

ART 14A: Beginning / Intermediate / Advanced Painting

Schedule: M/W 1:30–4:30 pm

Location: Analy Hall, Room 714

Instructor: Laeh Glenn

Email: lglenn@santarosa.edu

Office Hours: 12:30–1:30 pm, M/W (email to schedule)

Course Description

An introductory course in painting involving the basic elements and dynamics of art such as value, color, texture and space, as well as compositional factors and an introduction to the various problems and potentials of painting. (Acrylics or oil paints).

Emphasis is placed on hands-on exercises and experimentation designed to build familiarity with tools, processes, and visual problem-solving. Through demonstrations, lectures, and critiques, we will examine how paint and mark-making have been used from ancient art history to the present to construct both simple and complex visual statements.

A central focus of the course is color—its ability to define space, create illusion, and evoke emotion. Working primarily from observation, students will complete numerous still-life paintings to develop sensitivity to color mixing, value relationships, and pictorial structure. Learning will be experiential and process-driven.

Class time will be divided among demonstrations, in-class painting, group critiques, and individual feedback. Assignments will include both short-term, single-session paintings (*alla prima*) and longer-term works developed over multiple class meetings. Outside of class, students will continue paintings begun in class, complete preparatory sketches, build and prepare a stretched canvas and panel, and maintain a sketchbook for visual research and note-taking.

Supplemental readings, videos, and podcasts will be provided, and students are encouraged to regularly engage with art through museums, galleries, books, and films.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze complex visual problems involving shape, value, color, line, proportion, and surface.
2. Plan and execute paintings in multiple stages.
3. Improvise and adapt during the painting process.
4. Use a variety of tools, materials, and painting techniques effectively.
5. Mix a wide range of hues, tints, tones, and shades using primary colors and earth tones.
6. Interpret the work of Old Masters, Modern Masters, and contemporary artists as points of departure for personal painting investigations.

7. Identify and apply appropriate health and safety practices related to paints, solvents, and mediums.

Topics and Scope

1. **Shape:** Identifying essential forms; using positive and negative shape relationships to strengthen composition.
2. **Value:** Employing tonal contrast and gradation to create volume and depth.
3. **Color:** Mixing and applying color with attention to hue, temperature, and saturation.
4. **Line and Edge:** Evaluating the role of line versus edge in painting.
5. **Positive and Negative Space:** Understanding spatial relationships surrounding major forms.
6. **Scale:** Exploring how shifts in scale affect visual impact.
7. **Technique:** Proper use and care of brushes, palette knives, rags, solvents, mediums, grounds, supports, and palettes.
8. **Surface:** Developing paintings from thin to thick (*lean to fat*) and exploring texture.
9. **Pacing:** Working from general structures to specific details.
10. **Experimentation:** Incorporating improvisation, spontaneity, and chance.
11. **Content:** Developing aesthetic and conceptual aspects of painting through the study of master artworks.
12. **Health and Safety:** Safe handling, storage, recycling, and disposal of painting materials.

Evaluation and Grading

Grades are based on attendance, class participation, effort, skill development, and understanding of course concepts.

A (Excellent):

- 87%+ coursework completion
- 85%+ homework completion
- No more than 3 absences
- Strong participation, originality, and risk-taking

B:

- 80%+ coursework completion
- No more than 3 absences
- Above-average participation; objectives met

C:

- Minimum requirements met
- Grades lowered by lack of motivation, incomplete work, or poor attendance

D/F:

- Incomplete work, poor work ethic, or excessive absences

P (Pass):

- Minimum requirements met; portfolio submitted

Grade Components

- **Participation (20%)** – attendance, preparedness, engagement in critiques
- **Work Ethic & Attendance** – more than 3 absences may lower grade; 8 absences may result in course drop; 3 tardies or early departures equal 1 absence
- **Homework** – required for an A grade only; 1–2 hours per week; must be 85% complete; no make-ups
- **Sketchbook** – required for an A grade; daily drawing encouraged; periodically reviewed
- **Conduct** – maintaining a respectful learning environment

Classroom Conduct and Academic Integrity

Students are expected to follow the SRJC Student Conduct Code and contribute to a respectful, focused classroom environment. Food, excessive talking, phone use, and unapproved guests are not permitted. Headphones may be used only during independent work.

Disruptive behavior—including talking or texting during lectures, chronic tardiness, lack of supplies, or inappropriate conduct—will result in warnings. Repeated issues may lead to removal from class, counted absences, or suspension.

