PAINTING I, AVT 232 003
Spring, 2016
T, Th 4:30pm - 7:10 pm
Art and Design Building
Room 2046

Professor: Ryan McCoy
Office hours: by appointment only
rmccoy1@gmu.edu

Course Description: Painting I is a foundational course designed to help develop both an understanding of the basic elements of painting as well as a greater perceptive awareness. Students develop technique as well as their intuitive response and analysis abilities through various observational painting studies and reflective critiques. At the Painting I level, emphasis is on construction, gaining an understanding of the materials, color mixing, developing an understanding of color and value, the articulation of form, and developing a visual language through a variety of mark-making experiments.

This class fulfills a Mason Core requirement for Arts.

Mason courses in the film making, visual and performing arts stress generative, inquiry based learning through direct aesthetic and creative experience in the studio environment. Art history courses address the intrinsic relationship of personal and cultural creativity, and the manifestation of aesthetics, visual culture and visual narrative within historical contexts.

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete a course in the Arts category must meet the first learning outcome and a minimum of two of the remaining four learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between artistic process, and a work’s underlying concept, and where appropriate, contexts associated with the work.
2. Identify and analyze the formal elements of a particular art form using vocabulary and critique appropriate to that form.
3. Analyze cultural productions using standards appropriate to the form, as well as the works cultural significance and context.
4. Analyze and interpret the content of material or performance culture through its social, historical, and personal contexts.
5. Engage in generative artistic processes, including conception, creation, and ongoing critical analysis.
General Expectations:

Attendance: Students are allowed two absences from a regular studio day without any grade penalty. Every day missed beyond two affects your final grade by a half letter grade. There is no substitute for being in class.

Tardiness: Arrival 15 min or more late counts as one late. Two lates equals one absence. Early departures will also be counted in this way.

Communication: Things happen and things come up. If you are sick or have an emergency just send me an email to let me know.

Independence: Painters are expected to work in an independent manner. Have a rigor with yourself.

Deadlines: Each project has a deadline which is the day of critique. Be prepared! Late projects are penalized by one letter grade for each class beyond the critique and will miss the benefit of the critique.

Lesson Flow and Critiques:

At the beginning of each section, I will go over concepts and techniques and do demonstrations when needed. I will then assign visual problems for you to solve in the form of projects. Students work through these projects by experimenting and working out ideas and approach in class. In class there are frequent group check-ins as well as opportunities for one on one help. Similar to an exam day, a critique of projects occurs after each section. Critiques are the most important part of a studio class. This is your opportunity to articulate through your paintings how well you understand the concepts, your mastery of the techniques and materials, and how you’ve solved the visual problem you were given.

Critique Basics:
- Never miss a critique
- Always approach a critique openly
- Listen attentively. You can learn a lot from your classmates critiques as well.
- The critique is about the work and not you. It is not personal.
- Always be respectful and fair.
- Be productive and helpful. Saying “I like that painting” is not helpful.

Grading:

Attendance, participation in the studio, project grades, participation in critiques, progress, sketchbook, and your overall level of engagement will be the basis by which your semester grade will be determined. Projects will be evaluated on the basis of technical, creative, and aesthetic merit resulting in a weighted grade. Separate weighted grades are given for a student's attendance record, progress and participation.

Projects are the equivalent of major tests and should be viewed as such.

A grade of an A, 90-100%, signifies that a student has achieved competence and performed at superior level across all components of the course. B, 80-89%, is above average competence. C, 70-79% is average competence. D, 60-69%, is poor and F, 0-59%, is failing. A full range of grades will be used.
Grading Standards:

For a grade of A:
No more than two missed classes
No missed critiques
Mature, innovative, and independent production of all required work by deadline
Work is superlative, demonstrating the highest level of artistic achievement
Work demonstrates a clear mastery of assignment concepts and techniques
Work demonstrates thoughtful and attentive response to issues raised at critique
Consistently high level of engagement and committed participation in all class periods, projects, and critiques

