

Individual Research Problems

Summer II 2026

5303 Schedule: M-W 6:00pm - 8:50pm

Location: VAPA 207

Instructor: Ramon G. Deanda

Contact:

Cell: (915) 269-5693 *Please, text unless it is an emergency!*

Email: Ramon.Deanda@sulross.edu

Office: FAB 009

Office Number: 432-837-8258

Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 A.M. and 1:00PM-1:50 MWF

If need be, we can schedule a meeting. I will be around the FAB most of the time.

Course Description

This is an advanced concept and technique class in Painting (watercolor, oil or acrylic) or Drawing (pastel, graphite or Charcoal). Development of thematic concept and consistency in medium is required. Color theory, composition, advanced techniques and participation in group critiques are an important aspect of this class. Students may only work in one medium per semester, as decided on with the instructor.

This is a multi level class with 4301 levels 1-4 and 5304 Graduate students.

REQUIRED WORK:

A Series of color studies of the paints on your palette, slip-sheeted and arranged in a binder. Each page should list the name and brand of the hue, and pigment number. These pigment studies should include complimentary mixes, plus tones and tints of each color.

New colors should be added to your binder each semester and organized the same way.

This binder will be updated every semester.

I would like to see experimentation to the way you learn to mix and use colors and attention to your personal palette.

A "block" or planar study which breaks down the concept of the composition of your idea into 4 specific values (light, med, dark medium, dark) must precede each assignment. Specific assignments may be given to aid the individual student needs. In drawing, a binder of paper and medium tests should be collected and labeled. Information on the papers manufacturing and composition should be noted.

You must choose one medium and theme and stick to it all semester.

A consistent thematic portfolio of 10 finished compositions: 24 x 30" or 7 - 30" x 40" or larger. A 52" x 72" will count as 2.5 paintings. You may also choose to do two small paintings 16 X 20 for the first assignment.

Specific goals will be set for each student, pertaining to their style, thematic and based on their individual strengths and weaknesses.

A Planar study of the compositional layout will be completed before the painting is started.

All work must show evidence of consistent work habits and intent through out the semester.

Students must be able to discuss use of Composition: Focal points, spatial relations, color theory and palette choices, texture, content/context to Art History, and use of thematic.

The work must show evidence of consistent work habits and intent through out the semester. Although a set size format and number of works been established, individual directions and specific ideas can be

substituted with the permission of the instructor as long as the project and the amount of work is equal to the original portfolio.

Essays on contemporary artists who work in a style similar to yours and who are alive today will accompany each of the first three drawing/painting assignments.

Or, you may watch a video and review the emphasis of it, and discuss the concepts & practicality.

You must include a brief biography, and why this artist is known. Be sure to properly cite your work.

E. An Artist's Statement that discusses the work, its development and its relationship to the Contemporary art scene will be turned in at the end of the semester with your portfolio. The statement should cover your personal approach to the issues surrounding the development, and presentation of your work. This statement will attempt to justify your aesthetic investigations in relation to ideas of Contemporary Art (since 1970), the heritage of World Art, and issues of socio-politic importance

F. CD: photograph a series of 8 - 10 of your best works. Jpegs should be 600dpi, color correct, cropped to size and labeled with name and number (fairlie#1.jpeg). These are due in the week of finals. Also include a typed word document with your name, title, medium, size, and date completed. This should correspond to your jpeg images. Jpegs should be 600dpi.

SUPPLIES:

Students are expected to have their own paints and brushes.

You are expected to keep your work area clean, and to take care of your own equipment!

Paints need to include at least 3-4 of each hue of the primary colors and at least 2-3 of each of the secondary colors and earth tones.

Palettes may be larger, double, or Tempered glass.

A variety of brushes, blenders and tools suitable for the medium and techniques involved.

Supply orders can be placed but it takes 10 days to get n order in. See last page for websites.

LAB FEE/ SUPPLY DEPOSITS:

A lab fee of \$25.00 will include soap, paper towels, solvent, charcoal, fixative and matte spray, underpainting gesso, a variety of extra and experimental materials for students to try.

