Art 231 Painting 1  
Monday and Wednesday 5:30-8:15pm  
Instructor: Ahren Hertel  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Email: ahren@ahrenhertel.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Introduction to concepts of painting including color, form and composition. There are no Prerequisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Art 231 is a course designed to provide a foundation in studio art practice and an introduction to the painting discipline. The course will be divided into two main parts: acrylic and oil painting. In each section students will explore different painting techniques, surfaces and subject matter. The goal of this course is to provide students with a strong introduction to multiple approaches in painting and to create a foundation from which to explore concepts and develop an individual point of view. The course hones investigative skills, creative problem solving, and visual and conceptual thinking in order to recognize and utilize painting as a tool for expression and communication. Students will develop an awareness of the formal elements of composition, and a working knowledge of the fundamental principles and sensitivity towards the interrelationship between form and content. Students will familiarize themselves with the basic vocabulary necessary to articulate their creative process and critical thinking both verbally and in writing.

Students will be able to use theoretical, critical, and practical concepts as they relate to painting practices from nonobjective to realism through a series of projects, lectures and discussions.

Each project will be accompanied by vocabulary relevant to the assignment’s parameters and goals. Students will express their knowledge and understanding of art terminology through class discussions and critiques.

Students will build upon their understanding of color theory by creating paint mix tiles and preliminary color compositions.

All projects are prefaced by a series of preliminary thumbnails, drawings and color compositions arranged to challenge the student’s conceptualization of the assignment and to develop a strong work practice.

Students will be introduced to acrylic and oil paint techniques through demonstration. They will also build and prepare a number of different surfaces to paint on. Their
understanding of specific techniques in acrylic and oil will be demonstrated in their execution of assignments.

Students will be able to use theoretical, critical, and practical concepts to interpret and critically analyze painted works of art verbally and in writing.

Students will be able to articulate relationships between painted works of art and their contexts in culture, society, and individual identity.

Students will be able to articulate the relationships between historical context and painted works of art (both their own and that of others).

CORE CURRICULUM

This course satisfies Core Objective 7 (Artistic Composition, Interpretation, and Expression) of the Core Curriculum. It also develops and reinforces Core Objective 1 (Effective Composition & Communication) and by way of written and oral communication Core Objective 3 (Critical Analysis & Use of Information).

Painting 1 Art 231 includes substantial attention devoted to the critical interpretation of visual art practice achieved through lectures, class discussions, writing components, studio art creative projects, and formal critique. Artistic composition, interpretation, and expression are fundamental to assigned painting projects as well as central to both written and oral analysis. Students will apply techniques of critical analysis to study, interpret, and create works of art in the context of culture, society and individual identity. Students will have the opportunity to express their interpretations in a variety of required formats: research and essay written papers, assigned studio based painting projects, and critique/discussion.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

- Analyze, synthesize and integrate aspects of the history of painting from the Renaissance to the present and be able to articulate this subject in project development, class discussion, and critique. (CO1 and CO7)
- Identify and analyze the historical and contemporary contexts of different painting processes such as acrylic and oil painting in relationship to culture, society, and individual identity, and determine applications of this analysis in one’s own artistic work. (CO3 and CO7)
- Demonstrate comprehension of and ability to employ the elements and principles of visual art and design via a variety of painting processes. (CO7)
• Synthesize and integrate from a variety of sources that informs how visual art inspires and is inspired by other forms of art, such as music, film and written texts including poetry and novels. (CO3 and CO7)
• Use practical concepts to interpret and critically analyze works of art articulating technical, conceptual, and aesthetic issues in class discussion, project development, and critique. (CO1 and CO7)
• Produce well-supported positions that thoroughly and respectfully considers alternative viewpoints in project development, class discussion and critique. (CO3)
• Develop and evaluate possible solutions to studio art assignments that lead to well-grounded and creative conclusions. (CO3 and CO7)
• Demonstrate awareness of one’s own beliefs, concepts, and biases in assignment interpretation, project fabrication, class discussion, and critique. (CO1)

COURSE FORMAT

Demonstration - The majority of demonstrations will be announced in advance. I will cover a lot of information; therefore it is imperative that you attend, I will not demonstrate the same technique later in the course for students who are late or unable to attend the class. Although handouts will be provided for some techniques; you should also take notes.

