Beginning Portrait Painting
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Art 293 1.0 credit Wintermester – January 9-12, 2014
Class meets in Drawing Studio, Art 317

Instructor: Todd Sherman
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Office: 409 Art Department – Office hours by Appointment-contact instructor via email or telephone.

Class will meet at the art department’s drawing studio (or where instructed) at 4:00pm until 8:00pm on Thursday & Friday, January 9 & 10 and at 9:00 am until 4:00 pm on Saturday & Sunday, January 11 & 12. There will be a one half hour lunch break on the weekend.

Course Description:
Beginning Portrait Painting offers opportunities to learn and practice artistic life figure drawing and painting with an emphasis on the human portrait. The course consists of a total of 21 hours of lectures, demonstrations and drawing and painting exercises from live models in a university art studio classroom. Lessons and assignments are used to introduce students to painting and to establish an understanding and develop a familiarity and accomplishment in portrait painting and drawing. Small painted studies will inform later, larger finished works in oil and/or acrylic media. Emphasis will be on creating 4-8 nearly finished works over the period of this class. Use of basic painting and drawing materials will be covered. Concepts of anatomy, physiognomy, space, light, color, composition, scale and specific elements of portrait painting such as form, clothing, psychology, shadow, environment, foreshortening and perspective and will be addressed.

Class Sessions will be in the studio. Out of class expectations: Students are expected to spend time outside of class working on class objectives (sketching, drawing, painting, reading, preparing materials, etc.). To accomplish this in our class's timeframe the student should visit galleries, begin readings, preparing painting substrates, practice studies and preliminary work prior to class. After the class has begun, students will wish to continue working in the field or studio on their projects after class sessions. Recommended books on drawing, painting and portraits are listed at the end of this syllabus. There are many good books available in addition to those few listed. Most are available online, in bookstores and in libraries.

Course instruction will include group lecture and individual directed study as well as small group discussion and critiques. Students will work at their own level and have the opportunity to work in their own areas of specialized interest within the broad definition of portrait painting and drawing.

Prerequisites:
Beginning Drawing Art 105 or permission of instructor is required. Art 162, Color and Design is recommended. Any substantial drawing or painting experience can serve as prerequisite if demonstrated in a portfolio of previous works. Images for review can be submitted by email, on disc or in person to the instructor.

Grading Policy:
This course is Pass/Fail. A passing grade will be based on participation and a portfolio of the paintings and other works produced during the class. The emphasis will be weighted 75% portfolio and 25% participation. Students will be expected to work on their paintings and drawings during the entire period of each class. Most students should be able to complete 4 to 8 portrait paintings but the acceptable quantity is variable as long as a sustained course-long effort is demonstrated. Any absence of more than 6 hours total will be cause for failing this class. Paintings will be evaluated on student progress, demonstration of artistic principals and level of project ambition.
Materials, supplies, equipment needed, field condition expectations, further reading, galleries, etc.

Course Schedule:

Day one: Thursday, January 9-4:00-8:00 pm
Demonstrations of the painting process from drawing to painting.

Day two: Friday, January 10-4:00-8:00 pm
Introduction to portrait painting-Historical examples, traditional media and techniques.
Beginning the portrait-drawing from life.

Day three: Saturday, January 11-9:00am-4:00 pm
Lecture on anatomy, scale and drawing.
Work from life-model. Creating studies-value and color.
Working with model-Painting in the studio
Short Group Critique in the afternoon.

Day four: Sunday, January 12-9:00am-4:00 pm
Lecture on color and light. Costumes/clothing.
Physiognomy-mood, character
Short Group Critique in the afternoon.

The above is a general outline and course content will vary to a degree depending on interest and ability of the student. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities including equal access to campus and course material. For information contact Office of Disabilities Services 208 WHIT 474-5655. Students with documented disabilities who may need reasonable academic accommodations should discuss these with me prior to the beginning of this class.

Portrait Painting Materials List- I recommend Acrylics mainly because of the short time we have available for this one-credit course. Acrylics dry faster and thin and clean up with water. You may use oils or alkyds if you have experience with these slower drying paints.

Acrylic Paints

1. Alizarin Crimson
2. Ultramarine Blue
3. Phthalo Green and/or Viridian
4. Cadmium Yellow Light
5. Hansa Yellow
6. Cadmium Red Light
7. Phthalo Blue
8. Cadmium Orange
9. Titanium White-large size tube

Note that alkyd paints are listed in addition to oil paints. Alkyd dries overnight which makes them easier to transport. They are plastic base paints that perform much the same as oils. They are not usually available in town so mail order early.

Acrylic paints dry very quickly and can be used on canvas or heavy paper.

Small backpack or container for supplies
Sketchbook/Notebook and Pen/Pencil
Drawing materials (should include your preferred materials: soft leaded drawing pencils, crayons, etc.)
3 or 4 or more prepared canvases or boards-20X24" or 16X20" are good typical sizes. If you wish to work in acrylic, watercolor paper is fine. Again, I recommend acrylics because of their ease of use, fast drying time and water clean up.
1 Quart odorless mineral spirits (for alkyds or oils)
Liquin or other alkyd medium for alkyds if so desired
2 small cans for medium or water for brush cleaning
2 each Bristle Brushes: #1 and #3 rounds, #6 and #12 flats
Palette and/or airtight container for paints
Palette knife
Water spray bottle for misting acrylics
Hand cream
digital camera to document process

Beginning Portrait Painting by Todd Sherman- January 2014 Page 2
Suggested reference and reading for all levels of portrait painting:

There are countless books on drawing and painting portraits and the figure, some of which are quite good. Below is a list of a few books that offer good illustrations and occasionally, insightful texts. I will show many examples of portraits in presentations in class.

You really can't go wrong by looking at well known masters' portrait work. Here are a few:

Da Vinci, Raphael, Giotto, Velazquez, Franz Hals, Holbein, Goya, Houdon (sculpture), Watteau, Hokusai, Sharaku, Manet, Van Gogh, Picasso, Matisse, Schiele, Kahlo, Freud (Lucian, not Sigmund), Jenny Saville and many others. Also, look to contemporary and traditional photography, sculpture and masks by people around the world.

Please bring in books, websites or articles of your favorite portrait artists to share with the class.

Below is a list of just a few books on portraits, painting and drawing. Students are NOT required to purchase any books for this class.

**Portrait Painting Atelier: Old Master Techniques and Contemporary Applications** by Suzanne Brooker

**Great Portrait Drawings and Prints** (Dover Pictorial Archives)

**Portraiture** (Oxford History of Art) by Shearer West

**Holbein Portrait Drawings** (Dover Art Library)

**Self-Portraits** (Taschen Basic Genre Series) Edited by Norbert Wolf

**Sargent Portrait Drawings: 42 Works** by John Singer Sargent (Dover Art Library)

**Self-Portraits** (Taschen Basic Genre Series) by Ernst Rebel

**Gerhard Richter Portraits: Painting Appearances** by Paul Moorhouse

**Painting People** by Charlotte Mullins

**Painting: Visual and Technical Fundamentals** by Nathan Goldstein

**Alice Neel: Painted Truths** (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston) by B. Walker, J. Lewison, R. Storr, T. Garb

**Figure Drawing: The Structure, Anatomy and Expressive Design of the Human Form** by Nathan Goldstein

**Savage Mirror: The Art of Contemporary Caricature** by Steven Heller

**Picasso: The Cubist Portraits of Fernande Olivier** by Jeffrey Weiss

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