

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for ARTS 26

COLOR THEORY

Effective: Fall 2013

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

ARTS 26 — COLOR THEORY — 3.00 units

This course is an introduction to the characteristics of color and its interaction. Major color theorists will be presented such as Itten and Albers. Assignments will include creative application of color theory in various media including computers. Development of a visual vocabulary for creative expression through lecture presentations, studio projects, problem solving, and written assignments. 2 hours lecture, 4 hours studio [Typical contact hours: lecture 35, studio 70]

2.00 Units Lecture 1.00 Units Studio Lab

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	36.00
Studio Lab Hours:	72.00
Total Hours:	36.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. develop artwork that reflects an understanding of color based on the major color theorists, such as Itten and Albers.
2. make art that is inventive and experimental using color.
3. demonstrate in their art the effective use of the three elements of color: hue, intensity and value
4. demonstrate in their artwork individual aspects and contrasting components of color.
5. identify various aspects of color in artwork they view.
6. utilize effectively the various media, including the computer, required to complete the visual assignments.
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8. identify the use of process color, such as CMYK separations, and Pantone Color.
9. demonstrate the use of color to create various planes in space (depth).
10. mimic colors they see by mixing paint.
11. demonstrate in their artwork the dependency of color on its light source-understanding environments with full or partial spectrum.
12. utilize limited parts of the color wheel.
13. develop a personal color palette.
14. develop a color sketchbook.
15. distinguish terms and vocabulary of Color Theory as they pertain to their artwork and within the context of a critique or other written or verbal venues.

V. CONTENT:

- A. The Color Theories of Itten and Albers and other major color theorists-the study and application.
- B. Color Models including:
 1. The three elements of color-hue, intensity, and value
 2. Subtractive color-the traditional twelve part color wheel-mixing colors with paint.
 3. Process color-such as CMYK separations
 4. Color on computer vs. printed versions
 5. Additive color-colors of the spectrum and how they can be utilized/mixed
 6. Pantone Colors
- C. Color perception - light, visual processes, and brain processes
- D. Studying the use of color through an art historical perspective
- E. Seven Color Contrasts-hue, light/dark, cold/warm, complementary, simultaneous contrast, saturation, and extension
- F. Color creating various planes in space.
- G. Color's capability to express various emotions and moods
- H. Limitation of palette, such as analogous, triadic, complementary and monochromatic
 - I. Mimic visible color with a paint mixture
- J. Recognition of environments with full or partial spectrums of light

- K. The use of color in world cultures
- L. Non-tangibility of color-the dependency of color on its light source
- M. The development of a personal color palette

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Audio-visual Activity** -
- C. **Critique** -
- D. **Projects** -
- E. **Field Trips** - Museum/gallery visit
- F. **Lab** -
- G. **Observation and Demonstration** -
- H. **Classroom Activity** -
- I. **Discussion** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Develop a color sketchbook
- B. Write a critical analysis with focus on color issues based on a visit to a museum or gallery.
- C. Create a Color Wheel: Create a 12 hue color wheel with three primary colors that overlap three secondary colors to produce six tertiary colors. When this arrangement is correctly made, and the colors well chosen, the results look like the secondary colors are transparent and that the tertiary colors are made by looking through the secondary colors to the primary colors.
- D. Color Mixing Method: Locate a sample of the assigned color on your color map. Use the the straight-line-mixing techniques for your basic mixing strategy. Plan and mix your color. Select likely "parent colors". Aim to get the **hue correct first**, then **refine the value**, if needed, using white or black.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Quizzes
- 2. Portfolios
- 3. Projects
- 4. Class Participation
- 5. Class Work

B. **Frequency**

- 1. 2-4 quizzes
- 2. Weekly critiques of studio work
- 3. 1 Midterm project
- 4. 1 portfolio of completed work
- 5. Daily class participation

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Itten, Johannes (1970). *The Elements of Color* (1st ed.). New York: John Wiley.
- 2. Albers, Josef (1975). *Interaction of Color* (Rev ed.). New Haven: Yale University Press.
- 3. Zelanski, Paul and Mary P. Fisher (2009). *Color* (6th ed.). New York: Prentice-Hall.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Art Supplies (Color Aid Paper, colored pencils, crayons, gouache paint)