Studio Work - You are expected to work outside of class time, approx. 4 - 6 hours per week towards research, assignments and completion of projects. Painting can be done outside of class at home or in the painting studio during open studio hours. Open studio times will be posted in the painting studio entrance. Please respect the equipment and other students. Be courteous and clean up thoroughly after yourself.

Sketchbook - Keep a sketchbook / journal for use as your visual diary. It should be used to develop your ideas; note taking during demos, for research on artists, etc. The sketchbook is not a separate assignment.

Exhibition Review - You are required to attend at least two art exhibitions and write a one page, single spaced paper about the artist and her/his work. This paper should be your critical analysis of the artist’s work. You must turn both papers into me at the end of the semester with your final portfolio.

Late Work - Late homework will be accepted only in cases of an emergency or an excused absence (doctor’s note required). After meeting those requirements, late work will be accepted up to one week after the return of the student. Work handed in after the grace period will not be accepted.
**Class Critiques**- Critiques are primarily by way of informal discussions on each student’s progress while developing projects in class. Prior to grading, each project will be submitted for a formal group critique.

- Group critiques will be announced in advance and are mandatory in both attendance and participation. Participation should be done in a professional manner and make use of relevant art vocabulary.
- All projects must be completed in order to participate and receive a grade.
- All work should be dated and signed on reverse.
- Work executed entirely outside of class will not be accepted for critique and will receive a failing grade.
- Following critiques students may re-address their work in response to feedback given by their fellow students and class instructor. Any additional work done to a project must be done on the students own time and turned in with their final portfolio. Addressing feedback given during critique can raise the project grade during final portfolio review. All work should be retained by students for final portfolio presentation - discard nothing.

Once again, the success of studio projects often requires students to devote out-of-class time to their completion. As a general rule, students should expect to spend twice as many hours outside of class on their projects as they spend in class each week. However, rate of work varies from individual to individual and students are cautioned that they may need more or less time and to pace themselves accordingly.

**WORK UNAVAILABLE FOR CRITIQUE WILL BE LOWERED A FULL GRADE OF THE ASSIGNMENT.**

**GRADING**

A student’s grade is a reflection of their performance. Thus, you are responsible for the completion of all assignments by the due date. Incomplete, late or missing work will not be accepted. An average performance will result in an average grade. Grades are not given but earned with hard work and a willingness to learn and grow as an individual. I expect nothing less from my students.

**Main considerations when grading will be:**
- Individual growth and performance
- Personal growth in critical and conceptual engagement through research
- Experimentation and interpretation of the demonstrated processes and assignments.
- Technical competence and quality of presentation
- Motivation and resourcefulness
- Critique and class discussion participation
- Sketch / notebook / research
- Effort / Attitude (attendance, punctuality, class participation, respect for equipment and studio.)
Grade Percentages of Assignments

1) Color Wheel and Mix Grid (Acrylic) - 5%
2) Nonobjective (Acrylic) - 10%
3) Abstraction (Acrylic) - 15%
4) Stylization (Acrylic) - 15%
5) Narrative (Oil) - 15%
6) Portrait/Symbolism (Oil) - 20%

Class participation and critiques - 10%
Studio use and preparedness - 5%
Exhibition reviews (2 papers) - 5%

* Class preparedness means that you come to class with all supplies and ideas, and you are ready to engage in your work for the day.

Total: 100%

Grade Scale
All grades are based on a +/- grading scale
100-95=A  94-90=A-  89-87=B+  86-83=B  82-80=B-  79-77=C+
76-73=C  72-70=C-  69-67=D+  66-63=D  62-60=D-  59 or below=F

Grade Classifications:

A- Excellent and Superior Work
Scholarship- strong, exceeding the requirements of the instructor
Initiative- contributions exceed the assignment, showing resourcefulness
Attitude- positive and beneficial to the group
Cooperation- constant and spontaneous participation in class
Individual Improvement- increased development

B- Above Average
Scholarship- accurate and competent, meeting all requirements of the instructor
Initiative- good when stimulated by some desirable achievement
Attitude- proper and beneficial to the group
Cooperation- good in group work
Individual Improvement- showing progress and responding to stimulation

