COLOR THEORY

Fall 2021
ARTS 3311-002
Tuesdays + Thursdays, 5:00 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.
Room 121 in lower Art building

Adrienne Butler, Instructor

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Office hours: e-mail instructor to schedule
Zoom office hours by appointment, or to arrange a meeting before class on Tuesdays

SYLLABUS

Course Introduction
The objective of this class is to introduce the student to color as a descriptive and expressive element of art and design, as well as a phenomenon of the natural world, focusing on both perception and application.

Color, as a perceptual phenomena, is highly complex, and floats somewhere in a position caught between very different poles: on the one hand, it is dictated by the physics of light and the elements of material science; on the other hand, it is seen as a purely faddish element dictated by taste and fashion, and is thus anything but universal. The problem with color is that it feels like everyone must see it that same as we do, but they don’t. This class will attempt to adhere as much as possible to the concrete, and will even include some of the science. But we will also have various discussions on the history of human’s understanding of color, both its fashions, its evolving theories, and its cultural differences.

And the gap between science and culture is only rendered more difficult by a similar gap between theory and practical application. For instance, the discussion of color theory can be extremely beneficial to understanding how to use it. But, when one takes into account the very different types of pigments, dyes, inks, and other colorants that are used to actually produce something that seems to be a certain color (not to mention differences between brands) then it can sometimes feel like the theory was idealistic at best and at worst totally false. In order to begin to understand color, the student must begin to understand both sides of this difficulty.

Added to the above difficulties, color is not purely a question of pigment. Indeed, a large portion of the color we see today is produced on an electronic LCD screen, or another source of color that is electronic in origin. There are huge differences between color as light and color as material (even though material color would not be color without light – more on that later). Today’s student must begin to understand the difference between these two types of color.

I believe that the phenomenon of color is not something that is learned quickly. In my own experience, I learned it slowly, through much trial and error, and by looking at a lot of other art and design. Very likely, what we do this semester will establish a foundation on which the student can build later, when they begin to apply this knowledge to the specific field in which they work.

This is an art class, and we will be using the mediums of acrylic or gouache paint (or, preferably, acrylic gouache paint) and collage for most of our projects. There will be assignments with due dates clearly noted on the handouts and calendars. Students will research, study, and create color projects. Projects will teach students to see, control, and forecast color effects. Instructor will demonstrate techniques, methods, and materials. There will be a required presentation on your choice of color topics. Final Portfolios are comprised of all semester color studies.

The instructor reserves the right to add or change elements of this syllabus. Any additions or changes will be announced both in class and via email.

Students registered for this class are responsible to fulfill syllabus requirements to pass the course.

There is no Required Textbook for this course. Recommendations for texts will be given.

Course Communication
Communication will be done through SFASU email and our class D2L site. Please check your email daily for class updates and course communication. All course materials will be posted on our class site & please refer to website for any missing handouts, PPT’s and updated Assignment schedule. You may always email me about anything and with questions …my information is at the top of this page.
**Class Etiquette**
Mutual respect is the golden rule. A studio free from distraction is essential for quality design. “Our rights end where our neighbor’s territory begins.” Focus on the project at hand. Accelerate personal progress. Strive for continuous creative growth. Actively solicit feedback from the instructor. Plan dedicated time outside class to complete projects.

**In class:** Disruptive behavior is inappropriate. Silence phones and put them away for the duration of class. Respect work time and demonstrate adult work ethic. Mind current health notices. No food inside the lab — take break for a snack outside the classroom. Dispose acrylic rinse water in toilet, not in sink drain. Recycle waste.

Follow room etiquette when using the SFA graphic design studio. Leave the area clean.
- Abide by pandemic health safety mandates. See information from the University President on the 5th page of this syllabus.
- Sanitize work area before and after use.
- Spray aerosols only in spray booths located in the painting, drawing, and sculpture studios.
- Project research becomes a process book. Save research files for final process book submission.
- Save and upload all project work by deadline. Project file naming convention: firstnamelastname01, etc.

**Course Format**
This Fall 2021 class will have one day per week with face-to-face instruction (F2F) and one day with remote Livestream (synchronous) delivery via Zoom:
- **Tuesdays** will be in-person F2F in room 121, unless otherwise communicated by the instructor.
- Check your email every Monday by 5 p.m. to stay up to date with any class format changes.
- **Thursdays** will be synchronous Livestream delivery via Zoom. The link for our Zoom meetings will be on our D2L site.

