

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: ART 4

Title: PRINCIPLES OF COLOR

Full Title: Principles of Color

Last Reviewed: 5/12/2025

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	2.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	35.00
Minimum	1.50	Lab Scheduled	4.00	6	Lab Scheduled	70.00
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	6.00		Contact Total	105.00
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 70.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 175.00

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 08 - May Be Taken for a Total of 6 Units

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

Catalog Description:
The study and use of color as an element of art and design. Problems exploring the interaction of color and the principles of color harmony. The course is required for the Fine Art Certificate and is accepted for transfer at both the UC and CSU systems.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Basic interest in art.

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: Study & use of color as an element of art & design. Problems exploring the interaction of color & principles of color harmony. The course is required for the Fine Arts Certificate & is accepted for transfer at both UC & CSU systems. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Recommended: Basic interest in art.
Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC. (CAN ART22)

Repeatability: May Be Taken for a Total of 6 Units

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	
CSU GE:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	C1	Arts	Fall 1990	
IGETC:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	3A	Arts	Fall 1981	
CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:

CID:

CID Descriptor:ARTS 270 Color Theory

SRJC Equivalent Course(s): ART4

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Certificate Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:

1. Explore the major color principles used by artists and designers.
2. Use a variety of artmaking tools and media, including water soluble pigments and collage, to graphically express color concepts.
3. Develop a working vocabulary of color terms and a first-hand understanding of their meanings.
4. Employ creative thinking skills (non verbal and abstract forms of thought) and exercise decision-making skills (aesthetic judgements) inherent to the visual arts.
5. Develop visual perception skills to recognize color, pattern and forms found in nature and the man-made environment and incorporate them as sources for visual imagery.
6. Examine cultural and historical uses of color to gain a greater appreciation of art and its relationship to today's art.
7. Practice aesthetic criticism and analysis of form by participation in class critiques of artwork.

Topics and Scope:

1. Apply subtractive color mixing principles by using a limited color palette consisting of the three primary system.
2. Create studies which demonstrate the three main properties of color-- hue, value, and saturation.
3. Diagram the ordered relationships of color by construction of a color wheel, value scale, and graduated studies showing mixtures of tints, shades, and tones.

4. Produce a series of original designs which investigate the major principles of color harmony---monochrome, analogous, triad, complements, and split-complements.
5. Investigate the spatial effects of color including aerial perspective and demonstrate how color may appear to advance and recede.
6. Explore the haptic sensations of warm and cool as well as synesthesia associations (taste, smell, sound, feel) related to color.
7. Execute a series of color studies, based on the teachings of Josef Albers, which demonstrate the relativity and interaction of color simultaneous contrast and subtraction principles.
8. Analyze the work of George Seurat, and the color theory of other pointillists, and then execute color study applying optical color mixing principles.
9. Compare paintings of the French Fauves and the German Expressionists and create original color studies which explore the emotional and psychological properties of color.
10. After examining the work of several artists who are important for their unique use of color, create an interpretive "homage". Artists may include Monet, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Matisse, Klee, Avery, Rothko and others.

Assignment:

Various color mixing exercises which explore major principles of color including:

1. Color wheel
2. Gray Scale
3. Tints, Tones, Shades
4. Hue, Value, Saturation
5. Color Harmony
6. Optical Color Mixing
7. Spatial Aspects of Color
8. Color Relativity/Color Interaction
9. Synesthesia
10. Symbolism, Association
11. Expression and Emotional Qualities

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

None, This is a degree applicable course but assessment tools based on writing are not included because problem solving assessments and skill demonstrations are more appropriate for this course.

Writing
0 - 0%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Homework problems

Problem solving
40 - 60%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class performances, Portfolio

Skill Demonstrations
10 - 30%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

None

Exams
0 - 0%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

A portfolio of completed work will be major basis for course grade. Other factors: attendance, effort, growth, and class participation.

Other Category
10 - 30%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Principles of Color by Farber Birren (recommended)