – September 13: Original Painting Inspired by Three Artists from New American Paintings

September 15 – September 29: Paradox Painting

October 4 – October 18: Experimentation with Alternative Processes in Painting

October 20 – November 3: Contemporizing, Personalizing, and Painting Imagery from an Old Photograph

November 8 – November 22: Changing Political Realities

November 29 - December 8: The Body, Your Body

December 14, 3:20: DESIGNATED FINAL MEETING DAY AND TIME---STUDIO CLEAN-UP, FINAL PAINTINGS WILL BE RETURNED AND SEMESTER GRADES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED

Materials

Painting II requires you to purchase your own supplies, which I recommend you do very soon through an online vendor such as Dick Blick, Amazon, etc. Below you will find a detailed supply list, which is similar to what you likely had in Painting I. Some supplementary materials will be provided by the School of Visual and Media Arts.

You do not have to purchase all the items on the list. If you think you already have a suitable substitute, please use it/them. I'm also not married to the brands recommended below---the choice in brand is yours.

You are welcome to work in either acrylic or oil, whichever is your personal preference. If you choose oil, you SHOULD make under-paintings in acrylic, as too much solvent on a canvas produces harmful vapors.

THE LIST:

PAINT

Oil Paint

Oil paint is the preferred type of paint for this class. However, we may be using acrylic paint for early assignments and definitely for under-paintings, as it is less toxic. If you already have a substantial amount of acrylic paint, you may use acrylics entirely, but check with me first.

Oil Paint Pick up 37ml tubes, (except for white). M. Graham paint is recommended.

- Cadmium Red Light or Red Medium
- Ultramarine Blue
- Cadmium Yellow Medium or Hansa Yellow
- Bright Purple, such as Dioxide Purple
- Viridian Green
- Burnt Umber
- Burnt Siena
- Titanium White (large 50ml Tube)

Note: Cadmiums and Cobalts tend to be very expensive but very beautiful. You can substitute a cheaper version, such as a "Hue" or similar color if you wish. Try to avoid Quinacridone or Phthalo colors, as they are strongly staining and hard to control.

Optional colors

- Cerulean Blue
- Cobalt Blue
- Alizarin Crimson
- Yellow Ochre

Brushes

Connoisseur Synthetic

- #12 bright or flat
- 2--#6 bright or flat
- #6 round
- #2 flat

Acrylic Paint

- Acrylic Ivory Black 37ml, Golden brand is recommended
- Acrylic Titanium White 37ml, Golden brand is recommended
- Ultramarine Blue or Cobalt Blue
- Cadmium Red Light
- Cadmium Yellow
- Ivory Black

Brushes: Connoisseur Synthetic: #12 round (*This is in addition to brushes recommended for oils. Some people don't mix and match acrylic brushes with oil brushes but if you clean brushes thoroughly this is perfectly fine*)

Other Materials

- White Acrylic Gesso, either Golden or Utrecht. You may want to share a gallon-size with another student to save money.
- 1 Cheap 2-inch brush for gesso
- Surface to paint on: pre-stretched canvas, "you-stretched" canvas, canvas board(s), heavy paper like Arches or Reeve's BFK.
- Painter's tape---I recommend the Frog Tape brand
- Water container, such as a yogurt container

- Palette knife, preferably with a “bent” handle
- Palette: any large, non-absorbent, flat portable surface will work. For example: enamel coated or varnished wood, cookie sheet, thick glass with tapered or taped edges, an old window, Plexiglas, or disposable palettes. Try to acquire a surface that is 20” x 20” or larger
- Painting materials storage box (optional)
- Wear Clothes that you can get paint on!

Solvents

- For Oil: 16 oz Gamisol ONLY. Terpenoid, Odorless mineral spirits (OMS), low-grade mineral spirits and turpentine are prohibited due to their toxicity.
- For Acrylic: water

Paint Medium

- For Oil: 75 ml Liquin
Linseed or walnut oil
- For Acrylics: Matte or Gloss Heavy-body Medium

Support (or surface)---AGAIN

Do not buy all ahead of time. I will let you know which support you will MAY need for each assignment.

