

ARTS 1500 - Painting 1: Oil - Schlesinger

SYLLABUS – Summer 2025

Georgetown University - Department of Art and Art History

Painting 1: Oil (ARTS 1500) 3 credits.

Instructor: Ann Schlesinger

Time: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday., 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Location: Walsh 295

Dates: July 7 - August 8 , 2025

Final Portfolio Review: August 8 (during the last day of class)

Email: as4337@georgetown.edu

Cell phone: 703-474-6494 (Email is best. Text or call only when necessary)

Office Hours: Before/after class, and anytime by Zoom appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to introduce students to various aspects of the painting process, both technical and aesthetic, as well as develop an awareness of the expressive possibilities of the oil painting medium. Through a series of projects and exercises, the class will explore the following: the dynamics of composition; color and tonal relationships through hue, value, saturation and temperature; and application techniques that create textural and surface variety. Ideas and approaches of various art periods will also be explored. There will be slideshow presentations, discussions, demonstrations and critiques, both individual and group, as well as a final portfolio review.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

60% Fulfillment of ALL assigned work in portfolio, including projects, techniques, and concepts learned in class.

20% Aesthetic quality of portfolio, including composition, color, tonal sensitivity and texture, and the degree to which the work is visually compelling.

20% Effort - perhaps most important!

Be willing to push yourself and try new things. Take risks! Don't settle for okay. Try to create strong work. Have an active approach in class.

ATTENDANCE and TARDINESS

Attendance is mandatory! - you must come to class, and **be on time.**

There will be a sign up sheet, and anyone who arrives more than 15 minutes after the beginning of class will be counted as **late.**

If you miss class for any reason, please **email me as soon as possible** regarding the circumstances.

Each student is allowed **3 absences, including excused absences.**

Use these with discretion - you may get sick or have a doctor's appointment.

Every absence after three may result in a letter grade reduction.

It's important to show up on time, because will spend a few minutes at the beginning of class discussing the day's assignment, frequently with slideshow or demonstration:

- The slideshows of artwork are from either renowned artists or students. Through these slideshows, students are introduced to different approaches, and are more likely to learn from the work of their peers.
- **Actively** looking at and analyzing art is critical -- you will start to notice *why* certain things work visually and discover how to incorporate those principles into your own work.
- Remember Yogi Berra's insightful wit:
"You can observe a lot by just watching."

Students need to be present in class in order to complete the coursework given.

Projects will be presented and analyzed through slideshows, discussion, demonstrations, and individual as well as group critiques. Work will be done primarily in class and there will be lots of **interaction and feedback**, which is difficult to make up. Students who are late to class or leave early will miss critical studio time.

**** Showing up late and leaving early will be noted and accounted for in grades in the following way: three tardies and/or early departures are equivalent to one absence.**

There are no formal breaks during class, so if you need to use the restroom or grab a sip of water, please don't hesitate to do so. However, it's best not to do this during the slideshow at the beginning of class, but rather during general studio time following the presentation.

PHONE POLICY: You may listen to your phone, but make sure you can hear me if I give directions or call your name.

Absolutely no watching films or programs during class.

Don't hang out on your phone or abuse texting... If necessary, I will enact a **no-phone policy in class.**

PAINTING PROJECTS

There will be four main painting assignments, each of which will have corresponding activities and exercises. The time schedule will be fluid and flexible.

Painting 1: TONAL STILL LIFE: Color harmonies through a limited palette

- **Painting basics**
 - Palette layout
 - Limited palette
 - Mixing tones/ Swatch chart
 - Blocking in/ development of painting
 - Building layers (fat over lean) and mediums
 - Clean up
- **Composition**
 - Preliminary thumbnail sketches (using viewfinders)
 - Creating movements
 - Dynamic arrangement of shapes
 - Importance of negative shapes
- **Value** - Importance of a range of light and dark tones within a composition
 - Light and shadow to describe form
- **Color & Tonal relationships**
 - **Color theory** (Josef Albers) - tonal relationships - color swatches
 - simultaneous contrast
 - color temperature

