



**NORTHWEST**  
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY  
MARYVILLE | KANSAS CITY

**Department of Fine and Performing Arts**

**13240-02,03 PAINTING, 3 trimester hours credit  
Spring 2021**

**Instructor:** Armin Mühsam  
**Office hours:** Tuesday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
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**Prerequisites:** 13-120, 13-191

**Textbook:** Fraser, Pamela. How Color Works. Oxford University Press, 2018.

**Course description:** A continued study of elements and principles of composition and color perception. Synthesis of drawing and painting through work in traditional genre and concern for materials and methods in use of the oil medium. (F,S)

**Student learning outcomes:** This course is structured to emphasize seeing and forming through color, also control of and responsiveness through the oil medium. "It is through the still life that one can establish the true essence of what painting is all about. To deny this, is to admit you know nothing about painting." Ardengo Soffici, 1911.

Assuming the students do their part, the following outcomes are projected:

1. Students will be able to see and understand any given subject observed in the world around them through the eyes of art, i.e. in relationships of line, shape, plane, volume, mass, value and color.
2. Students will be able to translate their perceptions of nature into two-dimensional equivalents using sound compositional structures and color relationships.
3. Students will be introduced to relevant artists of the past and present. Exposure to varied artistic philosophies invariably contributes to the student's own development as an artist.
4. Students will practice to make sound critical judgements concerning art.

**Assessment methods:**

The grade will be based on paintings completed by the student. The determining factor of evaluation is performance. Learning how to paint is a continuous process, with each assignment building on the preceding one. Progress in this process is constituted largely by quantity of work, self-discipline and dedication. These things invariably lead to an increase in quality.

The following will aid the instructor in evaluating the student's work:

1. Problem development: The degree of creativity, originality, uniqueness of vision used in the set-up and resolution of the problem assigned.
2. Form/design: Organization of the composition. Formal relationship of the "elements" of art to the "principles" of form organization.
3. Workmanship: The application of care, judgement, and dexterity in carrying out the assignment/problem.
4. Effort: Initiative, ambition and time involvement in carrying out assignments. Persistence in the face of setbacks and failures. NOT doing the obvious, the easy, the least challenging.

**Instructional methods:** Approximately 80% of the time in the classroom will be spent in the painting studio working under the supervision of the instructor. The instructor will use this time to talk with individual students about their paintings. The remaining time will be devoted to lecture utilizing slides and reproductions as well as occasional group critiques for discussion of completed assignments.

**Graded course requirements:** All paintings count the same; the final grade is averaged from the sum of the completed paintings. With the exception of the final project all paintings can be reworked after the critique if the student thinks this will improve the grade. This does not mean, however, that a student can turn in unfinished work at the due date only to complete it at a more convenient time. The painting presented at the critique should be finished to the best of the student's abilities.

To be considered for a passing grade the student needs to have completed ALL assigned projects, on the date and at the start time of the scheduled final exam.

**Grading scale:** Grades/scores are recorded numerically, not as letter grades, throughout the trimester. Letter grade equivalents of the scores are as follows: 95-100(%)=A; 90-94=A-; 87-89=B+; 83-86=B; 80-82=B-; 75-79=C+; 69-74=C; 65-68=C-; 62-64=D+; 58-61=D; 55-57=D-. Grades are given for work completed at a specified time; all late work will be graded down one third of the letter grade for each class period late (beginning with due date).

A = Superior: This grade is a mark of distinction for students who have repeatedly and variously demonstrated talent, initiative, and self-reliance as well as their grasp of the substance and intent of the course and of its relevance to the discipline as a whole.

B = Excellent: This grade is awarded in recognition of a student's above average performance throughout the course and excellence in some aspects, whether of imagination, initiative in the setting and resolution of problems, or by habits of mind and of work.

C = Satisfactory: This is given for regular attendance and satisfactory completion of more than minimal course requirements. It is an earned grade and is not given merely for effort or for regular class attendance alone.

D = Unsatisfactory: Implies that attendance and/or effort has been irregular and deficient, or that work is generally not up to average standards, or that the student's work habits are deficient, or some combination of some or all of these.

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 65% - 79%

D = 55% - 64%

F = 0% - 54%

#### **Course outline/major topics studied:**

1. In the beginning, students will be introduced to the physical qualities of oil paint and its technical application. Also covered will be tonal structure and the importance of value contrast. This will be done using a monochromatic palette with still life subjects.
2. Following that, color will be introduced and its formal, spatial and light-creating properties explored. Structural principles such as unity, balance, rhythm, and tension will be stressed, especially as they relate to color. Work will continue to be from still life.
3. Later in the trimester, the still life genre will be complemented (or, in optional cases, replaced) with other subject genres, such as landscape, figure and/or portrait.

**Note:** Course schedule is subject to change with instructor notification and students will be responsible for

abiding by these changes.

**Attendance:** It is the responsibility of the student to promptly notify his or her instructor when unable to attend class. Please refer to the university policy on attendance at <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Attendance.pdf>

**Final exams: May 3, 2021, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. (13240-02); May 4, 2021, 9:40 – 11:40 a.m. (13240-03)**

If an emergency occurs that prevents the administration of a course scheduled final examination, the final course grades will be calculated based on the work in the course completed to that point in time and the faculty member's considered judgment. Final exams will not be rescheduled, and a grade of "I" will not be given as a result of an institutional cancellation of a final examination. This final exam policy does not apply to online courses.

**Administrative drop:** An instructor may request the Office of the Registrar delete a student from a course roster if the student has not met the prerequisite for the course as stated in the catalog, or as a result of non-attendance in the course.

**Academic Administrative withdrawal:** When it is in the best interest of Northwest Missouri State University for a student to withdraw, a student will be given a W, put on administrative hold, and given notice that they are about to be withdrawn. This action will result in removal of all credits associated with courses that have yet to be completed in the semester in question and the student will be administratively withdrawn from the University. An Administrative Withdrawal does not affect the student's grade point average. Please refer to Northwest Missouri State University's Academic Administrative Withdrawal Policy at: <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Adding-Dropping-Withdrawals.pdf>

**University communications:** Students are expected to use their Northwest student email account for any electronic correspondence within the university. Students are also strongly advised to check their email and CatPAWS accounts on a regular basis.

**Academic integrity policy:** The students, faculty, and staff at Northwest endeavor to sustain an environment that values honesty in academic work, that acknowledges the authorized aid provided by and intellectual contributions of others, and that enables equitable student evaluation. Please refer to Northwest Missouri State University's Academic Integrity Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Academic-Integrity.pdf>

**Learning or Living Accommodations Request Process:** Northwest Missouri State University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 [ADA] and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 [ADAAA]. If a student has a documented disability that qualifies under the ADA/ADAAA and requests accommodations, they should review the Accessibility and Accommodations webpage at <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/titleixequity/accessibility/index.htm> for guidance, including the accommodations application and supporting documentation requirements. Contact [ada@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:ada@nwmissouri.edu) or 660.562.1873 for further assistance. For the university policy on disability accommodation refer to <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/student/Disability-Accommodation.pdf>

**Non-discrimination and anti-harassment policy:** Northwest Missouri State University is committed to maintaining an environment for all faculty, staff, students, and third parties that is free of illegal discrimination and harassment. Please refer to the Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/diversity/titlevi.htm>

**Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) policy:** Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (commonly known as the Buckley Amendment), is a federal law which provides that colleges and universities will maintain the confidentiality of student education records. Please refer to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Family-Educational-Rights-and-Privacy-Act.pdf>

**COVID-19 Classroom Mitigation:** Northwest is committed to the health and safety of the University community and has therefore adopted COVID-19 mitigation policies. Every student must wear a face covering (such as a cloth facemask, bandana, scarf, neck gaiter, or medical mask) over their nose and mouth at all times in all academic building spaces, including classrooms (unless directed not to by the instructor), offices, hallways, and restrooms. Face shields may be worn in addition to, but not in place of, a face covering. Students without face coverings will not be allowed in the classroom until they comply with expectations. Students must also follow directions regarding entries, exits and furniture, and maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing whenever possible. Northwest further asks all students to practice good hygiene and not enter academic buildings or attend face-to-face classes when they feel sick or have been instructed to quarantine/isolate; students who miss class should communicate with their instructors. Students who do not comply with these requirements will be subject to standard disciplinary procedures according to the Northwest Student Code of Conduct (i.e. verbal and written warnings followed by a hearing, if necessary). We thank you for doing your part to maintain our learning environment and to protect the health of fellow Bearcats.

**Change in Course Delivery:**

It is our goal as a University to continue all courses as planned on campus. However, due to unforeseeable impacts of COVID-19, faculty and students must be prepared to move all courses to a remote/online learning format anytime during the semester, either permanently or for a short term. The type of format (synchronous or asynchronous) will be at the discretion of each faculty member. The University and faculty will communicate with students in the event such action is deemed necessary to preserve the health and safety of students and employees.

**Disclaimer:** Course schedule is subject to change and you will be responsible for abiding by any such changes. Your instructor will notify you of any changes.