



FLOR ARTS 1104 Beginning Watercolor Painting

CAPA FLORENCE PROGRAM

Course Description

A studio art course at the beginning/intermediate level formulated to introduce students to the methods, techniques and various aspects of watercolor painting. Studio exercises and projects are designed to build strong perceptual and compositional skills, the expressive use of color and its various applications, and will be enriched through the exploration of Florentine subject matter. Throughout the semester we will explore a variety of subjects with the objective of creating a unique, visual journal of one's personal experience while studying abroad.

Course Aims

The objective is to increase visual awareness and perception, discovering one's creative potential and ability to make visual statements, understanding and manipulating compositional elements and principles while learning to apply the techniques of this medium.

Requirements and Prerequisites

Beginning Watercolor is open to anyone compelled to investigate this colorful, unpredictable medium. Fine arts students of the CAPA Program of Florence are required to fulfil 42 hours of studio/class time, of which three will be conducted outside the traditional studio setting. Homework in the form of sketchbook assignments and a postcard journal is conceived to reinforce the concepts introduced in class in the form of increasing visual perception. Students are required to keep a sketchbook and drawing assignments will be given on a weekly basis. Drawing assignments are listed below on the course schedule and replace reading requirements of more traditional academic courses. In addition, a project consisting of 20 postcards which are to be completed by the final week of the term creating a "visual journal" of one's sojourn abroad while studying in Florence. "Talent" is not a prerequisite for this class, however students are reminded that "repetition is the mother of all studies" and must be willing to make a genuine effort, to be patient as well as persistent.

Special note: A The subjects and the course of study will be modified to meet student needs depending on the level of academic development. If there are students with special learning disabilities please inform the instructor at the beginning of the term.

Learning Outcomes

- ✦ Students will be able to recognize, describe and interpret examples of the impact of **globalization** in the **urban environment** through their exploration & observation of the city, by means of visual elaboration.
- ✦ Students will be able to reflect and elaborate through plastic means, on the similarities & differences between their home and host **environments**.
- ✦ Students will be able to demonstrate independent thought, creativity and flexibility, goal orientation, along with the ability to give and receive criticism in the studio setting as well as group critiques and discussions.

Class methodology

The course is structured to include lectures, demonstrations, individual application of concepts and techniques, group discussion and critiques, field trips to locations around the city to work/gather information, accompanied by out-of-class drawing and painting assignments aimed at increasing skills. Art courses require active participation and effort on behalf of the students. A Visiting Artist Workshop will be scheduled during the second half of the semester. We will visit local museums and important historic sites to enrich subject matter. Visits or field trips to draw/gather information may be announced during the course of the semester, depending on local events.

Field Component(s): CAPA provides the unique opportunity to learn about the city through direct, guided experience. Participation in the field activity(s) for this course is required. You will actively explore the Global City you are currently living in. Furthermore, you will have the chance to collect useful information that will be an invaluable resource for the essays/papers/projects assigned in this course.

The assigned field component(s) are:

Lesson 4	Week 4	Fieldtrip to draw Museo '900
Lesson 7	Week 8	Visiting Artist Workshop- Art School TBC
Lesson 9	Week 10	Field trip to draw Piazza SS. Annunziata
Lesson 14		Studio time with instructor to complete projects, likely week 11 or 12 TBC

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in co-curricular program activities, among which the following are suggested:

Mid-Term & Final Exams

The mid-term review

- Sketchbook/postcard assignments: assignments prior to midterm complete, each worth 4 points
- Exercises and projects: all exercises, studies and painting projects produced in the first half of the semester, including color, washes, value studies, negative space studies, still life and sculpture.
- Written ideas for final project: the conception of this project, due at the end of the term, will begin prior to midterm break. For Mid-Term Review students are requested to present in writing in sketchbook, several possible ideas for the project

The final review

- Sketchbook/postcard assignments: complete
- Exercises and projects: all exercises, studies and painting projects produced in the half of the semester, including thumbnails, color & value studies, painting Visiting Artist project, urban landscape
- Final Painting Project: the conception of this project, due at the end of the term, will begin prior to midterm break. For the final review of the project, students are asked to submit thumbnails, value and color studies along with the final painting on Fabriano 5 Acquerello 35x50 cm

Assessment

• <u>Class participation</u>	10%
• <u>Effort/Progress/Application Materials & Techniques</u>	20%
• <u>Sketchbook/Postcards/Concept Development</u>	20%
• <u>Class Projects</u>	40%
• <u>Final Project</u>	10%

