



# figure painting

Art 3560C | Fall 2025 | 3 credits  
Tu/Th 11:45 - 2:45 in FAD 0205  
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## description

The academic study drawing and painting from the human figure from life has been one of the cornerstones of visual communication for thousands of years. This class will focus on a particular methodology of interpreting the figure, aimed at developing close looking and an ability to translate the 3D world into a 2D artwork. Through a series of projects and exercises we will develop your skills as a draftsman and colorist while working from a live human model. This class will be focused around depicting and interpreting the figure both accurately and expressively in light and space. This class will mainly employ an “alla-prima” painting process and you will be introduced to the materials and techniques used in direct descriptive painting.

While the in-class paintings will be academic exercises, the out of class projects will allow you the opportunity to explore the individual creative, conceptual, stylistic and expressive possibilities of the human figure. However, the objectives for the in-class exercise paintings is not to create Art (with a capital “A”) but to learn a specific methodology to interpret the figure through direct observation. While the objective is to create the most “artful” work possible, the conceptual framework will be prescribed by the exercise objectives.

## course topics

- Color Theory
- Compositional techniques and theory
- Using paint to create meaning, mood, etc
- The process of building a painting
- Media Characteristics & Surfaces: Acrylic, oil, paper, wood & canvas (primed/unprimed).
- Painting Techniques: Alla prima, glazing, impasto, knife painting, scumbling & blending.
- Acrylic & Oil Mediums: Gel medium (heavy/regular/soft, gloss/semi-gloss/matte), texture medium, linseed oil, odorless solvents, varnishes, etc.
- Painting History: the role of the figure in art from prehistory to the present
- The future of the figure in painting

## objectives

- To strengthen your skills as a draftsman and artist.
- To describe form, space and light relationships and describe the effects of illumination.
- Develop your principles of visual organization.
- Exploit the physical and expressive properties of the painting medium.
- Expand your problem-solving ability and creativity within a structured environment.
- Practice time-management and risk-taking as a maker
- To understand and synthesize the linear and planar structure of the figure.
- Use value and color to achieve interaction of light on planes in space.
- To see how to flatten three dimensions into two while achieving a dynamic arrangement of forms in space.
- Improve your skills as they relate to the craft of alla-prima oil painting and glazing
- Students will learn best-practices for working with human subjects (life models)
- To understand the basics of gaze theory and the history of nudity in oil painting

## activities

- Each project will be informed by readings, demos, in class experiences and exercises, lectures, and other outside research. All assignments will be posted on canvas and will outline specific project expectations and related grading criteria.
- Students will be encouraged to attend several visiting artist lectures and local presentations and exhibitions.

## evaluation + grading

Your final class grade will be based on successfully fulfilling each assignment's objective demonstrating quality, creativity, and ambition.

### In Class Figure Painting Exercises - 60%

You will be expected to save each in-class work to turn in a prescribed selection of your paintings at mid-term and at the conclusion of class. You will receive a grade for each portfolio based on how the exercises successfully fulfilled the assignments objectives and goals. Each painting exercise will be given a weighted grade based on the class time dedicated to the assignment. Your in-class paintings will be evaluated on the following factors:

- Accuracy of drawing (shape, line, proportion)
- Properly addressing each color zone
- Depiction of light
- Depiction of space
- Interaction of color
- Resolution of the painting

### Two "Independent" Outside of Class Paintings 30% (15% each)

You will be expected to complete two fully developed creative "independent" figure paintings following the objectives and timelines outlined in the project assignment handout.

### Studio Participation Grade – 10%

This includes: A concerted effort to follow the guidelines and objectives of each exercise/project, being fully engaged, coming to class prepared, on time, and ready to work with all the required materials, and supplies needed to fully participate. You must also demonstrate proper studio practice that involves showing respect for your fellow students, the model, the facility, and the instructor.