Requirements for a grade of B:
No more than four missed classes
100% attendance at critiques
All work completed by deadline
Mature, consistent, and innovative production of all required work by deadline
Work demonstrates a high level of artistic achievement
Work demonstrates a strong understanding of assignment concepts and techniques
Work demonstrates thoughtful response to issues raised at critique
Demonstrated growth in artistic thinking and production
Attendance and participation in all critiques

For a Grade of C (Minimum Requirements):
No more than six missed classes
All work completed
Attendance at all critiques
Work demonstrates a basic knowledge of materials and formal elements
Work demonstrates a fundamental understanding of the assignments
Student has worked hard and consistently and work demonstrates a satisfactory level of artistic achievement

The instructor reserves the right to subjectively and professionally judge your work and performance in this course.

A: 100-90 %
B: 89-80 %
C: 79-70 %
D: 69-60 %
F: 59-0 %
Schedule:

Note-The schedule may change to address the needs of the class at any time.

Week 1:
1/19 - introduction to the course, syllabus, expectations, introduction to materials.
1/21 - **Technique Topic:** Preparing a canvas.

Week 2:
1/26 - **Technique Topic:** Paint mixing, value studies from direct observation
   Painting #1 Assigned: Monochrome
1/28 - Studio day

Week 3:
2/2 - Studio day
2/4 - **Critique:** Painting #1 due

Week 4:
2/9 - **Topic:** Color Theory
   Color basics: relativity or the neighboring effect of color, contrast, high-key and low-key contrast, simultaneous contrast, complementary contrast, saturation, subtraction of color, color intensity - brightness, harmony, monochrome, analogous color, the emotive effects of color, color as form.
   Painting #2 Assigned: Color Observation
   Painting #3 Assigned: Choose Your Own Color System
2/11 - Studio day: work on color studies

Week 5:
2/16 - Studio day
2/18 - **Critique:** Painting #2 and Painting #3 due

Week 6:
2/23 - **Topic:** More on Color
   Painting #4 Assigned: Harmony
2/25 - Studio day

Week 7:
3/1 - Studio day
3/3 - **Midterm Critique:** Painting #4 due

Week 8:
3/8 - Spring Break - no classes
3/10 - Spring Break - no classes
Week 9:
3/15 - Topic: Portraiture
   Painting #5 Assigned: Self-portrait (home)
   Painting #6 Assigned: Classmate (in class)
3/17 - Studio day

Week 10:
3/22 - Studio day
3/24 - Studio day

Week 11:
3/29 - Critique: Painting #5 and Painting #6 Due
3/31 - Topic: Landscapes
   Painting #7 Assigned: Landscape

Week 12:
4/5 - Studio day
4/7 - Critique: Painting #7 due

Week 13:
4/12 - Studio day: Begin Final Projects
4/14 - Studio day: Work on Final Projects

Week 14:
4/19 - Studio day: Work on Final Projects
4/21 - Studio day: Work on Final Projects

Week 15:
4/26 - Final Critiques (full portfolio)
4/28 - Final Critiques (full portfolio)
**Supplies:**

One Artbin  
One color wheel  
One roll of paper towels  
a few small containers with lids (plastic, metal, or glass)  
**Paint thinner: Turpenoid or Gamsol (both odorless)**  
One small bottle of Liquin  
One bar of soap  
One hand towel

**Canvas Building**  
Two pairs of stretcher bars at equal length  
One Unprimed canvas blanket that is at least 4 inches longer in all directions than assembled stretcher  
One container of Gesso  
One 2 or 3 inch house painting brush  
One staple gun with staples  
One pack each of Fine and Extra Fine sandpaper

**Brushes**  
Purchase a variety of 6 of the following suggested brushes…  
bright #2, #4, #8, #12  
filbert #2, #4, #8, #12  
flat #4, #8  
round #2, #4, #8

You will need one house painting brush at 2 or 3 inches  
one metal palette knife

