

Ben Cressy

Art 3 Introduction to Art and Design: Fall 2025. Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-9pm

Contact: email: bcressy@santarosa.edu and on canvas

Important Dates:

- September 1 Labor Day Holiday, no class
- September 7 Last day to drop a class without "W" symbol
- November 16 Last day to drop a class with "W" symbol
- December 15 Final (Required!)

Catalog Description:

An introductory studio course in the fundamentals of art and design using shape, value, texture, line, pattern, color and space through exercises in drawing, painting, and collage.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe visual composition both verbally and in writing, using a vocabulary of terms pertaining specifically to art and design.
2. Create a portfolio that synthesizes design elements such as line, value, texture, positive and negative shape, and color principles.
3. Practice various techniques, such as drawing, collage and painting.
4. Demonstrate the ability to look at a work of design or art and evaluate how the visual elements communicate to the viewer.

Objectives:

Students will develop visual literacy and the ability to understand and analyze a work of art or design through its formal elements. Students will develop confidence and ability to create artworks or designs from observation, memory and concept while engaging the possibilities inherent in the subject and materials. We will explore aspects of visual communication and representation using formal elements of line, shape, value, texture, composition, and color, as well as a variety of processes and practices. Through exposure to lectures and library assignments, students will be introduced historical and contemporary trends in art and design.

Studio procedures: Put your cellphones and tablets away!!

- Turn off your cellphones and put them away. *Turn off your cellphones and put them away.*
- Presentations of concepts, review of homework, demonstrations and slide shows will be held at the start of the session. Please be on time.
- Keep your work area clear of clutter. Only have out the supplies you need to work on the current project. Likewise, keep your discussion focused on art. Avoid distractions.
- Start cleaning up 15 minutes before the end of class. Properly dispose of artmaking byproducts (glue, charcoal/eraser dust, paint, cuttings etc), and wipe down your work area leaving it clean for the following class.

General Rules:

No eating or Drinking. No cell phone use, no headphones. Avoid excessive off topic talking. It is distracting to others. If you must communicate with the outside world during class, wait until the break. We work hard to build a positive and encouraging learning environment. You will learn as much or more from your peers as you will from your instructors.

Health and Safety:

Most of the materials used in drawing and acrylic painting are considered non toxic except for spray fixative. Please be very alert when using xacto knives and scissors. Use fixative in a well ventilated (outside) area and be considerate of which way the wind is blowing.

Assignments:

Assignments of about 6 hrs/week will be assigned and worked on in class to explore the concepts discussed.

Homework Assignments are for you to build upon concepts discussed in class and demonstrate understanding/skill, and to explore the potential of the concepts using your own subjects. Have the work ready to share in class. Photograph your work for your digital portfolio.

Late work will be docked, and not be accepted more than two weeks past its due date. Remember that while it takes time, it will be fun/relaxing. Getting started is the most difficult part.

Grading Policy :

As with anything, you get out what you put in. This class can be taken for credit/no credit if you request it at the Registrar's Office before the deadline. *Ignore the grading number in Canvas.* It doesn't reflect some aspects of your effort while over inflating aspects.

Grading is based primarily on timely completion of assignments, homework, attendance, attentiveness, attitude, effort, involvement, and class participation.

100– 90% = A 80 – 89% = B 70 – 79% = C 60 – 69% = D < 60% = F

Attendance and Portfolio: 70%

Attendance and participation are essential as each session builds upon the concepts of the previous class.

Missing more than three classes (>10%) may result in the loss of a letter grade. Missing more than 3 classes may result in being dropped from the class. If you know beforehand that you are going to be absent, please let me know in order to arrange make up work. Make up work must be completed within 1 week of the absence.

Punctuality is also essential as assignments and demonstrations are discussed at the beginning of class.

Arriving 2 minutes after class is late. 3 late arrivals, early departures or extended breaks equal 1 full absence.

Homework is assigned and explained during class.

Portfolio:

Your portfolio will consist of class projects and homework assignments. There should be evident growth of understanding within the cumulative body of work that you create.