A deposit of \$175.00 for canvas, \$95.00 for paper plus 3 shadowbox frames @\$44.00 for Drawing and Watercolor will be charged to each student. This fee is a deposit is based on costs for canvas (\$19.00 ea., 30x40 cheap style) or paper (\$12.00).

TEXTS:

Recommended in Painting: Jennings: Artist's Color Manual 0-8118-4143-x

Any good text that helps you through the subject matter.

ATTENDANCE:

The structure of the "4301/5304 studio class" course requires consistent attendance. This class is required to cover 96 studio class hours.

You should be prepared to put in at least 10-15 hours per week to finish your work. This means Saturday classes are critique only. You are expected to paint regularly, and have a scheduled studio hour! Work not finished by the due date, will be dropped a letter grade per class day.

After 4 class days the grade becomes an "F".

Class is scheduled for 6 hours a week, and I expect you to work at least 3-10 in the studio outside of class, You need to be in the studio during scheduled class s hours.

Scheduled critiques and personal critique times will be held on opposite weeks and both require constant attendance! If you can't be there, I need to know in advance! 837-8258 or 294-1313.

More than three (3) absences without an official excuse will result in an evaluation adjustment at the end of the semester.

CRITIQUES:

Students are expected to be in class working during scheduled class hours.

You are expected to be painting daily. I should be able to walk in and see your progress, give you pointers and critiques. If you are not in when I show up, you are considered absent.

Critiques will be held every other week on Monday at 2:00. Changes in schedule may occur as the semester progresses.

#1 FEB 19 #1#2

#2 March 05 (Thursday) #3 #4,

#3 March 19 (Tuesday) #5 #6,

#4 April 16(Tuesday) #7

April 20 all paintings due in for grading.

May 5th Final any finishing that was allowed, CD of art work and artist statements, Studio clean up,

Proposals: Proposals for taking exhibition are due in the first class after mid semester.

Course Objectives

Expressively communicate an original idea or concept visually.

Proper techniques applied to the medium,

Use of principles and elements of good composition,

Development of technique and personal style.

Use of original concepts and non-clichéd ideas.

Demonstrate technical mastery of materials and traditional artistic skills.

Advanced techniques and craftsmanship applied to a specific area of specialization.

Application of the principles and elements of good composition,

A defined technique or personal style.

Demonstrate knowledge of professional practices in studio art.

The ability to create a cohesive exhibition of well crafted and thematic work

Displays an strong understanding of craftsmanship

Displays the ability to write about art.

Understands health and safety practices in the studio

Course Structure

A consistent thematic portfolio of 5 24" x 30" paintings/ works on paper or 7, (seven) 30" x 40" (or larger) paintings or works on paper,

A series of "Planar" thumbnail studies in ones chosen medium that work out the composition of your picture plane. (See required work).

Your work must show evidence of consistent work habits and intent throughout the semester.

You must be able to discuss your use of Composition: Focal points, Spatial relations, Color theory and palette choices, Texture, Content/context, and theme

Graduate students enrolled in the 5304 section will be expected to have graduate quality work and are required to hand in a bi-weekly journal or folio with the following assignments:

3 thumbnails or descriptions of future ideas.

Notes on a famous artist's painting and how the use focal points.

Inspiration: Collect at least 5 quotes on art or from artists of interest to you. Study especially those artists who are dealing with problems that are the same as the ones you're trying to solve.

Keep a list of new and emerging artists and what they do. Add to it weekly.

YOUR GRADE IS BASED ON THESE CONCEPTS!!!

DESIGN: Balance and focal points

SPACE: good compositional use of foreground, middle-ground and background.

VALUE: balanced use of a full range of lights to darks.

COLOR: Concern for warms and cools within each hue as well as throughout the composition.

To receive a good grade:

Create a workable time schedule. Be willing to put in enough time to develop the paintings.

Be able to manipulate the medium in such a way that it works.

Develop a personal style, have ideas that go beyond the norm.

Originality: stay away from trite clichés. Plagiarism: do not use ideas derived from commercially published sources.

Understand the medium. Learn different techniques. Understand value. Learn color theory and use a varied palette with mixed colors.

Work/rework assignments after suggestions have been made. Always striving for quality work

Participate in all critiques, volunteering thoughtful and insightful ideas aimed at improving one's work as well as that of others.

