

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 165, Section 1, Topics in Figure Painting, Fall 2019

Instructor:	Donald Feasel
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Office Hours:	Tuesday 6pm – 8pm
Class Days/Time:	T TH 3pm – 5:50pm
Classroom:	Art Building, Room 306
Prerequisites:	ART 55, ART 61, and ART 164 (or equivalent)

Course Description

Figure and portrait painting from the model
Repeatable for credit
3 units

ART 165 is a studio practice class in selected media. Specific content, materials, and subject matter may vary with instructor. This course is intended for students who have already taken Beginning and Intermediate Painting (Art 61&164) and are familiar with oil painting techniques. Prior life drawing experience (Art 55) is essential. The subjects for compositions in this course will be taken primarily from the human model. Students will work mostly from observation, although some projects will be based on the photograph. There will be lectures to illustrate various historical approaches associated with this tradition. Periodic group critiques will be held during the semester. These will expose the student to the language of critical observation used to analyze and discuss figure painting.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to create an environment that allows each student to discover his or her own vision within the context of figure painting. Most projects will involve longer poses allowing for greater concentration and thorough development of the subject. Emphasis will be placed on a sustained

effort where the initial image is to be worked on and developed over several sessions. This process will be guided by lectures introducing work by past masters of figure painting. These examples will be used to focus attention on the different possibilities this practice affords. Engagement with the potential expressive qualities of oil painting will be encouraged over a linear development of the subject. The broader objective of the class is to introduce an awareness of historical figure painting approaches with an emphasis on 20th century masters.

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

- Learn critical thinking and creative approaches to the figure
- Paint the figure with greater confidence.
- Identify various traditional painting applications when analyzing a painting. Techniques and terms such as glazing, scumbling, wet into wet, alla prima, fat over lean, dry brush, etc.
- Construct a figure in the most efficient and direct manner possible using warm & cool colors / dark & light values.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the painting projects and related homework required of the course. Homework will consist mostly of assembling photographic and other materials related to class projects.

All project grades will be assessed on a scale of 0-100

Grading Percentage Breakdown: A 94% and above, A- 93% - 90%, B+ 89% - 87%, B 86% - 84%, B- 83% - 80%, C+ 79% - 77%, C 76% - 74%, C- 73% - 70%, D+ 69% - 67%, D 66% - 64%, D- 63% - 60%, F below 60%.

Grades are based on the following criteria:

1. Effort
2. Attention to learning
3. Technical accomplishments and execution
4. Formal development and creative solution of each assignment

Materials List

For the purposes of this class it is strongly advised that oil paints be used.

Oil Colors:

- Cadmium Yellow Light (Hue)
- Cadmium Red Light (Hue)
- Yellow Ocher
- Venetian, Indian, or Mars Red
- Alizarin Crimson
- Burnt Sienna
- Burnt or Raw Umber
- Terre Verte (Green Earth) or Chromium Oxide Green
- Ultramarine or Prussian Blue
- Phthalocyanine Green (Viridian)
- Black (Ivory or Mars)
- Titanium White (150 ml)

Brushes: Buy an assortment of natural bristle brushes according to your preference. I would include a #5 bright, #7 filbert, #10 flat and #12 bright. A couple of wide (1 ½" or 2") inexpensive natural bristle brushes for covering large areas.

Painting Knife / Palette Knife

Medium

- Linseed oil, pint
- Odorless mineral spirits (turpentine substitute)

Palette:

At least 16"x20" disposable paper palette

Any smooth, sturdy surface will do: gessoed Masonite, wood, or thick glass with the edges taped for safety.

Painting Supports:

- Canvas board
- Stretched canvas

Suggested sizes: 14"x 18", 16"x20", **18"x24" (self-portrait project)**

24"x 36", 30"x40", and 36"x48"

Always have an extra support with you

Other Supplies:

- Cotton rags
- Squeeze bottle or jar for medium
- Container (tin can) for odorless mineral spirit
- Tape
- An assortment of soft charcoal sticks (not compressed) and sketching paper for studies
- Viewfinder

Suggested Reference Books at MLK Library

The Artist's Handbook of Materials and Techniques - Ralph Mayer
The Materials and Techniques of Painting - Kurt Wehlte

Written Assignment (Due 12/5)

Research one artist of your choice from the list below. Write a two or three-page paper explaining how the artist you selected informs your own goals in painting the figure. Include a brief biography of the artist and describe the character of their figurative style: Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, Expressionistic, Abstract, etc.

List of Artists:

Edouard Vuillard	Edouard Manet	Elmer Bischoff
Gustave Courbet	Mary Cassatt	Chuck Close
Fairfield Porter	Pierro della Francesca	Richard Diebenkorn
Max Beckman	Francisco de Zurbaran	Paula Rego
James McNeil Whistler	Gwen John	Jenny Saville
El Greco	Edward Hopper	Phillip Pearlstein
Rembrandt van Rijn	Lucian Freud	Paul Cezanne
Frans Hals	William Coldstream	Paul Gauguin
Lovis Cornith	Alice Neel	Vincent van Gogh
Francisco Goya	David Park	Leon Kossoff
Andres Mantegna	Diego Velazquez	Franck Auerbach
Edgar Degas	Frida Kahlo	Chaime Soutine
Thomas Eakins	Francis Bacon	Edward Burne-Jones
Henri Matisse	Dante Gabriel Rossetti	Gustav Klimt
Ferdinand Hodler	Alex Katz	Egon Schiele
Stanley Spencer	Thomas Gainsborough	Berthe Morisot
Titian	Caravaggio	Oskar Kokoschka

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Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/22	Introduction to Figure Painting: Explanation of materials list and class structure
2	8/27 8/29	Slide lecture: Portraiture Arm study: blocking in and creating flesh tones using warm and cool colors
3	9/3 9/5	Male model (2 sessions)
4	9/10 9/12	Female model (2 sessions)
5	9/17 9/19	Male model (2 sessions)
6	9/24 9/26	Female model (2 sessions)
7	10/1 10/3	Male model (2 sessions)
8	10/8 10/10	Female model (2 sessions)
9	10/15 10/17	Self-Portrait Project: slide lecture and project instructions Topic: Photorealism Self-portrait Canvas size: 18"x 24"
10	10/22 10/24	Self-portrait continued

11	10/29 10/31	Self-portrait continued
12	11/5 11/7	Self-portrait continued
13	11/12 11/14	Self-portrait continued
14	11/19 11/21	Self-portrait continued
15	11/26 11/28	Self-Portrait Project Due Installation of show No class
16	12/3 12/5	Self-Portrait Critique
17 Final	12/11	Final 1445 -1700

Classroom Protocol

All students should turn their cell phones off before entering the class. Laptops should be closed except for presentations. Excessive tardiness may affect grade. Students are responsible for knowing the assignments and necessary materials. Students are expected to come into class prepared to work.

Etiquette Reminder

Please remember to honor the model's space, no matter how familiar you may be with the model outside of class. Do not approach the model's stand; ask him/her questions/make comments of a personal nature. Do not enter the model's dressing room. Observing these rules shows respect for our models.

No visitors will be allowed in the classroom during class.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

University Policies: the link below contains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>