Overall grade **100%**

Grading Policy

DESCRIPTOR	ALPHA	NUMERIC	GPA	REQUIREMENT/EXPECTATION
Outstanding (High Distinction)	A	93+	4.0	Maximum grade: In addition to description for grade "A-", the student shows detailed understanding of materials about which he or she can show independent analytical ability. This means the ability to question an issue from different perspectives and evaluate responses in an objective manner.
Excellent (Distinction)	A-	90 - 92	3.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the textbook/class hand-outs/class notes, and the work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for evaluation.
Very good (High Credit)	B+	87 - 89	3.3	Shows evidence of a capacity to generalise from the taught content, or the material in literature, or from class lectures in an informed manner. Also, the work demonstrates a capacity to integrate personal reflection into the discussion and an appreciation of a range of different perspectives.
Good (Credit)	B	83 - 86	3.0	The work is well organised and contains coherent or logical argumentation and presentation.
Good (Credit)	B-	80 - 82	2.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the textbook and/or notes, and, there is evidence of additional reading.

Average (Good Pass)	C+	77-79	2.3	The work demonstrates a capacity to integrate research into the discussion and a critical appreciation of a range of theoretical perspectives. Also, the work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question and its theoretical implications and demonstrates evidence of additional reading.
Adequate (Pass)	C	73 - 76	2.0	Shows clear understanding and some insight into the material in the textbook and notes, but not beyond. A deficiency in understanding the material may be compensated by evidence of independent thought and effort related to the subject matter.
Below Average (Borderline Pass)	C-	70-72	1.7	Shows some understanding of the material in the textbook and notes. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought related to the subject matter.
Inadequate (Borderline Fail)	D+	67 - 69	1.3	Fails to show a clear understanding or much insight into the material in the textbook and notes
Poor (Fail)	D	60 - 66	0.7 - 1.0	Besides the above for D+, student has not shown interest or engagement in the class work or study.
Poor (Fail)	F	<60	0	Shows little or no understanding of any of the material
Incomplete	I			Please see CAPA policy in the Faculty Handbook.

Dress Code

No requirements.

Course Materials

- 1 each 2B/2H Staedtler Drawing Graphite pencil**
- 1 kneaded eraser**
- 1 Staedtler pencil eraser**
- 1 plastic sleeve 35x50**
- 1 watercolor pencil Lyra yellow ochre 083**
- 1 watercolor pencil Lyra Venetian red 090**
- 1 watercolor pencil Lyra blue**
- 1 synthetic round brush n° 12 series 160**
- 1 Tintoretto flat n° 16**
- 1 Tintoretto square n° 4**
- Sketch book**
- 1 Fabriano Watercolor 26x36 bound**
- 1 Fabriano Watercolor Postcard Pad**
- 1 foglio Fabriano 5 acquerello grana fine 350gr. 70x100 :4**

Required Readings:

Guide To Drawing Link on Home Page Canvas

Recommended Reading(s):

- Speed, Harold, *The Practice and Science of Drawing*, Dover Publications, 1972
- Whitney, Edgar A, *Complete Guide to Watercolor Painting*, Dover Publications, 2010
- Norman, David, *Watercolor Tips and Tricks*, Chartwell Books, Inc., 2009
- Scott, Marilyn, *The Water Color Artist's Bible*, Chartwell Books, Inc., 2005
- Tharp, Twyla, *The Creative Habit: Learn It And Use It For Life*, Simon & Schuster, 2003
- Jones, Alexis, *I Am That Girl: How To Speak Your Truth, Uncover Your Purpose and #bethatgirl*, Evolve_Publishing, 2014

Weekly Course Schedule

WEEK 1

Lesson #: 1

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: Course introduction, value, drawing session, possibly purchase materials

Assignments: **Read Guide To Drawing**, the link is on Canvas homepage for this course. **“Getting Started” & “Basic Shapes & Forms**

WEEK 2

Lesson #: 2

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: introduction to color mixing, flat & gradated washes, split brush, preparation four seasons project on Fabriano 35x50

Assignments: **Guide To Drawing: “Value and the Illusion of Form” & “Contrast”**

Sketchbook/Postcards due week 4: 1) from (purchased) postcards of Florence/your own drawing studies sketch 2 views first in your sketchbook, focusing on the light and dark patterns 2) now draw these on postcards, draw each subject twice for a total of 4 postcards. Make sure you draw very lightly on the postcards so that the pencil will not be too apparent. 3) the last step is to make a wet-on-wet version and a wet-on-dry version of each subject, so that you will have tried 2 techniques for each version.

