

**SCHOOL OF ART**  
**George Mason University**  
**Fall 2016**

**PAINTING I, AVT 232 004**

Fall, 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](mailto: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.**

Arts goal: Courses aim to achieve a majority of the following learning outcomes: students will be able to identify and analyze the formal elements of a particular art form using vocabulary appropriate to that form; demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between artistic technique and the expression of a work's underlying concept; analyze cultural productions using standards appropriate to the form and cultural context; analyze and interpret material or performance culture in its social, historical, and personal contexts; and engage in the artistic process, 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.

Artistic Achievement in the eight projects: 80%

Participation, Attendance, and overall level of engagement: 20%

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:**

**8/30** - introduction to the course, syllabus, expectations, introduction to materials.

**9/1 - Technique Topic:** Preparing a canvas.

### **Week 2:**

**9/6 - Technique Topic:** Paint mixing, value studies from direct observation

Painting #1 Assigned: Monochrome

**9/8** - Studio day

### **Week 3:**

**9/13** - Studio day

**9/15 - Critique: Painting #1 due**

### **Week 4:**

**9/20 - 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

**9/22** - Studio day: work on color studies

### **Week 5:**

**9/27** - Studio day

**9/29 - Critique: Painting #2 and Painting #3 due**

### **Week 6:**

**10/4 - Topic:** More on Color

Painting #4 Assigned: Harmony

**10/6** - Studio day

### **Week 7:**

**10/11 - Due to Columbus Day, Monday classes will meet on Tuesday this week. No class for us.**

**10/13 - Midterm Critique: Painting #4 due**

### **Week 8:**

**10/18 - Topic: Portraiture**

Painting #5 Assigned: Self-portrait (home)

Painting #6 Assigned: Classmate (in class)  
**10/19** - Studio day

**Week 9:**

**10/25** - Studio day  
**10/27** - Studio day

**Week 10:**

**11/1** -Critique: Painting #5 and Painting #6 Due  
**11/3** -Topic: Landscapes

Painting #7 Assigned: Landscape

**Week 11:**

**11/8** - Studio day  
**11/10** - Studio day

**Week 12:**

**11/15** - Studio day  
**11/17** - Critique: Painting #7 due

**Week 13:**

**11/22** - Studio day: Begin Final Projects  
**11/24** - Thanksgiving recess, no classes

**Week 14:**

**11/29** - Studio day: Work on Final Projects  
**12/1** - Studio day: Work on Final Projects

**Week 15:**

**12/6** - Final Critiques (full portfolio)  
**12/8** - Final Critiques (full portfolio)



## **Additional Information**

**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 Office of Disability Services (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 Office of Disability Services.

**Technology:** In accordance with George Mason University policy, please silence all 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.

## **Important University Dates:**

Consortium Registration Deadline	TBD
<b>First day of classes;</b> last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date	August 29
Labor Day, university closed	September 5
Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	September 6
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	September 20
<b>Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)</b>	September 30
Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web	September 26 – October 21
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	October 3 – October 28
Columbus Day recess (Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet this week)	October 10
Incomplete work from spring/summer 2016 due to instructor	October 28
Incomplete grade changes from spring/summer 2016 due to Registrar	November 4
Thanksgiving recess	November 23 – 27
Last day of classes	December 10
<b>Reading Days</b> 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.	December 12
<b>Exam Period</b>	Tues December 13 – Tues December 20
<b>Degree Conferral Date</b> The Winter Graduation Ceremony will be held on Wed December 21.	December 21

**ArtsBus - Dates for Fall 2016:** September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ArtsBus Credit and Policies:** You are responsible for knowing and following Artsbus policies and rules. Please go to the ArtsBus website: <http://artsbus.gmu.edu> "Student Information" for important information regarding ArtsBus policy. 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.

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:** Fall 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/>. Dates for Fall 2016: September 1<sup>st</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup>, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Masonlive/Email:** 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 non-participation. 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 must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code. Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

**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](http://ittraining.gmu.edu) to see the schedule of workshops and to sign up.