Painting #2 STILL LIFE: Pushing color - harnessing hue & tone for visual excitement

- **Forms from Nature** - Plants/ Flowers/ Fruit
- **Organic structure** in natural forms - how things grow in nature
- **Aspects of composition**
 - Using viewfinder & thumbnail sketches to create dynamic movements
 - Using color & tone actively as compositional elements
- **Color theory**
 - Color wheel
 - Aspects of color (hue, value, intensity, temperature)
 - Complementary colors - incorporating **simultaneous contrast** and juxtaposing tones for maximum visual excitement
 - Creating a reference sheet of color swatches

- **Building the surface and creating texture**
 - Textural variation and brushstroke
 - Texture as an active element
 - Density of paint and surface qualities
 - Altering tones

Painting 3 LANDSCAPE: Color, light & space

- **Composing with a sense of space**
 - Foreground, middle ground, background
 - Perspective/ gradual diminution of size to show distance
 - Breaking away from narrative content - selectively choosing what to include
- **Color - creating harmony and integrating the whole**
 - Finding color in light and shadow
 - Divisionism - optical mixing
 - Earth colors - to tone down intensity of colors out of the tube
 - Green, gray & brown - finding variation for visual
- **Creating atmosphere and space**
 - Tonal change to show distance
 - Textural variation - landscapes lends itself to an expressionistic approach
 - Glazing and scumbling

Painting 4 SELF-PORTRAIT

- **Structural study of head**
 - Emphasis on planes of head/ the face in strong light reveal features
 - Work from large to small - don't get caught up in little details
 - Features emerge from planar structure
- **Locking the figure (or head) in space**
 - Integration of head to background
 - Negative space as integral part of composition
- **Color as Expression**
 - Emotion through color

Museum Assignment: (TBA) There will be one assignment which requires students to go to a museum and make direct observations of a painting and/or painter's work. Each student will give a presentation to the class. This should include a slide presentation (with close-up details), a visual analysis of the chosen work or works, pertinent background, and why you chose this piece or artist. You can have a journalistic approach. Just to be clear, **NO Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. The presentation should include *only your observations!* Presentation should last about 10 minutes.

Textbook: There is no required text for this course. There will be slideshows and information on Canvas.

Getting supplies

Students taking Studio Art courses at Georgetown are no longer charged a supplemental studio fee. In previous years this fee had been \$130 for each ARTS course. The fee supported the unusual expense of maintaining art studios and much of the equipment and material for studying art. For many of these courses, students also purchased additional tools and materials — just as they purchase books for other courses.

Students taking studio courses must purchase the supplies required for their courses. I have compiled the following list of supplies for my course (ARTS 1500 - Painting 1: Oil) as well as a variety of online and local vendors. You may purchase them in person or online. If you order online, please take into account the shipping time. Crucial items may go out of stock as the semester approaches, so prompt purchasing of supplies is encouraged. Any student unable to acquire the materials for any reason should let me know immediately so that I help you explore alternatives.

MATERIALS LIST *We will go over these supplies in the first class.*

*****Please have everything by the second class.***

Stretched canvases (total of 4)

- two 16 x 20"
- two 20 x 24" or 18x24"

***Fredrix Canvas Pad** - 12x16" (for swatches, exercises, sketches)

Gamblin oil paint - Be sure to have all colors! Get individual tubes!

In paint you get what you pay for - better, cleaner colors with higher proportion of pigment and less filler... It makes a difference, especially when you mix colors - there's less "graying out." With good quality paints, you will have more success mixing colors. At the minimum, get Gamblin 1980 series or Utrecht. DO NOT get Plaza brand because the colors tend to lose intensity when mixed.