Please stay home and take our class remotely via synchronous livestream if you are quarantining after possible exposure or certain exposure to Covid-19. Please contact me via email as soon as possible if you need a Livestream Zoom link for Face-to-face class days due to quarantine or illness.

Our rough daily schedule is subject to change with notice from the instructor:
- Face-to-face classes will consist of lectures, work time, individual meetings, and group meetings & critiques.
- Livestream Zoom classes will consist of similar content as F2F classes, but with modifications for Zoom.
- On Livestream Zoom days, you should always return to the meeting for the final 40 minutes, 7:00 – 7:40 p.m., for questions, feedback, guidance.
- Weekly project uploads are due by 5 PM Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, check the current course calendar for specific due dates. Late work unacceptable.
- Feedback due TBA. Late feedback unacceptable.

**Mid-Term Research and Presentation**
- Students plan, prepare and give a live presentation for the class at Midterm. Plan on +/-15 minutes.
- Include (1) your name on all items, (2) livestream demonstration, and (3) color activity for the class (live or take away).
- Research color topics and provide presentation title two weeks before presentation.
- Discuss topic with instructor. Choose topic of personal and general interest at college-level content.

**Intended Course Learning Outcomes**
- Demonstrate studio practice skills.
- Show technical competencies.
- Develop visual skills using color.
- Compare progress to models of excellence in art.
- Produce and present color projects and provide peer feedback within upload due dates.

**Student Learning Outcomes**
- Demonstrate creative exploration within project limits.
- Follow directions. Complete projects appropriately and on-time.
- Create color projects using art elements & strategies.
- Present a hands-on color presentation. Discuss and give feedback (“I like...", “I wish...”; “What if...?”).
- Upload final color portfolio reflecting color skills.

**Attendance Policy**
Attendance implies being active on multiple levels. Absence above 9 contact hours (3 classes) or missing 2 project deadlines have grade consequences. No credit earned after missing 18 hours (6 classes) or 5 deadlines.
Late Work & Re-done Projects
Late projects unacceptable.
Projects may be revised and re-graded until final class day.

Grading System
Each assignment will have specific guidelines and objectives. Assignments will be graded based on objective achievement, technical proficiency, creativity and expression, compositional quality, and presentation. Each assignment must be complete to be graded. Final semester grade is derived from:

- A 100-90
- B 89-80
- C 79-70
- D 60-69
- F 59-0

Measures of Achievement
- Overall project achievement: all assignments must be fully explored + finished (no incomplete work will be accepted for grading).
- Professional presentation of the work.
- Technical Quality: craftsmanship/execution/effort/time. Time spent practicing the craft.
- Concept Objectives: all instructional criteria has been met.
- Creativity/Imagination/Expression: the artistic statement is uniquely resolved and visually interesting; technical growth and experimentation. The instructor asks herself: Does this surprise me in some way? Has enough time been spent experimenting and reworking?
- Compositional Quality, the elements and principles of design working together in harmony to create a cohesive unity of design
- Attendance and participation: Arriving Late, Leaving early and general attendance.
- Class and critique participation, being constructive, positive and participating in class discussions.

*All of the above factors will not only be considered in relation to each individual's work but in relation to the work of other members of the class in fair competition.

Feedback (Critiques)
Critiques of work will be held to provide the student with feedback. The attention and participation of each class member is expected. Critiques will be specifically geared toward developing critical thinking skills with regard for technical, formal and conceptual issues. Please keep in mind that a critique of your work is not a critique of you as an individual.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (please see Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). The instructor has full discretion over what behavior is appropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend regularly or who perform poorly may be referred to the Early Alert Program to provide recommendations, resources, or other assistance to help SFA students succeed.

Class Attendance and Excused Absences: Regular and punctual attendance is expected at all classes, labs and activities for which a student is registered. For classes where attendance is a factor in the course grade, the instructor shall make his policy known in writing at the beginning of each term and shall maintain an accurate record of attendance. Regardless of attendance, every student is responsible for course content and assignments. University policy excuses students from attendance for absence related to health, family emergencies and student participation in university sponsored events. Students are responsible for providing documentation satisfactory to the instructor for missed classes. Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for absence to a maximum of three weeks of a semester or one week of a summer term when the nature of the work missed permits. In case of absence by participation in University-sponsored events, announcement via mySFA by the provost constitutes official excuse. Event faculty sponsors must submit an e-mail attachment with written absence explanation, date, time and alphabetical list of students attending to the office of the provost for posting.