All work must be original. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment; a second offense may result in removal from the course.

Complaints and Grievances

1. Address concerns directly with the instructor.
2. If unresolved, contact the Department Chair or appropriate administrator.
3. Formal grievances may be submitted to the Dean.

Contacts:

Santa Rosa: (707) 527-4424

Petaluma: (707) 778-4141

Health and Disability Support

Student Health Services: Free nurse and mental health appointments for all students.

Phone: (707) 527-4445

Email: studenthealthservices@santarosa.edu

Disability Resources: Students requiring accommodations should contact Disability Resources.

Phone: (707) 527-4278

Email: disabilityinfo@santarosa.edu

Week-by-Week Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week 1: Orientation and Drawing Fundamentals

- Course overview, syllabus, and materials
- Student introductions; locker assignments
- Easel setup and classroom organization
- Lecture: basic still-life drawing

Week 2: (No School Monday) Painting Fundamentals

- Value scales
- Acrylic studies of geometric forms in black, white, and gray

Week 3: High-Contrast Painting

- 11" x 14" black-and-white painting

Week 4: Shoe Still Life

- Black-and-white shoe still life in oil paint

Week 5: Color Theory

- Color charts
- Warm vs. cool color relationships

Weeks 6–8: Complementary Color Series (Oil Paint)

- Week 6: Red/Green still life
- Week 7: Orange/Blue still life
- Week 8: Yellow/Purple still life using palette knife techniques

Week 9: Master Painting I

- 18" x 24" master copy painted in class (due Week 10)

Week 10: Master Painting II

- Second 18" x 24" master copy (in class and homework)
- Both master copies due the following week

Week 11: Plein Air Painting

- Outdoor painting sessions (weather permitting)

Week 12: Painter's Choice

- 18" x 24" painting based on a student-selected subject

Weeks 13–14: Large Painting

- Begin landscape or portrait (24" x 30" or 30" x 36")

Weeks 15–17: Final Project

- Large-scale final painting (30" x 30", 36" x 30", or 48" x 36")

Week 18: Final Critique

- Group critique and course wrap-up

Material List:

Oil Paints: 37ml Artisan Paint

1. Cadmium Red Hue WN1514095
1. Permanent Alizarin Crimson WN1514468
2. Cadmium Yellow Pale Hue WN1514119
1. Yellow Ochre WN1514744
1. Burnt Sienna WN1514074
1. Burnt Umber WN1514076
1. Phthalo Green Yellow Shade WN1514521
1. Sap Green WN1514503
1. French Ultramarine Blue WN1514263
1. Cerulean Blue Hue WN1514138
1. Ivory Black WN1514331
1. Dioxazine Violet WN1514229

- 1. Magenta WN1514380
- 1. 200ml tube of Titanium White WN153764

Acrylic Paint:

- 1. Liquitex Basic Acrylic White Acrylic 4 oz. LQ1046432
- 1. Liquitex Basic Acrylic Black Acrylic 4 oz. LQ1046276
- 1. Liquitex Basic Acrylic Burnt Umber 4 oz. LQ1046128

Other supplies

- 1. Cobra Quick Dry Medium TN24281093
- 1. Pad Palette Paper 12 x 16 SM365-12
- 1. Palette Knife #01 LQ119901
- 1. Palette Knife #17 LQ119917
- 1. Master Brush Cleaner 2.5oz GP101-BJ
- 1. Art Alternatives Real Canvas Pad 9 x 12 AA72001
- 6. 11" x 14" Canvas Boards WN6224261
- 1. 18" x 24" Canvas Board WN6224278
- 1. Blue Painters tape 3/4" 3M209075A

Brushes:

- 1. Princeton Summit Round #2 (Synthetic) PB6100R-2
- 1. Princeton Summit Round #4 (Synthetic) PB6100R-4
- 1. Princeton Summit Flat #4 (Synthetic) PB6100F-4
- 1. Princeton Summit Filbert #6 (Synthetic) PB6100FB-6
- 1. Princeton Ashley Flat #8 (Bristle) PB5200F-8
- 1. Princeton Ashley Bright #10 (Bristle) PB5200B-10
- 1. Purchase Real Value Brand package of brushes. Set PB9116 #1 Round, #4 Round, #6 Shader, #10 Shader
- 1. Portfolio 20x26 AABGMESH2026