The grading of your work is based on:

- Understanding and completion of the assignment on time
- Effort and involvement. Come up with creative solutions to the assignments
- Consideration of aesthetic and material presentation
- Push to expand your capabilities- not just doing what worked in previous pieces
- The Final Project(s) will be heavily weighted for determining borderline grades.

Class participation and contribution to critiques: 30%

Your involvement will determine how well you do in general. No cellphone use during class (counts against your grade!). Pay attention to demonstrations and ask questions when you don't understand, or need clarification. Use class time to explore the concepts discussed. Always be moving material on the page.

Critiques are a chance to step back from your work and that of your classmates to recognize verbally what is working, why it's working, as well as ideas for possible improvements. You will develop of a vocabulary over time, but don't let not having the right words stop you from trying to express the visual. Your participation helps create a positive and enriching environment for all, and you will learn much through conversations about art and design with your peers.

Topics and Scope

Essential design concepts
Drawing techniques
Creative processes
Color concepts
Paint Application

The primary intent of Art 3 is development of visual literacy to create compositions using a range of specific media in a studio setting.

1. Materials
 - A. Drawing mediums and implements such as charcoal, pencil, conte and pen and ink.
 - B. Grounds such as newsprint, Bristol board
 - C. Brushes: water based medium
2. Techniques
 - A. Charcoal
 - B. Pencil contour
 - C. Paper cutouts
 - D. Automatism and subtraction
 - E. Collage
 - F. Paint application
 - G. Mixed media
3. Composition
 - A. Analyzing the picture plane
 - B. Spatial illusion in composition: perspective and non-perspective techniques for creating or deconstructing depth
 - C. Symmetry/Asymmetry
 - D. Positive/negative figure tension
 - E. Value as an organizing principle
 - F. Cropping
 - G. Rhythm/pattern
 - H. Scaling techniques
4. Color
 - A. Value/grey scale
 - B. Organization of hues/color wheel
 - C. Complementary admixing/color relationships
 - D. Analogous colors
 - E. Saturation/tint, tone, shade
 - F. Split-complements
5. Creative Process
 - A. Viewfinders/thumbnails
 - B. Sketching
 - C. Observation of other artists techniques and process by copying
 - D. Cropping
6. Critique
 - A. Analysis of formal elements in art and design
 - B. Vocabulary for constructive exchange of formal and expressive criticism of visual work.
 - C. Context: historical and contemporary movements in art and design
7. Health and Safety
 - A. Safe studio maintenance and clean-up procedures
 - B. Safety in the home studio

Art 3 Materials for Ben Cressy:

Art stores often have their best sales at the beginning of the semester. Look for coupons and use your student discount.

Art 3 supply kit available at Riley Street (approximately \$115)

Some supplies can be cheaper at a hardware store or 99cent stores.

Riley Street Art Supplies, rileystreet.com 103 Maxwell Ct, Santa Rosa, or 1138 4th st. San Rafael

Blick Art – dickblick.com, 811 University Ave, Berkeley, or 979 Market St., San Francisco

SRJC Bookstore

Amazon

Case for carrying materials Portfolio for finished works Large envelope to save cut papers Sketchbook 9x12 (60-100 pages) Bristol Pad 14 x 17 (not smaller) Pack of sheets black construction paper Soft pencils (6b or ebony) Pencil sharpener (preferably captures shavings) Vine Charcoal (medium or soft) 3-6 sticks “Char-kole” soft charcoal sticks 3pcs Erasers (Sanford plastic, pink pearl etc) Xacto knife and extra blades Scissors Glue stick(s) 18” or 24” metal ruler Artist tape 1/4 to 1/2 inch (White) <i>Optional:</i> Drawing Board (smooth board to work on)	Plastic Palette 9”x12” or disposable palette paper Palette Knife (small, with bend in the shaft) Plastic container for water Acrylic Paints: Liquitex ‘Basic’ Titanium White (large tube) Primary Yellow or Hansa Yellow Quinacradone Magenta or Primary Red Primary Blue or Pthalo Blue Mars Black or Ivory Black Cadmium red light Hue Acrylic Brushes: These can be prepackaged set. small to medium to large Rounds # 2, # 4(and/or #8) Filbert # 6 Flat #10
---	--