Grading System: Student grades are determined by daily work, oral/written quizzes, and final exams. A means excellent; B good; C average; D passing; F failure; QF quit failure; WH incomplete/grade withheld; WF withdrew failing; WP withdrew passing. WP/WF are assigned only when a student has withdrawn from the university after mid-term or with approval of the student’s academic dean. No grade can be taken from the record unless mistakenly recorded. Specified courses are graded on a pass/fail (P/F) system with no other grade awarded. A student who earns F can get credit only by repeating the course. A gives four grade points per semester hour; B three grade points; C two grade points; D one grade point; and F, WH, WF and WP, no grade points. The semester hours undertaken in all courses, except remedial courses, repeat courses and courses dropped with grades of W or WP, are counted in the grade point average. WF counts as hours attempted with 0 grade points earned in computing grade point average. WP does not count as hours attempted in computing grade point average. At instructor’s discretion and with approval of the director, WH is earned only if the student cannot complete the course due to
unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete work within one calendar year from the semester when they receive WH, or the grade automatically becomes F. If students register for the same course in future terms, WH automatically becomes F and is counted as a repeat course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Academic Integrity:** All university faculty and students are responsible for academic integrity. Faculty promote integrity by instructing on the practice of honesty, abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism, and by personal example. Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes (but not limited to) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade in a course; falsifying or inventing any information intended to deceive (including citations and assignments); and/or helping or attempting to help another in cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they are your own. Examples of plagiarism: submitting an assignment as if it were your own work when it is partly the work of another; submitting a work that has been purchased or obtained from an Internet source or other source without due credit; and using the words or ideas of an author in your work without giving the author due credit. Complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academicintegrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academicintegrity.asp)

**Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TOO) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Safety:** “If you are pregnant or become pregnant while taking this course, or have a medical condition that could increase your sensitivity to chemical exposure, it is important for you to take all precautions concerning your own personal safety. While reasonable measures have been taken to insure your safety, there is a risk in this class of exposure to material that could prove harmful to persons at risk. Please contact the professor should you have questions or concerns. Students who need accommodations for certified disabilities should work through the Office of Disability Services and then your professor.” – SFA General Counsel
From the Office of the SFA President regarding Covid-19: (also emailed to all SFASU students)

As of August 1, 2021, Stephen F. Austin State University has returned campus pandemic safety protocols to Status 1 (Normal Operations). This change follows Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Order GA-38 as well as evolving guidelines produced by the CDC and state mandates.

We strongly encourage everyone who can to get vaccinated, wear a mask in public indoor settings, frequently wash hands, and maintain physical distance when possible. Though these precautions are not required, actions like these are known to be effective in reducing the spread of Covid-19.

Four things to know as we return to campus this fall:

- Students and employees are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated for Covid-19. Find a vaccination site by visiting vaccine.gov.
- Students and employees who are vaccinated should complete the voluntary vaccine reporting survey in mySFA.
- Students and employees should stay home when they are feeling sick or have symptoms related to Covid-19.
- Students and employees who test positive for Covid-19 must report their positive test in mySFA.

While many protocols have been eased, pandemic resources remain available. We continue to monitor the situation in our region, as well as the state as a whole. Additional guidance and FAQs can be found at www.sfasu.edu/covid19.

Vaccination – Vaccination is strongly encouraged and remains voluntary. In compliance with Governor Abbott’s Executive Order GA-38, the university currently cannot require individuals to receive a Covid-19 vaccine or provide proof of vaccination.

We encourage everyone to complete SFA’s voluntary vaccine reporting survey in MySFA. Completing this confidential survey assists the campus in identifying SFA’s overall vaccination rate.

Face coverings – Individuals who take personal responsibility such as wearing a mask indoors help reduce the spread of Covid-19. This is voluntary, as all mandates regarding face coverings have been lifted at SFA to comply with Governor Abbott’s Executive Order GA-38:

“No governmental entity, including a county, city, school district, and public health authority, and no governmental official may require any person to wear a face covering or to mandate that another person wear a face covering;”

Individuals who must isolate or quarantine need to contact professors to make appropriate arrangements to complete assignments and stay current in your classes. Such arrangements are expected to be like those offered in the past for students who missed class due to illness or other urgent matters.

Faculty members will be responsible for determining appropriate arrangements, in consultation with their academic head and dean.

