

**College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline**

1. COURSE ID: ART 253 **TITLE:** Plein Air Painting II

Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 32.0-36.0 Lecture hours; 48.0-54.0 Lab hours; and 64.0-72.0 Homework hours

Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)

Prerequisite: ART 203

2. COURSE DESIGNATION:

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU; UC

3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Catalog Description:

A continuation of Plein Air Painting I with increased emphasis on a variety of painting techniques and development of personal style.

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

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

1. Create intermediate level plein air paintings based upon a strong understanding of studio art theory and techniques.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of art history and how it relates to intermediate level plein air painting, their own painting and various contemporary styles and movements.
3. Use intermediate level painting as a critical thinking tool to examine, observe, discover and create what was previously unseen or unknown about themselves, art and their world.

5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

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

1. Demonstrate intermediate level skill in the use and technique of the painting media.
2. Analyze the landscape before them and create a composition from that scene, applying the basic elements of design and pictorial space.
3. Use color in a manner that is descriptive and works as part of a harmonious composition.
4. Execute a quick study in paint, (in one sitting) working outdoors in the landscape.
5. Make choices and decisions about his or her personal direction and voice as an artist.

6. COURSE CONTENT:

Lecture Content:

1. Review the formal concepts of painting:
 - A. Organize the illusion of space through the use of planes (fore ground, middle ground, deep space, etc.) overlap, and both linear and atmospheric perspective.
 - B. Use grouping, value, texture, color and shape when composing the picture.
 - C. Use color and value to define form and to create light.
 - D. Use line, shape, texture and pattern to simplify representational form.
2. Review Technique and Materials:
 - A. Underpaint and use tinted grounds.
 - B. Prepare the materials of painting and other gear necessary or useful for outdoor painting.
3. Choose an appropriate location:
 - A. Determine the subject of the painting.
 - B. Choose a composition and design that is expressive.
 - C. Consider lighting and time of day, weather, etc.
4. Historical precedents:
 - A. Learn the history of plein air painting, especially plein air painting in the SF bay area and contemporary practitioners.
5. Analyze and critique one's work and the work of others in order to develop personal style:
 - A. Participate in individual critiques with the instructor.
 - B. Participate in class critiques where students critique the work of their peers and discuss their own work.
 - C. Create technically advanced plein air paintings that reflect personal style and context.

Lab Content:

1. Use intermediate formal concepts of painting.
2. Organize the illusion of space through the use of planes (fore ground, middle ground, deep space, etc.) overlap, and both linear and atmospheric perspective.
3. Use intermediate grouping, value, texture, color and shape when composing the picture.
4. Use intermediate concepts of color and value to define form and to create light.
5. Use intermediate knowledge of line, shape, texture and pattern to simplify representational form.
6. Underpaint and use tinted grounds.
7. Use intermediate alla prima painting and wet on wet techniques.
8. Show intermediate understanding of how to handle materials, including brushes, painting knife, portable easel, paints, mediums and their applications.
9. Prepare the materials of painting and other gear necessary or useful for outdoor painting.
10. Show intermediate knowledge of how to choose a location, a subject, the time of day, and lighting conditions.
11. Complete a minimum of twelve paintings, one from each location visited. These will include:
 - A. At least 1 sustained study, 16x20" or larger that was worked on at for two or more sittings.
 - B. At least 6 quick studies, of any size, executed in one sitting.
 - C. At least 6 finished paintings that focus on a cohesive and intermediate development of style and individual voice.

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Lab
- C. Critique
- D. Directed Study
- E. Field Experience
- F. Field Trips
- G. Observation and Demonstration

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

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

Writing Assignments:

1. Write a short paper of three to five pages explaining the main points emphasized in the text. Explain how your experience in painting outdoors has helped to make sense of these ideas. Also explain which concepts and/or techniques presented by the author have helped you most in your painting.
2. Write an essay between 200 - 500 words explaining what you feel you have accomplished in this class and in what areas of plein air painting you feel that you need to improve on.
3. Write a paper about your favorite style or movement in plein air painting and how your work fits into it.

Reading Assignments:

1. Read the assigned chapters each week from the required text and take notes of those ideas that you feel you can use while painting.

Other Outside Assignments:

1. Complete all paintings begun on location.
2. Research the works of a favorite plein air painter (historical or contemporary) and incorporate at least one idea from their work into a painting. This can be a compositional idea, the use of color, the handling of paint, etc. Write a paper and present this orally to the class at one of the weekly class critiques. Include an example of the artist's work in your presentation, whether from a book, a print, or digital form.
3. Give an oral presentation consisting of your work at the end of the semester and discuss the direction that your style and voice in painting is headed.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Work

- C. Field Trips
- D. Homework
- E. Lab Activities
- F. Oral Presentation
- G. Papers
- H. Portfolios

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

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Pikesley, R.. *Landscape Painting*, ed. Crowood Press, 2020

Origination Date: October 2021

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: November 2021

Effective Term: Fall 2022

Course Originator: Rebecca Alex