- **GAMBLIN 1980 series - small tubes (37 ml.)**

ALL of the following colors are required:

- **White - Titanium **LARGE tube (150 ml.)**
- **Raw Umber**
- **Burnt Sienna**
- **Yellow Ochre**
- **Naples Yellow**
- **Alizarin Crimson**
- **Cadmium Red Light**
- **Cadmium Yellow Medium**
- **Hansa Yellow Light**
- **Ultramarine Blue**
- **Cerulean or Pthalo Blue**

** FYI: There is a *Gamblin 1980 Oil Colors Introductory Set* (on sale for \$38.40 at Plaza) OR *Utrecht Artists' Oil Paint Set - Complete Set, Set of 10 colors, nine 37 ml tubes, one 150 ml tube*, **but you will have to add in several tubes of paint!**

Brushes - Princeton Real Value Brush Set - 9154 (Combo, Long Handle, Set of 7, natural bristle)

Palette knife - RGM #002 - at least one... Metal not plastic! Make sure it's flexible.

****Silicoil jar** - for cleaning brushes

Plus an extra jar (large with tight lid) - for dirty Gamsol, which can be reused. As Gamsol stands overnight, it clears as pigment particles sink to the bottom. Jar can be from home.

Vine charcoal (small package)

Painter's Tape - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch - *optional*

Supplies provided by the Department of Art

Paper palettes 12x16 inches

Masterson Palette Seals

LIQUIN oil painting medium

GAMSOL odorless mineral spirits for thinning paint & cleaning brushes.

Supplies can be picked up locally in the store. This is the easiest, most streamline way to get your supplies. There is in-store shopping and curbside pick-up.

I have been in touch with **Plaza Art** - it is close by - and they have all supplies.

I recommend going to **Plaza** (see below). I have spoken to Alex (store manager), and she knows the exact supplies that I want you to have!

**** A COUPON from Plaza is attached also... Don't forget to use it!**

Plaza Artist Materials and Picture Framing

- **Plaza Artist Materials and Picture Framing**
- **1120 19th ST NW**
- **Washington, DC 20036**
- **202-331-7090**
- dcstore@plazaart.com

There is also **Blick**, which is downtown near the National Museum of Women in the Arts

- **Blick Artist Materials**
- **1250 I Street NW**
- **Washington, DC 20005**
- **202-898-0555**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY - Students are expected to uphold the Georgetown University Honor System, and comply with the Standards of Conduct as described in the Undergraduate Bulletin, including Cheating, Committing Plagiarism, and Submission of Work.

Sexual Misconduct

Georgetown University and its faculty and staff are committed to supporting survivors and those impacted by sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, and stalking. Georgetown requires faculty members, unless otherwise designated as confidential, to report all disclosures of sexual misconduct to the University Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator. If you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a professor or staff member in or outside of the classroom (with the exception of disclosures in papers), that faculty or staff member must report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator, or Deputy Title IX Coordinator. The coordinator will, in turn, reach out to the student to provide support, resources, and the option to meet. Please note that the student is not required to meet with the Title IX coordinator and no action will be taken without the student's awareness. More information about reporting options and resources can be found on the Sexual Misconduct Website: <https://sexualassault.georgetown.edu/resourcecenter>.

If you would prefer to speak to someone confidentially, Georgetown has a number of fully confidential professional resources that can provide support and assistance. These resources include:

- Health Education Services: Sexual Assault Response and Prevention:
sarp@georgetown.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS): 202.687.6985

Additional resources are included below:

- Georgetown Self-Care Resource Guide:
<https://studenthealth.georgetown.edu/health-promotion/self-care/>
- Georgetown Wellness Wheel:
<https://studenthealth.georgetown.edu/hoya-wellness-wheel/>
- Georgetown Guide to Recognizing Students in Distress:
<https://studentaffairs.georgetown.edu/studentoutreach/facultystaffresources/>

Pregnancy Modifications and Adjustments

Georgetown University is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive environment for pregnant students. At any point throughout their pregnancy students may request adjustments/modifications based on general pregnancy needs or accommodations based on a pregnancy-related complication or medical need. Students may also request accommodations following labor and delivery based on a complication or medical need.

To request pregnancy modifications, please complete the [SCS Pregnancy Modification Request Form](https://forms.gle/ZBfASxui7u13A8TU6): <https://forms.gle/ZBfASxui7u13A8TU6>

More information about pregnancy modifications can be found on the Title IX Georgetown University Website:

<https://titleix.georgetown.edu/title-ix-pregnancy/student-pregnancy/>