C- Average
Scholarship- accurate and competent, meeting all requirements of the instructor
Initiative- most often stimulated by some desirable achievement
Attitude- proper and beneficial to the group
Cooperation- good in group work
Individual Improvement- most often shows progress and responds to stimulation
D- Below Average
Scholarship- not meeting all assignments and requirements of the instructor
Initiative- deficient
Attitude- indifferent
Cooperation- fair at times, deficient at others
Individual Improvement- not noticeable

F- Failing – work not meeting the requirements of this course

ATTENDANCE

It is necessary that students attend all classes. This is a studio class, and a lot of the material that we cover is based on hands-on presentations and work, which you cannot make up. It is simply not enough to show up for the first 15 minutes of class, nor is it advisable to show up late- I will be keeping track of attendance and it will count towards your final grade. Please inform your employer that class hours are off-limits as far as scheduling or calling you into work. You will be responsible for making up any missed work ( Though often, as previously stated, it may be impossible to do any work that has been missed since so much of this course is based on students’ in-class presence and participation.) It is also the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the class if they find that they are unable to attend or finish the class. After two absences ( or on the third), your final grade for the class will automatically be dropped a full grade, and will continue to drop a letter grade for each additional absence. More than 5 absences (15 hours out of class)- will result in a failing grade. A grade of “Incomplete” will only be issued in extreme circumstances and is not awarded to compensate for poor attendance.

Cell Phones and mp3 players:
During class please turn cell phones to silent. During studio time, you may listen to mp3 players as long as the volume is low enough that you can hear class announcements and do not disturb your classmates. During studio time you may make or receive short phone calls in the hallway but again keep your ring tones to silent or vibrate during class. Do not text in class. Whenever possible save all out-of-class communication for your time out of class.

SUPPLY LIST:

Students are responsible for the following:
- Sketchbook
- Pencils
- Container or box to carry supplies in
- Brushes
- Palette
- 2 8”x10” Canvas Double Pack
- Containers for water, paint, etc.
- Silicoil Container
- 1x2's for use as stretcher bars to make canvas
- Paint
  Acrylic Paint (M.Graham)
  - Raw Umber
  - Alizarin Crimson
  - Cadmium Red
  - Prussian Blue
  - Cerulean Blue
  - Cadmium Yellow
  - Unbleached Titanium
  - Titanium White
  - Black

Oil Paint (M. Graham)
  - Raw Umber
  - Alizarin Crimson
  - Cadmium Red
  - Prussian Blue
  - Cerulean Blue
  - Cadmium Yellow
  - Unbleached Titanium
  - Titanium White
  - Black

The following will be provided for you:
- Gesso
- Canvas
- Liquin
- Turpenoid
- All tools and supplies needed to construct and ready paint surfaces.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1
- Tuesday 1/20   Introduction to course
- Thursday 1/22  Color wheel and mix grid

Week 2
- Thursday 1/29  Prelims due. Studio

Week 3
- Tuesday 2/3    Studio
- Thursday 2/5   Crit. on Non-objective. Intro to Abstraction. Demo. Begin Prelims.

Week 4
- Tuesday 2/10   Prelims due. Studio
Thursday 2/12    Studio

**Week 5**
- Thursday 2/19   Prelims due. Studio

**Week 6**
- Tuesday 2/24    Studio
- Thursday 2/26   Studio. Students buy 1”x2”s for canvas building

**Week 7**
- Tuesday 3/3     Studio
- Thursday 3/5    Crit. on Stylization.

**Week 8**
- Tuesday 3/10    Canvas building and panel prep
- Thursday 3/12   Canvas building and panel prep. Intro to Narrative. Oil demo. Begin Prelims.

