

**OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY  
PETREE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**Life Painting 1-32923 Art 3343-01**

**LIFE PAINTING I - 31963 - ART 3343 - AU**

**LIFE PAINTING I - 31516 - ART 5023 - 01**

Laboratory Hours: T-R 2:30-5:00; Room NC STU

Instructor: Mike Wimmer

Office: NAC 102; 405-208-5452

Email address: [mwimmer@okcu.edu](mailto:mwimmer@okcu.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-2:30pm or by appointment

**COURSE INFORMATION**

This course emphasizes the naturalistic representation of the human figure using oil painting techniques. Students develop skills in the accurate observation of anatomy, the structure of the figure, color, value, and of the form in space.

**Required Books: "The Art Spirit"** Robert Henri

**Required Materials:**

9x12 Hardbound Sketch Book, Various Pencils, Vine Charcoal, Charcoal Pencils, Conte Crayons (Black, White, Sanguine, Brown, etc.), Kneaded Erasers;

Oil paints: Ultramarine Blue, Burnt Sienna, Cadmium Red Light, Yellow Ochre, Raw Umber, Ivory Black, Titanium White. (a full palette can be added at a later date; One could also substitute acrylic colors)

Brushes: (see handout)

**Course Objective:**

To prepare the student for more advanced study, by equipping them with the necessary rudimentary skills of painting the figure so that they might better express themselves through form and color.

**Course Requirements:**

My teaching style is casual and personable but my standards and expectations are very high with a concentration on professionalism and work ethic. I enjoy a give and take of ideas and discussion and am also willing to give great latitude to students who show a clear ability to work on their own, but I also hold the student responsible for consequences of not taking advantage of class preparation and participation.

**Grading Procedures:**

Grading procedure is based on the four aspects of each project.

**Production and Creativity**, (planned carefully, exemplifying the tenants of mastering a skill. Every effort was made to make each work the best he/she has ever made)

**Effort and Perseverance**, (the project was continued through the daily doubts and insecurities while developing new skills)

**Craftsmanship and Skill**, (The artwork was beautiful and patiently done; it was as good as hard work could make it.)

**Class Participation and Behavior**. (The student worked toward all class goals, followed through on commitments, was sensitive to the feelings and knowledge level of others, willingly participated in necessary preparation or work for classroom without asking.)

Deadline, late work will be reduced From a possible 100 to a 75, if the work is not handed in at all it will be reduced to a 50 so a continued pattern of laxness could greatly reduce final grade. Exceptional quality work can raise grade but not in excess of a 4-point grade and does not spill over to another project. Class participation is required and class attendance mandatory. 3 unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction of 1 full point (example B to C) missed field trips will count as 2 absences. You are considered absent if you habitually arrive late, or leave early. You are not working during class.

Lecture material will not be repeated. Makeup assignments for excused absences will be on a case-by case basis.

You will be required to keep a sketch/reference book. format is of your choice but it must demonstrated that you have kept ideas in a book throughout the semester. I will ask to see your book periodically to determine participation.

**MID TERM**: will consist of a vocabulary review and your sketchbook.

**FINAL**: Will consist of a final exam and critique of final project and review of your semester portfolio of work.

Incomplete Grade Policy (see page 48, 2011-12 Undergraduate Catalog and pages 31, 44 and 59 of the 2011-12) [www.okcu.edu/undergraduatecatalog.pdf](http://www.okcu.edu/undergraduatecatalog.pdf)  
[www.okcu.edu/graduatecatalog.pdf](http://www.okcu.edu/graduatecatalog.pdf)

The University's academic honesty policy is published in the 2011-2012 undergraduate catalog (page 42) and graduate catalog (page 33).  
[www.okcu.edu/undergraduatecatalog.pdf](http://www.okcu.edu/undergraduatecatalog.pdf)  
[www.okcu.edu/graduatecatalog.pdf](http://www.okcu.edu/graduatecatalog.pdf)

"If you need an accommodation due to disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the Student Health and Disabilities Service Office immediately at (405) 208-5991 or (405) 208-5090. Advance notice is required for many accommodations."

- A** Students complete all assignments on time and in a clean and neat presentation manner. They miss few, if any, classes and they participate verbally without being called upon. Their independent work is vigorous and consistent thorough out the semester. Their work in all aspects goes beyond the minimum requirements.
- B** Students complete all assignments on time and in a complete manner. Their work is clean,neat and presented well in critiques. Their independent work may be a bit spotty but exhibits commitment.
- C** Students complete most assignments on time, but their work doesn't show much improvement. Their work seems a bit sloppy, or unkempt during critique and they participate only when called upon. Their independent work shows no dedication to improvement or only minimal growth.
- D** Students do not complete assignments on time, portfolio is minimal, and attendance is a problem.
- F** Students do not complete exercises and miss class often.

# CLASS RULES

"Hard work beats Talent every time, when Talent doesn't work very hard."