**Readymade Canvases**  
Painting #1: 18 x 24 or 24 x 24  
Painting #2: 18 x 24 or 24 x 24  
Painting #3: 18 x 24 or 24 x 24  
Painting #4: 24 x 30 or 30 x 30  
Painting #5: 24 x 30  
Painting #6: 24 x 30  
Painting #7: 24 x 36  
Final Project: minimum 30 inches in any direction  
One pack of 12 canvas boards  
**Always have two surfaces with you at each class.**

**Palette**  
One pad of palette paper for class at 12 x 16 or larger or a piece of plexiglass
**Paint**
The colors you need:
Ivory Black
Zinc White (large tube)
Cadmium Red light hue
Ultramarine blue
Prussian Blue
Payne’s grey
Alizarin crimson
Cadmium yellow light hue
Raw umber
Burnt umber
Raw sienna
Yellow ochre

Any other colors you may want to use.

**University and School of Art Policies**
In accordance with George Mason University policy, turn off all beepers, cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at the start of class. The instructor of the class will keep his/her cell phone active to assure receipt of any Mason Alerts in a timely fashion; or in the event that the instructor does not have a cell phone, he/she will designate one student to keep a cell phone active to receive such alerts.

**Commitment to Diversity**
This class will be conducted as an intentionally inclusive community that celebrates diversity and welcomes the participation in the life of the university of faculty, staff and students who reflect the diversity of our plural society. All may feel free to speak and to be heard without fear that the content of the opinions they express will bias the evaluation of their academic performance or hinder their opportunities for participation in class activities. In turn, all are expected to be respectful of each other without regard to race, class, linguistic background, religion, political beliefs, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, veteran’s status, or physical ability.

**Statement on Ethics in Teaching and Practicing Art and Design**
As professionals responsible for the education of undergraduate and graduate art and design students, the faculty of the School of Art adheres to the ethical standards and practices incorporated in the professional Code of Ethics of our national accreditation organization, The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

**Open Studio Hours**
SOA teaching studios are open to students for extended periods of time mornings, evenings and weekends whenever classes are not in progress. Policies, procedures and schedules for studio use are established by the SOA studio faculty and are posted in the studios.

**ArtsBus - Dates for Spring 2016**
February 20
March 19
April 9

**ArtsBus Credit**
* Each student must have up to 5 AVT 300/Artsbus credits before graduation. For credit to appear on your transcript you must enroll in AVT 300. This also applies to anyone who intends to travel to New York independently, or do the DC Alternate Assignment.
* If you plan/need to go on multiple ArtsBus trips during a semester and need them towards your total requirement, you must enroll in multiple sections of AVT 300. Please go to the ArtsBus website: http://artsbus.gmu.edu "Student Information" for additional, very important information regarding ArtsBus policy.
* Non-AVT majors taking art classes do not need ArtsBus credit BUT may need to go on the Artsbus for a class assignment. You can either sign up for AVT 300 or buy a ticket for the bus trip at the Center of the Arts. Alternate trips must be approved by the instructor of the course that is requiring an ArtsBus trip.

Visual Voices Lecture Series Spring 2016
Visual Voices is a year-long series of lectures by artists, art historians and others about contemporary art and art practice. Visual Voices lectures are held on Thursday evenings from 7:20- 9:00 p.m. in Harris Theater: http://soa.gmu.edu/visualvoices/