If You Are Sick, Stay Home – It is important for individuals to remain vigilant of their health and symptoms, as well as potential exposure. Individuals should screen themselves for Covid-19 symptoms daily. If they feel sick, they must stay home. If they have symptoms of Covid-19, they must follow quarantine and isolation guidelines and get tested. If an individual tests positive, they must report it in MySFA.

Monitoring – SFA will continue to monitor Covid-19 cases reported on campus and make necessary changes as the year progresses.

Please direct any additional questions to Director of Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management Jeremy Higgins by email or at ext. 4532.

We look forward to returning to pre-pandemic operations, and it is important that all Lumberjacks continue to do their part in keeping SFA healthy and safe!

Thank you,
Scott Gordon
President
COLOR THEORY REQUIRED SUPPLIES

Paper:
- Bristol board, 9”x12” pad of 15 or 20 sheets, smooth surface (not vellum) (Strathmore 300 yellow cover) (you might need two pads) OR 8.5”x11” white cardstock, usually available in classroom
- Marker tablet 9”x12” (Canson XL Marker Pad or Bienfang “Graphics 360”) OR Newspaper pad 9”x12”, 100 sheets

Assorted:
- Glue sticks (suggested UHU or Scotch 3M Permanent Photo Safe glue stick)
- Removeable tape such as blue painter’s tape, or Post It tape or Scotch 3M Low Tack Artist Tape or Rolls of Scotch brand removable Magic tape (3M item #811) (frosted)
- Ruler (suggestion, clear gridded 2”x18” ruler)
- Good quality Scissors
- Pencils and eraser
- Inexpensive Palette knife (metal or plastic)
- Plastic water cups, any clean recycled container such as yogurt cups
- Your choice of disposable palette material: Palette paper pad, small or medium size, or roll of freezer paper and roll of masking tape, or package of coated white paper plates
- Three-ring binder and clear page protector pockets, for storing your color theory projects
- Roll of paper towels or cut up old t-shirts
- Envelopes or Clear zip baggies for sorting and storing collage paper pieces
- Brush roll (bamboo or canvas)

Paints:
You may choose to use either tubes of Acrylic paint, or Gouache paint, or preferably Acrylic Gouache. All three types of these paints can be mixed together, so you may try different types. If you only use Acrylic paint, please also purchase Matte Medium to mix with your Acrylic paints – it cuts down on the glossy surface when dry, which is very helpful in color studies. (See info about recommended Acrylic Gouache below. Reeves makes an affordable Gouache paint set, and Liquitex or Golden are good Acrylic brands.)

Please do not purchase any genuine Cadmium or Cobalt paints. We will avoid using these heavy metal pigments in our class. If the paint name has ‘Hue’ in the name, it is a synthetic pigment that is okay to use (example: Cobalt Blue Hue, Cadmium Yellow Light Hue – these are synthetic variations).

You will need a minimum of 8 required colors of paint (two different yellows, two different blues, one warm red and one cool red or preferably magenta, a dull neutral which can be burnt umber or burnt sienna, and white). However, you may purchase additional colors (such as green, violet, orange, and black). Choose one version of each color listed below for your palette:

- **Cool Yellow**: hansa yellow, lemon yellow, process yellow, cadmium yellow light hue
- **Warm Yellow**: cadmium yellow deep hue, cadmium yellow medium hue
- **Cool Blue**: ultramarine, cobalt blue hue
- **Warm Blue**: cyan, phthalo blue, Thalo blue
- **Cool Red**: quinacridone magenta, acra magenta, alizarin crimson, rose, carmine
- **Warm Red**: cadmium red medium hue, phthalo red, crimson red
- **Burnt Umber or Burnt Sienna** (one of these two neutral colors)
- **White**: titanium white. Obtain large tube of white; projects use lots of white.
- Optional: Black is not required but can be used later in the semester.
- Optional: Secondary colors (green, orange, violet)

**Acrylic Gouache** paint is ideal for this class. Its surface is permanent and will not be disrupted by water once it is dry, unlike regular gouache (which isn’t permanent and can be lifted with water after it is dry, like watercolors). Acrylic gouache has a very matte finish, ideal for color studies.

I recommend the 12-tube set from Turner Acryl-gouache:
https://www.jerrysartarama.com/turmer-acryl-gouache-sets (scroll down to item #73697 for $29.67)

Plus, purchase one or two extra tubes of white paint:
https://www.jerrysartarama.com/turmer-acryl-gouache (20 mL tube of Mixing White, item #73591, is $3.70 on sale)

Another good brand of Acrylic Gouache: