ARTS-105: COLOR THEORY

Effective Term
Fall 2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status
Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Art (Master's Degree)	Or
Commercial Art (Any Degree and Professional Experience)	Or
Graphic Arts (Desktop publishing) (Any Degree and Professional Experience)	Or

Subject Code
ARTS - Arts
Course Number
105

Department
Arts (ARTS)

Division
Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title
Color Theory

Short Title
Color Theory

CB03 TOP Code
1002.10 - Painting and Drawing

CB08 Basic Skills Status
NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code
E - Non-Occupational

Rationale
non substantive edit to update course

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description
This course focuses on the principles, theories, and applications of additive and subtractive color in two dimensions. Topics will include major historical and contemporary color systems, production of projects in applied color, and the elements of design as they apply to color.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit
No

Repeatability
Not Repeatable

Grading Options
Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit
Yes

Requisites

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?
No

Units
3.00

Activity Hours
108

Outside of Class Hours
54

Total Contact Hours
108

Total Student Hours
162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?
Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Hybrid	Emergency Only
Entirely Online	Emergency Only

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Produce a portfolio of finished Color projects that demonstrate competency in basic color theory and design application.
2.	Critique artwork and receive criticism from others.

Course Objectives

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Create aesthetically complete designs and images that demonstrate a working knowledge of; color systems and color organization, principles of color perception - light, vision, and how the brain processes color, value, hue, intensity (chroma), and color temperature, additive and subtractive color (light and paint), relationships between color, composition, and color usage in contemporary art and design.
2.	Make individual aesthetic decisions and judgments related to their own artwork.
3.	Skillfully use a variety of artistic materials, techniques and tools.
4.	Independently produce finished color assignments that demonstrate an understanding of color theory and principles in the history of art.
5.	Comprehend and describe how color is perceived biologically, psychologically, culturally, symbolically and intuitively.

Course Content

1. History of color and the development of the color palette.
2. Color systems and color organization.
3. The perception of color - light, vision, and how the brain.
4. Value, hue, intensity (chroma), and color temperature.
5. Colors, palettes and materials.
6. Additive and subtractive color (light and paint).
7. Color and composition.
8. Identifying and understanding color mixtures.
9. Cultural influences on color usage.
10. Color usage in contemporary art and design.
11. Color and Technology.
12. Critical evaluation and critique of class projects.

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Lecture	Image and video-enhanced lectures covering core concepts, terminology, and historical development of drawing followed by all-class or small-group discussions on the same topics.
Lab	Instructor-guided lab / studio time to apply concepts, and skills to major course assignments. Lab / studio time will include both one-on-one and all-group instruction and support.
Observation and Demonstration	Demonstrations covering techniques, concepts, and material applications followed by discussions and student feed back about what they observed in the demonstrations.
Critique	Oral or written group critiques analyzing finished examples of student work related to specific course assignments.
Group Work	Collaborative learning including peer discussions prior to critiques as well as more formalized critiques reinforcing students' capacity to think critically about course assignments and enhance their ability to explain the results of this analysis to other students.
Field Trips	Student in this course may view artwork in the professional contexts of a gallery or museum, an activity that helps to reinforce student understanding of historical and contemporary approaches to drawing and its relationship to their own studio work.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
Chat Rooms
Discussion Boards
E-mail Communication
Telephone Conversations
Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
Discussions
Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Portfolios	Portfolio of finished class projects focusing on the theory, use, and application of color will be assessed by the instructor based on the criteria contained in each project or assignment.
Oral Presentations	During group and individual critiques in oral formats students will be assessed on their participation, use of appropriate terminology and their ability to provide and accept meaningful feedback.
Exams/Tests	Written assignments, which may include quizzes, essays, exams, or reports.
Class Participation	Students will be assessed on their contributions and participation in the interactive group atmosphere of the studio / lab environment. Including maintaining studio decorum, cleanliness and collegiality.
Homework	Outside-of-class assignments expanding on topics and methods presented in class will be assessed by the instructor as they relate to each specific assignment.
Projects	Individual projects based on instructor-generated assignments will be assessed as each students builds their portfolio of finished course work.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Selected readings from student proposals, textbook, class handouts, periodicals or library collection.

For example:

1. Read assigned chapters from the course text book, covering the major historical systems for color theory and organization.

2. Read handout covering expressive uses of color in the work of the Neo-Expressionist painters.

Writing Assignments

Written critical analysis of a completed student or professional work/s of art.

For Example:

1. Write a critical analysis of one original work of art from our trip to the Hess Collection, focusing on the use and meaning of color in the piece.

2. Write a self-evaluation of the final review portfolio that measures your overall achievement as measured against the portfolio rubric.

Other Assignments

Creation of a portfolio of color projects based on in-class and homework assignments.

For example:

1. Compile and turn in a portfolio containing work from the first third of the term illustrating multiple color systems.

2. Compile and turn in a final portfolio that contains all finished work from the semester.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Josep Albers

Title

Interaction of Color

Edition/Version

50th Anniversary

Publisher

Yale University Press

Year

2013

Rationale
more current edition

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Kassia St. Clair

Title
Secret Lives of Color

Edition/Version
1st

Publisher
John Murray Publishers

Year
2017

Rationale
additional text book

ISBN #
9780143131144

Course Codes (Admin Only)

ASSIST Update
No

CB00 State ID
CCC000534155

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status
N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status
Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status
N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category
Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status
Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass
Yes

Only Pass/No Pass
No