Important Deadlines:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 1 Day of Week</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Day (no classes)</td>
<td>Mon Jan 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date; full semester waitlists removed</td>
<td>Tue Jan 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2016 Graduation Intent Available via Patriot Web</td>
<td>Mon Jan 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty</td>
<td>Tues Jan 26</td>
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<td>Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty</td>
<td>Tues Feb 2</td>
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<td>Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)</td>
<td>Fri Feb 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to file your Spring 2016 Graduation Intent</td>
<td>Fri Feb 19</td>
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<td>Immunization Record Deadline</td>
<td>Tue Mar 1</td>
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<td>Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web</td>
<td>Mon Feb 15 – Fri Mar 18</td>
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<td>Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)</td>
<td>Mon Feb 22 – Fri Mar 25</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Mon Mar 7 – Sun Mar 13</td>
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<td>Incomplete work from Fall 2015 due to Instructor</td>
<td>Fri Mar 25</td>
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<td>Incomplete grade changes from Fall 2015 due to Registrar</td>
<td>Fri Apr 1</td>
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<td>Dissertation/Thesis Deadline</td>
<td>Fri Apr 29</td>
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<td>Last day of classes</td>
<td>Mon May 2</td>
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<td>Reading Days</td>
<td>Fri May 4</td>
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<td>Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions, but regular classes or exams may not be held</td>
<td>Tue May 3</td>
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<td>Exam Period (beginning at 7:30 a.m.)</td>
<td>Wed May 4 – Wed May 11</td>
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<td>Commencement and Degree Conferral Date</td>
<td>May 14</td>
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Once the add and drop deadlines have passed, instructors do not have the authority to approve requests from students to add or drop/withdraw late. Requests for late adds (up until the last day of classes) must be made by the student in the SOA office (or the office of the department offering the course), and generally are only approved in the case of a documented university error (such as a problem with financial aid being processed), LATE ADD fee
will apply. Requests for non-selective withdrawals and retroactive adds (adds after the last day of classes) must be approved by the academic dean of the college in which the student’s major is located. For AVT majors, that is the CVPA Office of Academic Affairs, Performing Arts Building A407.

Students with Disabilities and Learning Differences
If you have a diagnosed disability or learning difference and you need academic accommodations, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and contact the Disabilities Resource Center (SUB I room 234, 703-993-2474). You must provide me with a faculty contact sheet from that office outlining the accommodations needed for your disability or learning difference. All academic accommodations must be arranged in advance through the DRC.

Official Communications via GMU E-Mail
Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

Attendance Policies
Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.

Honor Code
Students in this class are bound by the Honor Code, as stated in the George Mason University Catalog. The honor code requires that the work you do as an individual be the product of your own individual synthesis or integration of ideas. (This does not prohibit collaborative work when it is approved by your instructor.) As a faculty member, I have an obligation to refer the names of students who may have violated the Honor Code to the Student Honor Council, which treats such cases very seriously. No grade is important enough to justify cheating, for which there are serious consequences that will follow you for the rest of your life. If you feel unusual pressure about your grade in this or any other course, please talk to me or to a member of the GMU Counseling Center staff.

Using someone else’s words or ideas without giving them credit is plagiarism, a very serious Honor Code offense. It is very important to understand how to prevent committing plagiarism when using material from a source. If you wish to quote verbatim, you must use the exact words and punctuation just as the passage appears in the original and must use quotation marks and page numbers in your citation. If you want to paraphrase or summarize ideas from a source, you must put the ideas into your own words, and you must cite the source, using the APA or MLA format. (For assistance with documentation, I recommend Diana Hacker, A Writer’s Reference.) The exception to this rule is information termed general knowledge—information that is widely known and stated in a number of sources. Determining what is general knowledge can be complicated, so the wise course is, “When in doubt, cite.”

Be especially careful when using the Internet for research. Not all Internet sources are equally reliable; some are just plain wrong. Also, since you can download text, it becomes very easy to inadvertently plagiarize. If you use an Internet source, you must cite the exact URL in your paper and include with it the last date that you successfully accessed the site.

Writing Center
Students who are in need of intensive help with grammar, structure or mechanics in their writing should make use of the services of Writing Center, located in Robinson A116 (703-993-1200). The services of the Writing Center are available by appointment, online and, occasionally, on a walk-in basis.

The Collaborative Learning Hub Located in Johnson Center 311 (703-993-3141), the lab offers in-person one-on-one support for the Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office, Blackboard, and a variety of other software. Dual monitor PCs make the lab ideal for collaborating on group projects, Macs are also available; as well as a digital recording space, collaborative tables, and a SMART Board. Free workshops are also available (Adobe and Microsoft) through Training and Certification; visit ittraining.gmu.edu to see the schedule of workshops and to sign up.