1. NO WHINING.
2. Clean up after yourself, the last ten minutes of class will be set aside for clean up of your space and your materials. Try and leave the studio and your space around you better than you found it.
3. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU ALLOWED TO DISPOSE OF ANY PAINT MATERIALS DOWN THE SINK.
4. I will not try to teach you to paint like me. I will not try to teach you to draw like me. I WILL try to teach you to Think and Work like an Artist. To Create how an Artist Creates. I will instruct you on building concepts, how to critically link and to organize your approach in research and application.
5. Observe the 3 "R's"  
R=Respectful, towards your peers, your teacher and YOURSELF!  
R=Responsible, for your actions, your decisions and your materials.  
R=Reflective, about your art, your inspirations, YOUR life!
6. If you doubt yourself, ask if what you are doing or about to do is Respectful, Responsible or Reflective...if not, you can make a better choice!
7. CELL PHONES are allowed in class if used discreetly and does not cause interfere with class cohesion or attention. Under no circumstances is the use of a cell phone allowed for talking or texting during class discussions or lectures.
8. I will answer many questions with more questions. SURE, I will try to lead you there from time to time...talk about composition, a discussion on color decisions...but in the end, each and every one of you will answer your own questions. That is my philosophy. I will NOT do it for you...but I will crack open your door a bit for you to peek in. I will give you the keys, but I might not tell you which one works...try them all...and you'll never forget which one worked for you.
9. You are expected to be on time. You are expected to arrive ready to work with supplies and projects.
10. You should remain at your workstation for the period. You will not be dismissed until your area is clean and your supplies are put away.
11. Profanity will not be tolerated nor will the verbal or physical abuse of another person. This includes SELF-ABUSE! I do not allow any self-derogatory remarks reflecting your own work. Your artwork is a reflection of yourself. My classroom is about self-respect and that starts with your artwork!
12. Follow the procedures in your student handbook, and if you ever should have a question please refer to rule #1.
13. We are all young adults, treat others as you would like to be treated.

14. I expect students to develop a respectful demeanor towards one another. Art is a direct expression about LIFE and how you perceive it through your senses...and LIFE is a personal perception of how you feel about yourself through the interactions between: you and yourself & you and your peers.

15. ART SAFETY, I expect that you respect the tools and materials we use in the art room. You are expected to use supplies for intended use only. Use precautions as directed and there is no tolerance for 'horseplay'. If an accident occurs in class, causing physical injury, notify the teacher at once.

16. I expect each student to be RESPECTABLE, RESPONSIBLE and always be REFLECTIVE. In order to be truly successful you must compare yourself to the highest of standards. Do not compare yourself to the lowest common denominator, anyone can trip over mediocrity.

17. If you think you can or you can't; you're right!

18. All that I'm looking for from my students is PERFECTION from the Greek word *telos*, which means completeness or "end" or "purpose". So What I want from each of you is a striving for "Your end or Purpose". To discipline yourselves for yourselves so that you might discover "YOUR" place in the cosmos.

## **SAFETY**

Some of the art Materials we use in class are toxic if handled incorrectly so precautions must be made and safety for you and your classmates is a necessity.

In class it is suggested that we use **GAMSOL** as a solvent. We do not recommend painters use "alternative solvents" as ingredients in painting mediums. They are not 100% volatile and have not been tested by conservation scientists.

Once painters remove turpentine from their studios, good ventilation is the next issue. Good ventilation is essential for a safe studio. According to the recommendation of environmental hygienists, studio air should be changed ten times per hour. A certain percentage of this change is attained by natural diffusion through the building. Generally the older the building the greater the diffusion. The rest of the air exchange can be attained by opening the windows to increase diffusion and by inserting a fan in one window to blow air out. An excellent source of ventilation is a small box fan in a window. Robert Gamblin (in his studio) has blocked the window on both sides of the box fan so the air moves from his studio to the outside. The air moves between the painter and his painting table.

Painters who are using **Gamsol** and Galkyd do not need respirator masks or exhaust systems. Artists working in media requiring strong solvents or chemicals (printmaking or silk-screening for examples) or fixative sprays (pastels) should follow the recommendations of the manufacturers.

### **Recycling solvents**

Gamsol can be reused until the solvent will no longer clear. Set up a simple system. After a painting session, pour dirty solvent into the first can. Let the solvent settle then pour off the clear solvent into the second clean can. Repeat the process and add another settling can if needed. Keep all settling cans completely closed. Once Gamsol will no longer settle, dispose with motor oil at a local recycling center.

Turpentine is toxic waste. Call the local recycling center for disposal instruction. Because Turpentine is a bio-hazard, **DO NOT DUMP TURPENTINE INTO THE SOIL.**

Sludge from recycling cans of OMS and artists' grade oil colors that do not have health warning labels on the packaging can be disposed of as normal household waste. Because linseed oil soaked rags can spontaneously combust, keep all rags, including paper towels, in closed metal containers.

To protect the watershed, no artists' materials, including acrylics, oil/water media and watercolors, should be washed down the drain.

Do not sand lead-based paints because that releases the pigment from the binder. Dispose of solvent containing lead pigments with hazardous materials.

**DO NOT DISPOSE OF LEAD-BASED PAINTS or SOLVENT CONTAINING LEAD PIGMENTS IN HOUSEHOLD TRASH.**

Regarding other pigments and oil paints, the art materials' industry is the second most regulated industry in America. If you do not see caution labels, the materials are not toxic. For more information on health warning labels, contact the [The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. \(ACMI\)](#)

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I have read and understand, the terms of this syllabus, and will abide by the class rules referenced above. I have also read and understand the information regarding academic honesty as stated on this page. My signature will serve as a contract between the instructor and myself, and will serve as an agreement between us.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature