CRN 14023
PNTG 2301-003: Painting 1
Fall 2015

Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00-11:50
FFA studio 462

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor's name: Alexandra McGovern
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Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday FFA 461A, by appointment

Instructor Introduction

I am a painter. I received my MFA from Pratt Institute and my BA with a major in painting from Yale University. I have exhibited my work in New York, Europe and El Paso. I have been teaching at the University of Texas El Paso since 1998. Prior to that I taught at the New School for Social Research in New York City and at the Maine College of Art, Portland Maine.

Course Description

Painting 2301 is an introduction to the discipline of painting. You will learn basic techniques of acrylic and oil painting as well as a better understanding of the range and possibilities of painting as a means of expression.

In the first part of this class you will be given specific assignments to help you develop the skills you need to paint. Building on the skills you have acquired in your Basic Drawing classes you will learn to see form and color more accurately and to translate that experience 2 dimensionaly with paint.

To do this we will work through a series of quick, small paintings from still lives and from nature to help you become familiar with oil paint and to focus on various techniques of mixing color and applying paint. You will be expected to work on paintings in class and at home. I will talk with you individually about your work and we will have weekly group crits.

In the second part of the term we will work on larger pieces addressing particular expressive concerns. You will be asked to respond to the work of contemporary artist and to think of your own work’s position in contemporary visual culture.

This class will emphasis the development of your analytical skills and you will learn to meaningfully engage in critiques of your own and other students work.

Course Prerequisite Information

The prerequisites for Painting 2301 are: ARTF 1302, 1302, ARTF 1303, 1302 or
instructor’s approval. ARTF 1303 and 1304 may be taken concurrently with PNTG 2301.

**Course Goals and Objectives**

*Further development of the ability to accurately see color and form, and the skills to render them 2-dimensionally*
*Experience in handling oil paint.*
*Development of successful compositions and a rich and nuanced use of color, form and line.*
*Exposure to art historical precedents and contemporary artists, particularly in painting.*
*Consideration and development of personal imagery.*
*Continued development of work ethic and commitment needed to succeed in achieving the above stated goals.*

**Course Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course:
*Will have a basic level of experience and competency in handling oil paint*
•Will have acquired an ability to render visual experiences in paint*
*Will be familiar with color terminology and have the skills to use color to build form.*
*Will have a greater understanding of the contemporary art world and contemporary concerns regarding painting.*
*Will have the ability to critically assess their own and other’s work.*

**Course Requirements**

Your grade will be determined by the quality of your work, your effort and commitment and your professionalism: ability to complete work on time and attendance. The smaller paintings that we work on before mid-term will make up your mid-term grade and will count towards 40% of your final grade. Your 2 larger pieces will each count for 20%; so together will make up 40% of your final grade. 2 image tests will count as 10% each. All graded assignments will be announced at least a week prior to when they are due. The exact dates and pacing of the class will be the time it takes us to complete each project.

**Course Policies**

Regular attendance is required. Still life set ups, critiques, slides and in-class comments are impossible to make up. Art Department policy allows for 3 excused absences. A 4th absence lowers your grade a full point, a 5th two points a 6th absence will cause you to fail the class. Arriving to class more than 10 minutes late or leaving early will count as a half absence. Incompletes, Withdrawals, Pass/Fail:

Incompletes or “I” grades will be considered for students completing satisfactory or better work and having serious legitimate situations beyond their control requiring
additional time to complete the course requirements. All “I” grades are at the discretion of the instructor and the approval of the Department chair. Students hold the full responsibility for withdrawing from this course if that procedure is elected. Withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date to drop a course with a W. (See calendar at the end of the syllabus.) Students missing this deadline will be issued a grade for their performance in the course. This is a grade-based course and is not available for audit or pass/fail options.

Materials and Personal Equipment

Painting requires many supplies and it can be expensive. It will be cheaper for you if you can order your supplies online from a source such as Dick Blick, Pearl Paint or any other art supply store. You will also need several jars with lids, cans (soup or tomato size, or coffee size) and many rags: old tshirts, pyjamas, sheets make great rags. Start saving them now!

First couple of weeks we will be using acrylic paint: Acrylic paint dries quickly and is water based so you can clean brushes with soap and water.

Acrylic Paint
Primary colors,:
- Cadmium red (barium or hue)
- Cadmium yellow light (barium or hue)
- Ultramarine blue
- Titanium white: large tube
- Dick Blick brand is good and affordable

Large paper palette pad
2 pads of canvas paper, Canson 16”X 20” (10 sheets each)
Bristle brushes, : 2 sets of 6: 1 small one large Blicks academic white bristle sets
Medium sized palette knife

Oil Paint: we will start using this a couple of weeks into the term. Order online!
for oil paint you will need a solvent to clean your brushes:
- Turpenoid or turpenoid natural (non toxic)
You will also need solvents to mix into a painting medium:
- Distilled turpentine (this is not the same thing as Turpenoid!)
- Linseed oil, or stand oil
- Damar varnish
The same primary colors but in oil paint tubes:
Cadmium red (barium or hue)
Cadmium yellow light (barium or hue)
Ultramarine blue
Titanium white: large tube

**Dick Blick has great intro sets: Blick Studio Oil colors**
Jars with tops: jam, salsa, baby food size. You will need several
a couple of cans
Rags (don’t buy these! Any old t-shirt, sheet, etc.. can be cut into rags)
As the term progresses:
Additional paint:
Burnt umber
Alizarin crimson red
Yellow ochre
Viridian or Thalo green
Others as needed or desired
These will all be cheaper at Dick blick
Canvas
Stretchers

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**Course Planning Calendar for the semester**

Tuesday Sept 25 : First Day of Class. We will go over the syllabus and materials list.
Monday Sept 7: no class, Labor Day
Sept 29: first image test
Thursday Oct 15: mid-term critique; oil painting due
Oct 30: Course drop deadline
Nov 26-27: Thanksgiving Break
Oct 13?: second image test
Thursday Dec 3: Last class: final project due
Tuesday December 8: Studio clean up. Collect final paintings and grade

We will work through directed projects at the pace that is right for this group of students; larger work will come after mid-term.