### GRADING

Letter Grade and Corresponding Grade Points are as follows

|     |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |      |     |     |   |    |   |    |     |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|---|----|---|----|-----|
| A   | A-   | B+   | B   | B-   | C+   | C   | C-   | D+   | D   | D-  | E | WF | I | NG | S-U |
| 4.0 | 3.67 | 3.33 | 3.0 | 2.67 | 2.33 | 2.0 | 1.67 | 1.33 | 1.0 | .67 | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0   |

Specific criteria for grading will be listed on each assignment sheet but will always consider:

1. Completion: The work addresses the assignment and its parameters, is completed on time, has taken significant effort and thought, and critiques/feedback have been considered.
2. Creativity: The work and ideas are unique and thoughtful; research has been engaged in
3. Form + Content: The form of the project and the content of the project are chosen thoughtfully and support one another.
4. Detail: Choices are specific and considered; small details and decisions have been made purposefully.
5. Execution: The work is well crafted and presented, and technically executed at a high level

Generally, project grades in this course are considered in the following way:

- A 4.0 Exceptional work, all criteria of assignment have been surpassed in a distinguished and solutions to problems presented exhibit a depth of understanding. In addition, student is engaged in exceptional studio practice, which includes active research, looking up artists recommended, asking relevant questions about other artists' works or ideas, and being thoroughly engaged in the course content.
- A- 3.67 Well-presented, superior work: all criteria of assignment were surpassed in a distinguished manner (including exceptional studio practice highlighted above). Minimal improvements could be made to the project overall.
- B+ 3.33 Very good work: all criteria of assignment were surpassed, minor changes could be considered and executed to bring piece together and studio practice was exceptional.
- B 3.0 Very good work: above average solutions and clear potential. Most criteria of assignment were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Execution was well done. Studio practice during the project was commendable.
- B- 2.67 Good work: most criteria of assignment were met. Work showed promise with a few significant improvements to be made. Studio practice was adequate.
- C+ 2.33 Slightly above average: work, most of the criteria of the assignment were met. The work is not yet a unified whole or cohesive statement, yet effort was made. Studio practice was adequate but could be more reflective and thoughtful.

- C 2.0 Average work: the assignment directions were followed and the requirements were met in a relatively routine way. Slippage in levels of craft, originality and presentation-studio practice was adequate but could be more reflective and thoughtful.
- C- 2.67 Slightly below average work: the assignment directions were followed and the requirements were minimally met, but there is much room for developing assignment's concepts further. The level of craft and breadth and depth of idea development needs to be improved. There is some evidence of studio practice, but lacks quality and quantity.
- D+ 1.33 Below average work: an attempt to solve the problem was made, but there is much room for improving skills and developing your concepts further. The criteria of the assignment are barely met. Basic craftsmanship skills have been neglected and there is a lack of breadth and depth of idea development. There is minimal evidence of studio practice, but the quality and quantity are lacking.
- D 1.0 Inadequate, below average work: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard. There is little or no evidence of studio practice.
- D- .67 Unacceptable work and effort: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard. There is little or no evidence of studio practice.
- F 0 Unacceptable work and effort: the work submitted is inadequate; the requirements of are not addressed. The piece represents careless and/ or incomplete effort. No evidence of studio practice. Work is substandard not submitted.

For more information: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Students must earn a grade higher than C- to earn credit toward their major.

## expectations

### OVERVIEW

This course will include artwork and ideas that may be controversial. Our lectures and sections are designed to be places for discourse, not avoidance where we will think critically before reacting impulsively. I expect maturity and professionalism from all my students. Digital devices may be used for notetaking, research, and art-making when appropriate, but off-topic browsing is not allowed. During open work time, partial headphones are allowed.

I want all of you to ask lots of questions and learn as much as possible this quarter. To make this most efficient, please follow the steps below in order:

1. Consult available resources: Syllabus, google, your brain, etc.
2. Phone a friend! Get email/contact info for 2 of your classmates this week
3. Contact your professor

### ATTENDANCE

- Students are expected to attend all classes. You are required to work/participate the duration of the scheduled class period. Full participation by showing completed work

during all scheduled critiques is required along with active participation through shared ideas and commentary.