WEEK 3

Lesson #: 3

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: Color Exercises, including “Four Seasons”

Assignments: **Guide To Drawing: “Cast Shadows” & “Texture”**

WEEK 4

Lesson #: 4

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: Gestalt in Art, Organization of space: Still life/**fieldtrip to Museo ‘900**

Assignments: **Guide To Drawing “Reflections” & “Transparency”**

Sketchbook/Postcards due week 6: 1) two postcard versions of “Porcellino”, thumbnails, value studies and one postcard each using wet-into wet & stippling techniques, 2) paint an object and its reflection in a mirror: thumbnails, value studies and two postcards of same view, two different techniques; wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry

Assignment in sketchbook from Museo ‘900: students are requested to bring sketchbooks in order to draw and keep notes in written form one’s personal favorite piece and one’s least favorite piece. This assignment will be reviewed week 6.

WEEK 5

Lesson #: 5

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: Still Life 2 vertical wet-on-wet

Assignments: **Guide To Drawing “Composition”**

WEEK 6

Lesson #: 6

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: Still life/ Midterm review

Assignments: **Sketchbook/Postcards due week 9:** beginning with thumbnail sketches, followed by value studies in sketchbook, make the total of 4 postcards from your midterm travelling experience. Ideas for the final painting project will be submitted in written form in the sketchbook

WEEK 7

Spring Break

WEEK 8

Lesson #: 7

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: **Visiting Artist Workshop** Ponte Vecchio to be painted on Fabriano 5

Assignments: **Guide To Drawing “Elliptical Perspective” & “Linear Perspective”**

WEEK 9

Lesson #: 8

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: studio time for current project

Assignments: **Sketchbook/Postcards due week 11:** four postcards regarding the subject of nourishment here in Florence.

How do you nourish yourself? How do others nourish themselves? Is it food, music, art, etc...

Notes: thumbnails and value studies for final project are due this lesson

WEEK 10

Lesson #: 9

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: urban landscape Street scenes from Florence

Out-of-class activity: weather permitting fieldtrip to draw piazza Ssa. Annunziata to draw/photograph

WEEK 11

Lesson #: 10

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: studio time for current projects

Assignments: **Sketchbook/Postcards due week 13:** remaining 4 thumbnails, value studies and postcards, your choice of subject that describes the experience abroad

WEEK 12

Lesson #: 11

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: studio time for current projects

WEEK 13

Lesson #: 12

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: studio time for current projects

WEEK 14

Lesson #: 13

Meet: Scheduled class time

Venue: Art School

In-class activity: studio time and final portfolio review

Attendance, Participation & Student Responsibilities

Refer to the *Academic Handbook* for a complete outline of all academic policies. This page contains a summary only.

Attendance

CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Students are also expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must read assignments BEFORE the class, and come in on time. Attendance is mandatory and is taken at the beginning of every class. Unauthorized absence from class will result in a reduction of the final grade and ultimately in a F for the course.

Unexcused absences

All absences will be recorded on a central system by CAPA. If warnings are to be issued, they will be sent at the end of the week via email for first warnings, by letter and meeting for second or third written warnings, when home US institutions will be informed. If a student exceeds a Final Warning, she/he may be sent home at the discretion of the VP of Academic Affairs.

The warning process in the [contextual classes](#) is the following:

- ⊗ **First Absence:** email warning sent to student
- ⊗ **Second Absence:** written warning and meeting with student
- ⊗ **Third Absence:** home campus notified, final written warning and meeting with student
- ⊗ **Fourth Absence:** automatic drop from course, potential dismissal from the program

The instructor for the course may lower the student's participation grade based on the number of absences. For custom programs, some will follow our absence policy (like when CAPA sponsors visa) and some will not; see academic director for details.

Excused absences

Any student seeking to be excused from class on the ground of a verifiable illness (i.e. doctor's note) or a family emergency, must email the DAA (greverdito@capa.org) in advance of their class. The CAPA staff will then email the relevant Faculty member. Note that calling the CAPA Center (055-2466439) is acceptable only if you do not temporarily have access to the internet. An e-mail is still required as quickly as you can get access to the internet again. If a doctor's note is written to excuse a student from class, the student cannot use that time for personal travel. Please note: excused absences will NOT be granted to accommodate visiting friends or family. Students absent due to extenuating circumstances that have been approved by the Director of Academic Affairs in advance of the missed class, including family emergency or verifiable health-related incapacity, remain responsible for meeting all class requirements. Faculty shall offer such students reasonable assistance in making up missed work (e.g. share handouts).

Class Participation

Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from you, the student, a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. Plagiarism and cheating will result in dismissal from the program. See the Handbook of CAPA Academic Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

Use of electronic equipment in class

All devices such as laptops, I-pods, I-pads, netbooks, notebooks and tablets, smartphones, cell phones, etc. are **NOT** allowed unless you have express permission from the faculty or you have been instructed to do so. If you require an accommodation to use any type of electronic equipment, inform the Director of Academic Affairs or the Resident Director at the beginning of Term.

Late Submission

Late submission of papers due, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

Behavior during Examinations

During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action