ART 10 W: An Introduction to Oil Painting  
Instructor: Brett Amory

Description

This course offers an introduction to oil painting techniques, materials, and vocabulary used in oil painting. We will focus on the still life as our subject matter. Using a limited palatte, students will learn about the importance of value—the main tool we have for creating the illusion of three-dimensional forms on a flat surface and the ways light and shadow establishes the contrast and contour shape of the object—as well as color harmony and the ways in which the medium can be used. Students will also gain an understanding of warm and cool colors, composition, cropping, overlapping, and placement in the picture plane. Finally, we will cover how to prepare a work area that enables a painter to focus for extended periods of time, how to properly stage a still life, and how to paint from a photograph, which will be the final painting assignment. Students will leave the course with a solid understanding of oil painting techniques and how to start and finish a painting from life and from a photograph.

Course Objectives

- Students will learn oil painting techniques and how light and shadow interact with the 5 Basic Forms.
- Students will work with a limited palette to gain an understanding of warm and cool colors and learn about paint application to achieve a traditional thin to thick approach.
- Students will learn basic design principles of painting. Emphasis will be placed on composition, cropping, overlapping and placement in the picture plane.
- Students will learn about the proper set up of materials and workstation at home.
Evaluation and Grading
The student’s grade will be based on completion and quality of class assignments, individual progress, effort and class participation.
50% - Participation: focused classwork, active listening, and contributing in discussion
20% - Timely completion of all projects by the due date
30% - Final project

Tentative Zoom Time
Wednesdays, 5pm – 6pm (Pacific).
Zoom sessions will be recorded for students unable to attend live. Live attendance is not required.

Material Safety Concerns
The art materials selected for this class have generally low toxicity and safety concerns, however, there are considerations to keep in mind when working with any material. Please consider the safety of your family, roommates, pets, and personal property as well as your own safety when you are making your projects. If you are concerned about working with a certain material, performing a certain task, or process due to your personal safety or the safety of your household or due to COVID-19 constraints, please contact me and I will work with you to find a safe solution. To get started:

- Identify a safe studio space with adequate ventilation to work in.
- Cover works surfaces with recycled newspaper or cardboard.
- Never use food or drink containers for material storage or cleaning.

Supply Lists
Water-soluble oil paint Titanium White 37ml tube
Water-soluble oil paint Ivory Black 37ml tube
Water-soluble oil paint Cadmium Red 37ml tube
Water-soluble oil paint Yellow Ochre Pale 37ml tube
Water-soluble oil paint Ultramarine Blue 37ml tube
Natural Grey Gesso or Acrylic 237ml

1 pre-primed student canvases - 16x20”
8 canvases - 11x14”

HB pencil

Brushes – flats – (please buy two of each size)
Size - #4, #6, #8, and #1 small round brushes

1-2 Palette knife
Small jar or tuna fish can for medium
Paper palette
Paper towels

WEEK 1
PRELIMINARY COURSE SYLLABUS
QUARTER: FALL 2021

Day 1: Welcome & Value

- Introductions
- Syllabus & course review
- Material Safety
- Setup a functioning workspace
- Importance of value

Assignment 1: Create a 9-Step Value Scale

Create a full value scale using Ivory Black and Titanium White on 11x14 canvas. Use the palette knife to mix 9 tonal steps to gradate value from white to black. This value scale will be a valuable tool for you to use to determine the values for all of your paintings. This assignment will also help you get a feel for the oil paint and mixing on your palette. Instructions on Canvas under Assignments.

WEEK 2

Day 2: 5 Value Painting Using Three Shapes

- Importance of the 5 basic forms: cone, cube, cylinder, sphere, and tube torus (donut shape)
- 5 value rendering system
- Importance of squinting
- Sight measurement
- Correct paint layering process
- Five stages of the painting process

Assignment 2: Paint 2-3 objects Ivory Black and Titanium White on 11x14” canvas. Render the objects using the 5-value rendering system.

WEEK 3

Day 3: Adding Cadmium Red and Yellow Ochre

- Add Cadmium Red and Yellow Ochre to the palette
- Identify monochromatic paintings
- Create a monochromatic painting

Assignment 3: Create a monochromatic painting. Paint a still life on an 11x14” canvas using Ivory Black, Titanium White, and Yellow Ochre.

Create a monochromatic painting. Paint a still life on an 11x14” canvas using Ivory Black, Titanium White, and Cadmium Red.
WEEK 4

Day 4: Five Color Palette: Titanium White, Ivory Black, Cadmium Red, Yellow Ochre and Ultramarine Blue

- Control a four-color palette
- Identify Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Colors
- Still life

Assignment 4: Still Life 11x14

Homework: Set up a still life and take a picture for final project. Print the picture out on letter size (8.5x11”) paper. Bring the printed image to class.

WEEK 5

Day 5: Make Study for Final Project

- Make study for final project on 11x14 canvas

Assignment 5: Final Project
Final Project: Paint still life using study and photograph on 16x20” canvas.

WEEK 6

Day 6: Final Critique