Spring Break

**Week 9**
- Tuesday 3/24    Prelims due. Studio
- Thursday 3/26   Studio

**Week 10**
- Tuesday 3/31    Studio
- Thursday 4/2    Studio

**Week 11**
- Tuesday 4/7     Crit. on Narrative. Intro to Portrait/Symbolism. Begin Prelims.
- Thursday 4/9    Prelims Due. Demo. Studio

**Week 12**
- Tuesday 4/14    Demo. Studio
- Thursday 4/16   Demo. Studio

**Week 13**
- Tuesday 4/21    Demo. Studio
- Thursday 4/23   Demo. Studio

**Week 14**
- Tuesday 4/28    Demo. Studio
- Thursday 4/30   Demo. Studio

**Week 15**

Digital Portfolio on CD or Flash/USB drive
- Clear, in focus and properly cropped images of each painting project in .jpg format.
- Written personal reflection of each assignment, including changes done after critique.
- Exhibition Reviews (2 papers)

Final Critique/ Last regularly scheduled class
Critique of final project.
Turn in Digital Portfolio
Scheduled Final Class
Pick up Digital Portfolio. Any material not picked up will be thrown away or recycled.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES:

Disability Statement:
Students with documented disabilities may have different examination requirements and conditions of examination to accommodate their needs. Reasonable accommodation in the learning process will be made for students with documented disabilities by the university (documented at Student Services).

If you have a disability and need to request accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Phone: (775) 784-6000
Fax:   (775) 784-6955
Monday - Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm
Website: http://www.unr.edu/stsv/slservices/drc/

If you currently have a documented disability approved by the University, then please provide me appropriate University documentation and accommodation information within the first two weeks of school. If the documented disability occurs after that time, then provide the information as soon as possible after the documentation occurs.

Statement on Academic Dishonesty:
"Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses" constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student’s enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course or for the assignment. Academic dishonesty of any kind (plagiarism or cheating) is incompatible with the work and growth of an artist. Plagiarism is defined as submitting the language, ideas, thought, images or work of another as one’s own; or assisting in the act of plagiarism by allowing one’s work to be used in this fashion. Plagiarism or any form of academic dishonesty will result in an F for the assignment.

The student handbook defines academic dishonesty and its consequences as: Any form of cheating, plagiarism, falsifying of research data, or assisting another student in cheating. These incidents, if you are found guilty, usually result in suspension!

In the general catalogue, please see University Code and Policies: Section III. (http://www.cis.unr.edu/ecatalog/Default.aspx?article_list_id=9002)

Statement for Academic Success Services:
"Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (784-4433 or www.unr.edu/mathcenter), Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring-center), and University Writing Center (784-6030 or http://www.unr.edu/writing-center). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student."

**Statement on Audio and Video Recording:** “Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may be given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.”

**Student Absences:** By NSHE policy in Title 4 Chapter 20 A, Section 3, paragraph 1, [http://system.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/BoardOfRegents/Handbook/T4-CH20%20-%20General%20Policies%20Regulating%20Students%20and%20Student%20Governm ent.pdf](http://system.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/BoardOfRegents/Handbook/T4-CH20%20-%20General%20Policies%20Regulating%20Students%20and%20Student%20Governm ent.pdf), there are no official absences from any university class. It is the personal responsibility of the student to consult with the instructor regarding absence from class. In the event that a student misses a class because of an official university function or event or because of serious personal issues, the Office of the Vice President for Student Services may, at its discretion, send an explanation to affected faculty. The instructor shall make the final determination on whether the missed work can be done at a time other than during the regularly scheduled class period.

**Religious Holy Days:** It is the policy of NSHE (Title 4 Chapter 20 A, Section 3, paragraph 2, [http://system.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/BoardOfRegents/Handbook/T4-CH20%20-%20General%20Policies%20Regulating%20Students%20and%20Student%20Governm ent.pdf](http://system.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/BoardOfRegents/Handbook/T4-CH20%20-%20General%20Policies%20Regulating%20Students%20and%20Student%20Governm ent.pdf)), to be sensitive to the religious obligations of its students. Any student missing classes, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holy days should, whenever possible, be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holy day absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor in advance in writing, if the student intends to participate in a religious holy day which does not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the assignment at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the institution, which could not reasonably have been avoided.

**Final Week:**
It is university policy that all classes are required to meet during the final week at the appropriate times and dates indicated in the Final Week Class Schedule.
http://www.unr.edu/academic-central/academic-resources-finals-schedule. This is in keeping with accreditation requirements for the appropriate number of hours for classes.

**Designated prep day.** Please remember that the intent of prep day is to allow students a day of preparation for final exams. Therefore, exams or any required classes or activities should not be scheduled on that day. Conducting optional activities like review sessions or specifying prep day as a due date for papers and projects are allowed activities.