

NCAL 406D: ACRYLIC PAINTING II FOR OLDER ADULTS

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Winter 2026
Units:	0
Hours:	3 lecture, 3 laboratory per week (72 total per quarter)
Degree & Credit Status:	Non-Degree-Applicable Non-Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Non-GE
Transferable:	None
Grade Type:	Non-Credit Course (Receives no Grade)
Repeatability:	Unlimited Repeatability

Student Learning Outcomes

- Critique intermediate level acrylic paintings based on terminology, technique and criteria.
- Paint various intermediate-level subject matter using color theory with acrylic paint.

Description

This noncredit course is targeted towards older adults. Building on fundamental acrylic painting skills to develop intermediate painting skills, a personalized style, complex subject matter, color theory, and composition.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Apply intermediate color theory to express a personal point of view
2. Model complex still life, landscape, the figure, or abstraction
3. Organize the canvas or panel using a personal approach to composition
4. Develop expressive content through manipulation of mark, color, and stroke
5. Use acrylic media to create a series of thematic paintings
6. Examine and describe historical and contemporary developments, trends, materials, and approaches in acrylic painting
7. Produce paintings that creatively apply subjective matter that reflects personal and culturally diverse imagery

Course Content

1. Color theory and meaning
 - a. Monochromatic color that expresses mood or personal expression
 - b. Analogous color that expresses mood or personal expression
2. Model complex subject matter

- a. Space
 - i. An exterior space or landscape
 - ii. An interior space
 - b. The human figure
 - i. Self-portrait
 - ii. A human image or human form
 - c. Still-life
 - i. A still-life that represents personal meaning
 - ii. A surrealist still-life
 - d. Abstraction
3. Creative or personal approach to the organization of composition
 - a. Different size or shaped supports - square or rectangles
 - b. A series of thematic paintings that use the same subject matter or style
 4. Develop expressive content through manipulation of mark, color, and stroke
 5. Use acrylic to create a series of thematic paintings
 6. Examine and describe historical and contemporary developments, trends, materials
 - a. Mix media
 - b. Mixing opaque and transparent acrylic water media

Lab Content

1. Exploration of personal approaches to acrylic or mix media painting materials and paint application
2. Organization and application of a personal approach to composition
3. Safety rules and procedures related to the handling of painting materials
4. Evaluation and application of more intermediate and expressive uses of color theory
5. Painting complex models and expressive subject matter, such as still life, the figure, or space
6. Written essay discussing contemporary subject matter, topics, and trends in painting

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

1. Easels, stools, and storage space for each student. Still-life storage area, room darkening drapes, portable lighting equipment.
2. When taught via Foothill Global Access, ongoing access to a computer with email address, software and hardware, and internet access.

Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Portfolio review: Each painting will be evaluated for technical ability, craftsmanship, and personal creative and conceptual approaches

Written or verbal critiques

Written essays

Written participation in lectures of historical and contemporary painting

Painting revisions

Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

Lecture presentation using the language of acrylic painting

Discussion using the language of contemporary and historical acrylic paintings

Demonstration of using mix media and acrylic paint, acrylic mediums, brushes, supports, techniques, and methods

Critique and group presentation of intermediate mix media, oil, acrylic, or watercolor painting projects followed by in-class discussion and evaluation

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Kloosterboer, Lorena. [Painting in Acrylics: The Indispensable Guide](#). 2014.

Robertson, Jean, and Craig McDaniel. [Painting as a Language: Material, Technique, Form, and Content](#). 1999.

Although these texts are older than the suggested "5 years or newer" standard, they remain seminal texts in this area of study.

Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

Copy of a mix media acrylic painting: research the artwork, the artist, the style, subject matter, content, and context; write an essay or paper describing the artwork; write a self critique describing the process of making an artist copy or study.

Discipline(s)

Art