- Quality paper, such as Reeve’s BFK or Arches. Mount with tape on a hard board.
- Un-tempered Masonite
- High-finish plywood, like birch or mahogany door veneer
- Canvas Boards
- Pre-stretched canvas
- Canvas and Stretcher bars

Miscellaneous

- Liquid dish soap
- Metal Medium cup with screw cover
- Lidded jars
- Soap, either Murphy’s Oil Soap or Master Brush cleaner
- Gloves
- Charcoal, pencil and sketch book
- Paper towels or rags

Textbooks (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

Marilyn Scott. The Acrylic Artist’s Bible, published by Chartwell Books (2009)

ISBN 10: 0785819444 ISBN 13: 9780785819448

Marilyn Scott. Oil Painter’s Bible, published by Chartwell Books (2009)

ISBN 10: 785819428 ISBN 13: 9780785819424

You can get these used or new through Amazon or another book dealer of your choice (I recommend AbeBooks.com). The UM Bookstore currently only has a limited number of copies.

Grading and Assessment

Late work is not accepted. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please contact the instructor. Extra credit is not offered for this course.

A total number of points will be formulated from studio projects, critiques/reflections, and class attendance. The percentage of points earned will be assigned letter grades as follows:

100-93 = A

92-90 = A-

89-88 = B+

87-83 = B

82-80 = B-

79-78 = C+

77-73 = C

72-70 = C-

69-68 = D+

67-63 = D

62-60 = D-

59-BELOW = F

Grades will reflect

- Quality of work (70%)
 - Completion of assignment with a high level of commitment
 - Understanding of new concepts
 - Willingness to take chances
- Participation (30%)
 - "Attendance"---please see below
 - Contributions to critiques
 - Online etiquette and care in presentation of your work

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

***I am always willing to discuss your work with you on an individual basis; you'll just have to reach out to me through my e-mail address if we are unable to communicate in class. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO BE A GREAT COMMUNICATOR WITH ME.

Attendance/Absence Policy

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Students are expected to arrive on time and be in class for its entire duration. All absences regardless of cause (sleeping in/travel/medical emergency/family emergency), follow the guidelines below:

- + Two absences/late arrivals/leaving early = No grade change
- + Three to four absences/late arrivals/leaving early = One full grade drop
- + Five to six absences/late arrivals/leaving early = Two full grades dropped
- + More than six absences/late arrivals/leaving early = Retake course

Lectures, discussions, demonstrations, and instructions missed will not be repeated; the absent student must obtain notes and information from another student.

Cell Phone Policy

Please refrain from using your cell phone in class, unless the instructor has given permission for the sake of visual and/or other related research. If you need to answer or make a call, please do so by excusing yourself from the classroom in an unobtrusive manner.

Extra Credit Policy

There will be no extra credit offered for this course.

General Health and Safety Policies

The UM School of Visual and Media Arts uses environmentally-sound methods. Spray fixatives may not be used inside the studio/classroom facilities. They may be used outside or in an approved spray booth. Acrylic media are water-based and acceptable. All are should be available at our bookstore.

You will be individually responsible for clean up at the end of each of your classroom working periods, both during and between classes.

During the last week of the semester students will be removing all studio work from the art facilities. No work should remain in the building beyond the end of the semester.

No creatures or children under the age of 18 will be allowed in studio during class time or open studio times.

No food or open beverage containers are allowed in the School of Visual and Media Arts facilities when art-making is in progress. Students may take a snack break by stepping out of the studio/classroom in necessary and approved.

The use of studio space requires enrollment in a specific studio course or a course that incorporates studio practices. Hours are from 7 AM – 11 PM daily.

Covid-19 Policy

The University of Montana requires masks for every course being held in a classroom, lab, or studio until otherwise informed.

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. If such support is necessary the instructor will work out a plan directly with the student to serve his, her, or their needs.

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.

Mask use is required in vehicles when traveling to field sites as part of class/fieldwork.

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.

The College of the Arts and Media at the University of Montana, has chosen to actively pursue equity and access for all persons. In this charge we will be researching, planning, and implementing ways in which our culture can be more accessible, inclusive, equitable, sustainable. It is not enough to be anti-bias in principle without being equitable in action. We will implement these actions organized by a group of students, faculty, and staff across the entire College in an ongoing way.

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-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 Well-Being 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>

Stay Connected

Please join SVMA (School of Visual and Media Arts) 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.

Content Notification

Art scholarship and art practice along with teaching and learning involve a critical exploration of ideas, theories, art-making practices, and art movements that encompass such things as the human body, sexuality, race, gender, religions, and cultures. This course can touch upon any of the above categories with an expectation that students will actively participate in all course assignments, discussions, and tests. Given this information, it is the student's obligation to determine that the requirements conflict with his or her core beliefs. If the student determines that there is a conflict with his or her beliefs, one of the following actions needs to be taken: 1) drop the class before the last day to drop a course without penalty; 2) meet with the instructor within the first week of classes to determine if an accommodation can be made. (Note, faculty are not required to grant content accommodations.)