

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

**1. COURSE ID:** ART 214    **TITLE:** Color    **C-ID:** ARTS 270

**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 24.0-27.0 Lecture hours; 72.0-81.0 Lab hours; and 48.0-54.0 Homework hours

**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only

**Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 838 or ENGL 848

**2. COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

A study of the principles, theories, and applications of additive and subtractive color in two dimensions. Topics will include major historical and contemporary color systems, production of projects in applied color, and the elements of design as they apply to color. (Fall only.)

**4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Discriminate variations in colors with extreme visual sensitivity to the optical effects of color relativity.
2. Demonstrate an aesthetic appreciation of color in any color medium.
3. Critically analyze and evaluate their own color choices and that of professional artists.
4. Apply the theoretical process of mixing any color in a wet medium.
5. Create both harmonies and discords in color and discern the expressive and informative value of both.

**5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Create aesthetically complete designs and images that demonstrate a working knowledge of: • Color systems and color organization, • Principles of color perception - light, vision, and the brain, • Value, hue, intensity (chroma), and color temperature, • Additive and subtractive color (light and paint), • Relationships between color and composition, • Color usage in contemporary art and design.
2. Make individual aesthetic decisions and judgments related to their own artwork.
3. Skillfully use a variety of artistic materials, techniques and tools.
4. Independently produce finished color assignments that demonstrate an understanding of color theory and principles in the history of art.
5. Comprehend and describe how color is perceived biologically, psychologically, culturally, symbolically and intuitively.

**6. COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

1. History of color and the development of the color palette.
2. Color systems and color organization.
3. How color is perceived - light, vision, and the brain.
4. Value, hue, intensity (chroma), and color temperature.
5. Colors, palettes and materials.
6. Additive and subtractive color (light and paint).
7. Color and composition.
8. Identifying and understanding color mixtures.
9. Cultural influences on color usage.
10. Color usage in contemporary art and design.
11. Color and Technology.
12. Critical evaluation and critique of class projects.

**Lab Content:**

1. Basic design assignments in which the student is required to demonstrate knowledge and skill in the use of the principles of color theory.
2. Assignments in which the student is required to use a variety of color systems and application

techniques appropriate to different art historical periods and styles.

#### 7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Lab
- C. Activity
- D. Critique
- E. Directed Study
- F. Discussion
- G. Field Trips
- H. Individualized Instruction
- I. Observation and Demonstration
- J. Other (Specify): Students analyze a color master painting both through writing assignments and studio techniques by using Itten's Seven Color Contrasts and other units learned in class.

#### 8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

##### **Writing Assignments:**

Throughout the semester, students write analysis papers about their own work and others, including fellow students and master colorists. Additionally, the final includes a written analysis of a master colorist painting using the terminology from the course, including Itten's Seven Color contrasts.

##### **Reading Assignments:**

Students read the assigned text, as well as the instructor's handouts and PowerPoints.

##### **Other Outside Assignments:**

Homework is assigned each week, which includes reading, research and preparation for new projects and completion of unfinished work.

#### 9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Work
- C. Exams/Tests
- D. Homework
- E. Lab Activities
- F. Papers
- G. Portfolios
- H. Projects
- I. Quizzes
- J. Research Projects
- K. Written examination

#### 10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. -. *Instructor's Color Handbook which includes exercises as well as abstracts by color theorists.*, ed. -, 0
- B. Mollica, P. . *Color Theory: An essential guide to color-from basic principles to practical applications (Artist's Library)* , 1st ed. Irvine: Walter Foster Publishing, 2013
- C. Albers, J.. *Interaction of Color: 50th Anniversary Edition*, ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013

**Origination Date:** September 2016

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** October 2016

**Effective Term:** Fall 2017

**Course Originator:** Rebecca Alex