- Unexcused absences will be cause for a lowered grade. Your fourth absence will result in ONE grade drop. Absences will be counted from the first class meeting onward. Appropriate documentation from the student health service should be obtained for medical excuses. In general, acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition, or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other sound reasons may be offered.
- If an absence occurs it is the student's responsibility to make up all work. Students should check with the instructor and another student outside of class time when they miss a class (prior to missing the class if possible) to schedule make-up hours and cover material. Students should bring a doctor's note for any class from which they expect to be excused. Please address any concerns, problems, and questions regarding this class to the instructor as they arise.
- Arrival to class fifteen minutes after start of class will be noted and three such incidences will count as one absence. Leaving early from class will also be considered as tardiness.
- Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Students who do not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and who have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, may be dropped from the course. The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors may prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

## **LATE WORK**

All projects, reading responses, and research projects must be completed on time for full credit. Specific due dates are stated on each project sheet and are announced in class. Failure to complete any project on time will result in a drop of one full letter grade, and failure to complete any other assignment, in-class exercises, or other class work, on time will result in a drop of ½ letter grade for each studio day it is late. If the timeline states that a project is due at the beginning of class, turning it in at the end or after class is considered late. You must have work finished before the start of class on critique days or your work will not be critiqued and your project grade will be lowered. It is the student's responsibility to turn in all work on time. Full participation by showing completed work during all critiques is required along with active participation through shared ideas and commentary.

## **CLASS COMMUNICATIONS**

Students must check their school email accounts regularly. Students are responsible for any information, deadlines, and updates emailed to their webmail accounts.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

The Board of Regents and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays: Students, upon prior notification of their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be

permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from because of religious observances. Further, a student who is to be excused from class for a religious holy day is not required to provide a second party certification of the reasons for the absence.

### **UNIVERSITY ILLNESS POLICY**

Students who are absent from classes or examinations because of illness should contact their professors. If you're unable to attend class due to illness, please email the teacher prior to class meeting time. Please state your name , class, as well as the reason you will not be attending class.

## **university and SA+AH policies and services**

### **GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SERVICES**

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Disability Office — <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

### **UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES**

352-392-1575 <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>

University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal counseling.

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center provides counseling and consultation services to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students and their spouses/partners. The Center offers brief counseling and therapy to help students confront personal, academic, and career concerns. The primary goal of counseling is to help students develop the personal awareness and skills necessary to overcome problems and to grow and develop in ways that will allow them to take advantage of the educational opportunities at the university.

- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392- 1161, sexual assault counseling.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development and counseling.

### **HEALTHCARE**

Student healthcare center <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>

For medical emergencies call 911.

For urgent after-hours care, call 352-392-1161.

For after-hours mental health assistance, call 352-392-1171

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

In an emergency call 911.

University Police Department — <http://police.ufl.edu/> — 352-392-1111

### **STUDENT NIGHTTIME AUXILIARY PATROL (SNAP)**

SNAP provides nightly escorts anywhere on campus to persons on request. The service is staffed by students, equipped and supervised by the university police department. Escorts are routed on foot and driven trips. A person requesting an escort may contact SNAP via telephone at 392-SNAP (92-7627). The requester provides their first name, location of pick-up and destination to the dispatcher who determines the best method of meeting the requester's needs. A walking or driving escort is dispatched to their location.

## **SA+AH health and safety**

### **GENERAL SAFETY**

- Common sense and your best judgement are always required
- Closed toed shoes are recommended in studios and required in many labs
- Do not eat in any areas where art supplies are being used
- Avoid significant skin contact with solvent and paint, especially cadmium paints.
- Label liquids clearly
- Be careful, alert, and sober in the studios
- Wear clothes you can afford to get paint on and/or a smock

### **HAZARDOUS WASTE SATELLITE ACCUMULATION**

Please make yourself familiar with the SAAH Health and Safety Program at:

<http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety> during the first week of class. Refer especially to the H&S Rules by Area sections pertaining to WARPhaus, Drawing and Painting. Each student will be asked to complete a H&S student waiver form (which will be given and signed during studio).

SA+AH facilities have an area designated for art materials/hazardous waste pickup. This area should NOT be used for art making and bins and storage containers utilized in this area should NEVER be moved or used for any other purpose. When in doubt about the safety or disposal of your art materials, please speak with faculty. A Handbook of Hazardous Wastes Disposal, Health and Safety will be posted at the studio for consultation as well.

