

## Moravian College Studio Art

Course number and title: ART 180 Painting 1

Semester: Spring 2013

Meeting time and location: 1:15pm – 3:45pm Tues / Thurs, Room 9

Instructor: Matthew Shelley

Office Hours: Before or after class by appointment only

Instructor contact: email: shelleym@moravian.edu / matthewgshelley@gmail.com

### Course description:

This class will cover the basic principles and disciplines of painting. Throughout the semester, students will work with the core ideas needed to observe, critique and practice introductory painting techniques. Demonstrations and group critique will solidify formal skills and prepare students for intermediate and advanced study in studio art. Through weekly lessons students will build representational skills in painting with exercises in drafting, under painting, shape, color, texture, and finishing washes. Coursework will focus on each step needed to create a well constructed and intelligently crafted painting. This class is designed to provide students with the tools necessary to approach painting from a well rounded and confident perspective, focusing on the formal and conceptual elements that define the medium.

### Course materials:

This course uses an art kit, which includes all materials needed for in class projects as well as take home assignments. Occasional reading will be given in the form of handouts and excerpts from the class textbook. The ability to participate in class discussion on these readings will impact the final discussion and participation grades.

### Course Goals:

- To develop craft and understand material functions
- To develop skills in composition and design
- To increase visual literacy and vocabulary
- To analyze artwork and exercise critical thought
- To understand historical and contemporary context

### Course Requirements:

- Students are required to work a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of class
- Students must be prepared, ready to work, and focused at all times
- Students must engage coursework directly at all times with strict adherence to lesson objectives
- Students are required to participate in class discussion and critique
- Students are required to attend the art department field trip

### Attendance:

The Art Department established this department-wide attendance policy to apply to students in all art classes. For classes that meet twice a week (most full-unit studio courses, most day art history classes): After the second unexcused absence, final grade will be dropped by one full letter. After the fourth unexcused absence, students will receive a failing final grade.

### Absences:

An excused absence is one confirmed by a note from the Dean's Office, Student Services, the Learning Center, or verified with a doctor's note (within 24 hours of illness). A death in the family should be confirmed with Student Services. Documentation is required for sports. Coach should email a note to instructor confirming matches, meets, departure time for away games, or anything that would require absence from class. Practice is not an excused absence. Job interviews or doctor's / dentist's appointments are not to be scheduled during class. Missing extended portions of the class, or arriving more than 15 minutes tardy will count as an unexcused absence.

The following count as unexcused absences

- More than 15 minutes late for class
- Failure to bring supplies to class
- Failure to return from break
- Leaving class half an hour or more early
- Being tardy more than 3 times. Tardiness: being 5 to 15 minutes late for class
- If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility (not the professor's) to find out what you missed and to catch up in a timely manner.

Participation:

Participation is enormously important in this class. No other component of the work here is as important as active participation. It is understood that each student will have a different skill set and approach to painting. Because of this, there is no grading curve and your artistic skills will not be evaluated against your peers. Painting involves skills that take a lifetime to develop. With this in mind, you will not be graded based on the success or failure of your paintings, but the extent to which you engage the curriculum and challenge yourself.

Group Discussion:

This class involves analyzing and critiquing studio work and homework assignments. Daily assignments will be addressed by the class as a group and students are expected to contribute to the conversation. The expectation for this discussion will be reasonable, but students should be capable of utilizing class concepts and vocabulary.

Sketchbooks:

Students will be required to keep a sketchbook of organized assignments outside of class. The criteria for sketchbooks will be outlined in a separate handout. Sketchbooks will be collected regularly throughout the semester. Ultimately, sketchbooks represent 10% of the final grade. During weeks when independent projects are assigned, students may be excused from working in sketchbooks. This should be clearly documented by recording dates and assignments in sketchbooks. Sketchbook assignments may not always involve direct drawing and may be structured around reading assignments or other class study. Your sketchbook is a tool for recording the work that you do outside of class and should reflect your research and study of painting.

Digital Portfolio:

Students will be required to document their work and submit no less than 10 images on a disk at the end of the semester. This project is required and contributes 5 points toward final grades.

