Beginner **Oil Painting**

Art 104  
T/Th 3:30 – 5:00 pm  
Russel Hall – Room 001

Instructor: John Guy Petruzzi  
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Office hours T/Th 1:00-3:00pm by appointment

**Course Description**  
This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts, vocabulary, methods, and materials related to oil painting. Color theory, composition, craftsmanship and creative expression are emphasized through a series of rewarding and challenging painting exercises.

**Course Objectives**  
This course is designed to equip students with the following:

- Understanding of key design elements as encountered in oil painting with emphasis on color theory and composition
- Essential processes and techniques specific to painting with oils
- Creative approaches to aesthetic problem-solving
- Awareness of iconic milestones in the modern history of painting
- Improved observational skills and hand/eye coordination
- Discovery of personal styles and creative pathways
- Improved ability to think and speak critically about visual artwork

**Grading**  
Primary Paintings 90 pts (6 x 15 pts each)  
Artist Presentation 5 pts  
Midterm Quiz 3 pts  
Sketchbook 2 pts  
Participation 5 pts (possible extra credit)

Grades are based on:  
Clear comprehension and creative applications of concepts  
Demonstration of diligent effort and time commitment  
Craftsmanship and presentation  
Active engagement and participation
Grading Scale
A = 90 - 100
B = 80 - 89
C = 70 - 79
D = 60 - 69

Primary Paintings
There are six primary painting projects over the course of the semester that are equivalent to major exams. Each project should demonstrate comprehension of concepts covered in class, while also offering opportunities for expressive creative decision-making.

Artist Presentation
A powerpoint-style presentation on the paintings of a prominent artist of your choice. More formal analysis than biography, identify the elements of design in the work and describe how they are organized into a successful, unified painting.

Midterm Quiz
A midterm quiz will test comprehension of basic terminology introduced in class.

Sketchbook
Keeping an active sketchbook is required. A sketchbook serves as a space for brainstorming, preparatory thumbnail compositions, in-class exercises, color tests and material experimentation. It also documents your time and progress in the class.

Critique Participation
Artwork is critiqued in a thoughtful and supportive manner utilizing shared vocabulary covered in class. Participation in class discussions and critiques is strongly encouraged. Active, unsolicited participation throughout the course can afford 5 extra credit points.

Attendance
Attendance is required. After three unexcused absences, final grades are lowered 5 points per subsequent absence. Tardiness or leaving early is treated as 1/2 an absence. 8 absences (excused or otherwise) results in automatic failure of the class.

Late Work
Work submitted late (after critique) automatically receives a 2 point deduction.
**Studio Etiquette**
All persons using this lab are responsible for its upkeep. This includes cleaning your own and class work areas, maintaining tools and equipment, and returning borrowed tools and materials to their proper location. Make sure all of your materials are properly stowed away before you leave. Westminster will not be held responsible for missing or damaged property/projects. Out of respect of our collective work time, excessive cell phone use during class is prohibited. Headphones may be used respectfully during class. Always respect the work and working environment of other students in class.

**Academic Integrity**
You are expected to follow the academic integrity policies outlined in the Westminster College Student Handbook. Cheating is not tolerated in any form including but not limited to the following: plagiarism, submitting work from previous projects or other classes, misrepresentation, falsification, deception, fabrication, sabotage, collusion to cheat and professional misconduct. Any form of cheating designed to unfairly enhance your efforts or damage/harm/hinder the work or efforts of others will result in an automatic F for the course and the matter will be taken to the Academic Dean for review.

**Accessibility Statement**
Westminster College strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of Disability Resources, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall. Phone 724-946-7192. Email craigfa@westminster.edu

**Materials**
A supply list has been created for the course at dickblick.com.

Additional supplies:

- HB Pencils
- Drafting/painters tape
- Palette knife

*Additional supplies may be required*


**Tentative Schedule:**

**Week 1:**
August 28
Class introduction/Syllabus review

August 30
Color/hue intro
Additive vs Subtractive Color
Color wheel - Primary, secondary, tertiary color
Complimentary, analogous color

**Week 2:**
September 4
Value / Intensity scales
Simultaneous contrast
Intro: Painting 1 Mono/Polychromatic Still Life Diptych

September 6
Composition
Wet on wet painting vs glazing
Lighting
Reflected color
In-class work: Painting 1

**Week 3:**
September 11
In-class work: Painting 1
Local color vs actual color
Cone app

September 13
In-class work: Painting 1

**Week 4:**
September 18
Crit: Painting 1
Intro: Painting 2: Grid Image Reproduction

September 20
In-class work: Painting 2
**Week 5:**
September 25
In-class work: Painting 2

September 27
In-class work: Painting 2

**Week 6:**
October 2
In-class work: Painting 2

October 4
Crit: Painting 2
Intro: Painting 3: Landscape

**Week 7:**
October 9
In-class work: Painting 3
Atmospheric Perspective
Midterm review

October 11
In-class work: Painting 3
Midterm Quiz

**Week 8:**
October 16
In-class work: Painting 3

October 18
Crit: Painting 3
Intro Painting 4: Self Portrait

**Week 9:**
October 23
In-class work: Painting 4

October 25
Camera Lucida demo
Projection demo
In-class work: Painting 4
Week 10:
October 30
NO CLASS: MID BREAK

November 1
In-class work: Painting 4

Week 11:
November 6
Crit: Painting 4
Intro: Painting 5: Abstraction

November 8
In-class work: Painting 5

Week 12:
November 13
In-class work: Painting 5
Surface texture

November 15
Crit: Painting 5
Intro: Final Painting

Week 13:
November 20
In-class work: Final Painting

November 22
NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING

Week 14:
November 27
In-class work: Final Painting

November 29
In-class work: Final Painting

Week 15:
December 4
Artist Presentations
In-class work: Final Painting
December 6
Sketchbook Check
In-class work: Final Painting

Finals Week:
Crit: Final Painting