### **DRUG-FREE SCHOOL & WORKPLACE & CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT**

The School of Art and Art History is committed to upholding the policies set forth by the University of Florida regarding drug and alcohol use and smoking in educational facilities. Possession and use of drugs or alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the classroom or outdoor areas. In addition, The Florida Clean Indoor Air Act of 1992 prohibits smoking in educational facilities, including vaping. Violation of university policies and applicable laws is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges.

## **use of facilities**

## SHARED STUDIO

Please leave the studio clean. Regardless of the condition you find it in, we request that you leave it clean for the next person. Remember to place all work in progress on the storage shelves. Leave the worktables clear and clean. This is a shared studio, and we all need to work together to keep it a clean and productive environment.

## STUDIO PRACTICE

The instructor and the School of Art and Art History are not responsible for student work left in workspaces, installation spaces, the critique space, the shops, or the classrooms.

Projects/materials are not to be stored in the group working space. Each student is responsible for ensuring that his/her projects and materials are safely stored, displayed, installed, and removed from the classroom and critique space. Projects must be set up and removed from the critique space at the times and spaces designated for each project.

## GENERAL CLEANLINESS

- Wipe up as much paint as possible.
- Acrylic paint will dry quickly and cure permanently; wipe and wash your brushes regularly
- Be spatially aware; paint on your hands will transfer to anything you touch.
- Be tidy. Dust, dirt, oils, hair, and bugs manage to find their way into paint.

## POLICIES REGARDING BEHAVIOR IN LECTURES, CLASSROOMS, STUDIOS, & OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES

Please make every effort to maintain the facilities and grounds of the WARPhaus, the School of Art and Art History, and the College of Fine Arts and the UF. Specifically, we ask that you:

1. Do not mark, paint, or deface any interior or exterior of the school or college facilities. Take care to always use protective tarps, drop cloths or masking material when working with paint media or similar materials to protect the floors in public spaces such as hallways and classrooms. This also applies to the sidewalks, walls, and grounds.
2. If a special project requires temporary modification to a wall surface or to the grounds you must obtain specific permission from your instructor prior to undertaking the project. The site must be returned to its original condition immediately following the project unless prior written permission has been obtained from the School of Art and Art History.
3. No art project may interfere with or impede access to classrooms, hallways, public spaces.
4. All site-specific art projects must be installed & engineered with the safety of the public in mind.
5. Grades will not be issued for the project, or the class, until the project has been completely removed, and the site has been restored to its original condition
6. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action, withholding of grades, the possible lowering of a grade, or failure

## **working in the community**

Proper care should be taken to assure all property in the surrounding area is respected and well



maintained, and projects should be executed with public health and safety in mind. Vandalism of any kind will not be tolerated. As on campus, students doing site-specific work off-campus will be legally and financially accountable for any illegal or destructive actions. In addition, projects involving the greater community should be carefully considered and faculty must be consulted throughout. All public projects must be cleared by faculty and permission granted. The School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida retains the power to require a more appropriate solution to any project that may violate any of the guidelines outlined above.

Please do not litter or leave materials out in the area. Respect property, surrounding businesses and the rights of individuals in the community. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action, withholding of grades, the possible lowering of a grade, or failure of the course.

## **guidelines for conduct**

Student Conduct Code: Violations, Penalties and Procedures for Adjudication can be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4016.htm>

### **UF PHILOSOPHY**

The University of Florida is an institution that encourages the intellectual and personal growth of its students as scholars and citizens. As an educational institution, the University recognizes that the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, and the development of individuals require the free exchange of ideas, self-expression, and the challenging of beliefs and customs. In order to maintain an environment where these goals can be achieved safely and equitably, the University promotes civility, respect and integrity among all members of the community. As stated in the Standard of Ethical Conduct, students are expected to exhibit high standards of behavior and concern for others.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic endeavors and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action to and including expulsion from the University."

Detailed Academic Honesty Guidelines may be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm>

### **DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

Faculty, students, Administrative and Professional staff members, and other employees who intentionally act to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the mission, purposes, order, operations, processes, and functions of the University shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by University authorities for misconduct, as set forth in the applicable rules of the Board of Regents and the University and state law governing such actions. A detailed list of disruptive conduct may be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/1008.html>. Be advised that you can and will be dismissed from class if you engage in disruptive behavior.