Homework and Final Projects:

Homework will be focused on active studio work, but may include occasional reading and note taking from the class textbook and handouts. Painting requires practice, and in order to gain the skills necessary to improve students must devote personal time to studying class techniques, ideas, and vocabulary. Homework assignments will include drawing and sketchbook work, short studies, and fully developed paintings. These assignments will be checked weekly and included in class discussions. Painting subjects may be assigned, or free choice depending on the lesson.

The final project will be a single painting developed over the second half of the semester. The subject and approach will be free choice, but work should reflect the ideas covered during class lessons. Final projects will receive progress reports and active critique on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. All projects should be created from live models, still life, landscape, etc... No photographs; direct observation only.

#### New York City Field Trip:

On April 5<sup>th</sup> all students will travel to New York City for a gallery / museum tour. A five-paragraph paper will be assigned as a response to the field trip. The paper is a basic report of museum activities and should consist of an introduction, a body (description of 1 to 3 artworks), and a conclusion. This assignment will contribute 5 points to the final grade. More information about the trip will be distributed prior to the trip, and look for emails from the Art Office with itineraries, bus assignments, and additional trip info. There will be an alternative trip on a weekend date to be announced for those unable to attend the April 5 trip.

#### Reading:

Occasional readings may be distributed. The material covered will be a part of class discussion and will contribute to your participation and discussion grades. This class uses a required textbook which should be studied and engaged just as in any other class. Our emphasis is on studio work, but students should always have the textbook at hand and be familiar with its contents. Painting is a discipline, and in order to understand the medium's issues, students must be prepared to devote legitimate study and research.

#### Mid-term and final quiz:

The mid-term and final quiz will consist of short answer questions regarding vocabulary and concepts covered during class exercises. Students will be given a study guide to prepare for each quiz.

#### Grading:

There are a total of 100 points in this class. All points will be added up and applied to the standard numeric grading scale. For example, class participation accounts for 20 points, or 20% of the final grade. Class points will be applied as follows.

Class participation = 20 points

Class Discussion = 10 points

Sketchbook = 10 points

Homework = 10 points

Independent projects = 20 points

Mid-term quiz = 10 points

Final quiz = 10 points

NYC Paper = 5 points

Digital Portfolio = 5 points

\*No late assignments will be accepted\*

#### Assignment Grading:

- Class participation:  
Non-participatory = 0-5, Low quality =5-10, Acceptable = 10-15, High Quality = 20
- Class Discussion:  
On a scale of 1 – 10 points questions and comments were insightful and utilized class concepts and vocabulary
- Sketchbooks:  
Unacceptable work = 0, Low quality = 3-6, Acceptable =6-8 , High Quality = 8-10
- Homework:

Unacceptable work = 0, Low quality = 3-6, Acceptable =6-8 , High Quality = 8-10

- Final Project:

Undeveloped / unacceptable work = 5 and below, Low quality work / needs development = 10, Ample time and development = 15, Outstanding research and practice = 20

- Mid-term and final quiz:  
10 questions each worth 1 point
- NYC paper:

Subjects reviewed and class vocabulary used = 5 points

- Digital Portfolio:

Work is clearly photographed with 10 legible examples = 5 points

\*Instructor reserves the right to apply qualitative judgment to these assignments\*

#### Additional Information:

##### Saving and disposing of artwork:

Students should save examples of their work from all classes (particularly beginning studio classes) for the sophomore review. Work will also be collected and photographed by instructor to document class progress. A demonstration on how to photograph artwork will also be given.

##### Disability:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

##### Academic Honesty Policy:

Cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated and will result in a 0 or F. Written assignments are designed to engage students with material covered in class through visual participation and personal reaction. Papers must be your own thoughts, impressions and reactions. The Internet can provide valuable source material, but you must participate by visiting the artwork yourself, in person, and offering your own viewpoint. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Be aware that I am very familiar with art websites, such as the Metropolitan Museum's, when you write your papers.

Class Schedule: Painting 1: Spring Semester  
\*Class dates and lessons subject to change\*

Week 1:

\*January 14 Spring Semester begins\*

Jan 15: Introductions: Class syllabus, materials and preparatory drawing.

Jan 17: Materials and Handling: Short paintings familiarize students the properties of oil paint. Paper, Raw Umber.

HW: 6 hrs work in sketchbook

\*Payne Gallery reception for Constance Garrow Diamond *Sustainability in Painting*\*

Week 2:

\*Jan 21: MLK Day: No classes, offices open\*

Jan 22 - 24: Drawing: Still life practice explores "drawing" with paint. 4 canvas sheets, raw umber, burnt sienna.

HW: 3 hrs sketchbook, 1 painting on canvas sheet (3hrs)

Week 3:

Jan 29 - 31: Under Painting and Composition: Short still life paintings examine shape, value, and composition as the foundations of oil painting. 2 to 4 (11 x 14) canvas panels, raw umber, burnt sienna, titanium white.

HW: 3 hrs sketchbook, 1 painting on canvas sheets (3hrs)

Week 4:

Feb 5 – 7: Value: Under Painting with Value and Light Direction. Figure session with emphasis on value. 1 (11 x 14) canvas panel, raw umber, burnt sienna, titanium white. 1 (14 x 18) canvas panel, raw umber, burnt sienna, titanium white.

HW: 3 hrs sketchbook, 1 painting on canvas sheet (3hrs)

Week 5:

Feb 12 – 14: Color: Monochromatic paintings from week 4 figure studies are furthered with additional figure session by adding color, refining forms, and building texture. Week 4 canvases, full palette, medium.

HW: 3 hrs sketchbook, 1 painting on canvas sheet (3hrs)

\*Study guide for mid-term quiz\*

Week 6:

Feb 19: Quiz and Critique: \*Mid-term quiz Tuesday, February 19. Vocabulary and short answer (10 points)\* Group discussion (1 or 2 pieces / student).

Feb 21: Open Session: Single session still life painting. 1 (11 x 14) canvas panel, full palette, medium.

HW: 6 preliminary drawings for final projects in sketchbooks

\*Payne Gallery reception for Karl Stirner *Transformations*\*

Week 7:

Feb 26 – 28: Practice Session: Multi-session figure painting is used to practice class concepts and refine skills. 1 (18 x 24) canvas panel, full palette, medium.

HW: Begin final projects. 1 (16 X 20) stretched canvas full palette, medium.

Week 8:

\*March 2 through March 11 off for Spring Break\*

Week 9:

March 12 – 14: Color: Class work explores temperature with class interior as the subject. 1 (14 x 18) canvas panel, full palette, medium.

HW: 3 hrs sketchbook, 3 hrs final project

Week 10:

March 19 – 21: Color: Planar Analysis: Color, geometry, and temperature are used to focus on shifting planes in space with geometric still life. 2 canvas sheets, full palette, medium.

HW: 3 hrs sketchbook, 3 hrs final project

Week 11:

March 26 -28: Color: Class work focuses on hue and saturation to build color and create pictorial depth w/ class interior as subject.

1 (14 x 18) canvas panel, full palette, medium.

HW: 3 hrs sketchbook, 3 hrs work on week 11 painting

\*March 29: Good Friday – no classes\*

Week 12:

\*April 1: Easter Monday no day classes (evening classes are held)\*

April 2 – 4: Opacity: Still life painting explores medium, transparency, and opacity to communicate texture and physicality. Light direction, temperature, and finishing varnishes are applied to earlier classwork.

1 (16 x 20) canvas panel for new work, early uncompleted paintings, full palette, medium.

HW: 3 hrs sketchbook, 3 hrs work on week 12 painting

\*April 5: New York Trip (see handout)\*

Week 13:

April 9 – 11: Open Session: Using landscape to refine class concepts from weeks 1 -12. 1 (18 x 24) canvas panel, full palette, medium.

HW: 6 hrs final project

Week 14:

\*April 14 Payne Gallery – Senior Thesis Exhibition opening (afternoon)\*

April 16 – 18: Open Session: Still life arrangement to practice class concepts from weeks 1 – 13.

1 (16 x 20) canvas panel, full palette, medium.

HW: 6 hrs final project

Week 15:

\*April 23: Final Projects due / digital portfolios due / all homework assignments / sketchbook assignments complete\*

April 23: Final Critique (Group A). Presentation of portfolios and projects. Each student is provided with 15 – 20 minutes of peer and instructor critique. Students should be prepared to talk about their work practicing the vocabulary and concepts introduced this semester.

April 25: Final Critique (Group B). Same as above.

\*April 26: Classes end\*

Week 16:

April 30: Individual Critique (Group A). Individual 20 minute reviews.

May 2: Individual Critique (Group B). Individual 20 minute reviews