Complete work on time and in scale. Do not start a new work until you finish the last.

All work should be the assigned size unless specific changes have been OK-ed by the instructor.

Be consistent.

Artist Statement:

This is a simple statement that will explain the motivation behind your paintings, the reason for the colors and techniques you chose, and how it ties into your other works or interests. Every semester this is built upon in preparation for a show.

If there is an emergency situation let me know as soon as possible!

Tardiness, and leaving early will be considered as partial absences.

GRADING

I grade on a 100-point scale. A painting that is 50% done is a 50.

You **MUST** finish paintings in sequential order, you may start a new one or two at a time, but you must finish them.

A grade will be given at mid-semester and at final review. This grade will be a combination of a grade on your paintings, your studies, critique attendance, and participation.

In grading your work, I will look for the

- * Idea development

- * Compositional structure: Design, value, space, and color!!!

- * Technique and use of medium

- * Originality and initiative

Unfinished work will not be graded higher than a 75, (C).

Evaluation:

You will lose points if your work finished on time.

You will lose points if I do not see evidence of consistent work habits.

You will lose points if you don't rework assignments after critique.

You will lose points if you don't work assignments to size and concept.

80% Final Portfolio
10% Planar studies
10% Critiques, Papers*, Jpegs, Statements
Graduate journal is included in the grade for #C.

Disabilities: Please notify me if you have a disability that requires accommodation. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility The Student life office of the Morgan Student Center.

Academic honesty: The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. More information on this can be found in the SRSU Rules & Regulations supplement to the Student Handbook.

Cell phones must be set on soft vibrate and may not be answered in class. Personal head gear can be worn but should be low enough that you can hear someone talking to you and no one else can hear you. Music may be played in the classroom as long as all students want to hear it.

Since this class is held in a different building, off campus, I will have my cell phone on and be available if you or another student needs to call me.

Answering phone calls for Emergency personnel and family emergencies are exempt only if you let me know in advance.

Studio Hours: The majority of your grade is based on work done during class, therefore, it is expected that each student will attend all required hours of class (96 studio class hours).

Sul Ross policy states that one absence is equal to 50 minutes. More than three (3) absences from drawing class will result in the lowering of the final evaluation by one letter grade. Tardiness, and leaving early will be considered as partial absences. Your name will be given to UDPS for building and room access.

Disciplinary Action Code:

#21. (Partial quote) "Campus disruptive activities includes disorderly classroom conduct that obstructs, interferes with, inhibits and/or disrupts teaching and/or classroom activities". If you smell like alcohol or Marijuana, I will ask you to leave class and not come back.

Try the following on-line supply stores!

Art Supply Warehouse. They are the least expensive and cheapest on shipping.

<http://www.aswexpress.com/>

Dick Blick: lots of selection, good selection, also lesson plans. <http://www.dickblick.com/>

Daniel Smith: the best for printmaking, watercolor paints and large paper, great customer service!

<http://www.danielsmith.com/>

Cheap Joes: watercolor paper is cheapest here, good service, good prices, cheap joe is a painter.

<http://www.cheapjoes.com/>

Picture frames at great prices. I use Standard metal frames in black, 555 shadowbox frames and super canvas metal frames. Check them out! <http://www.pictureframes.com>

Graduate assignments

A small journal or folio will be kept and turned in with each assignment.

Every two weeks the following will be turned in:

Inspiration: Collect at least 5 quotes on art or from artists of interest to you. Study especially those artists who are dealing with problems that are the same as the ones you're trying to solve.

Keep a list of new and emerging artists and what they do. Add to it weekly.

Notes on a famous artist's painting and how they use focal points.

3 thumbnails or descriptions of future ideas.

4301 Level 1: A series of 7 large scale paintings based on specific compositional elements.

4301 Level 2: A series of 7 or more large scale paintings based on thematic and technical exploration.

4301 Level 3-4: A series of 7 or more large scale paintings based on the development of a person style and theme, ending with a written proposal for a capstone exhibition.

5304 Level 1: A series large scale paintings based on the exploration of ideas and techniques stemming from work done previously.

5304 Level 2-5: A series of paintings based on the mastery of a person style and theme, ending with a written proposal for a capstone exhibition.