

University of Texas at El Paso
PAINTING I
SYLLABUS-Fall 2025

COURSE INFORMATION	INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Course Rubric Number: PNTG 2301 Painting I, CRN 11071	Instructor: ALIX GAYTAN
Meeting Time: TTR 1:30 pm-4:20 am	Office Hours: By appointment or Zoom Office
Meeting Location: FFA A462	Location: FAA A348
	Email: argaytan2@utep.edu

INSTRUCTOR INTRODUCTION

Alix Gaytan is a native of El Paso/Juarez area. She received her BFA in Painting with a minor in Printmaking from the University of Texas at El Paso and earned her MFA in Painting from Pennsylvania State University.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PNTG 2301 PAINTING 1- Painting I is a course focused on fundamentals. We will cover the basics of everything from palette set-up, canvas preparation, and underpainting to mixing color, applying it, and bringing a painting to completion. There will be heavy emphasis on painting things as they appear and learning to control paint and make it do what you want it to do.

Mastering painting's basic elements - drawing, composition, contrast, color, and surface are central to this class. Yet, freedom and instinct will also play a crucial part, and "mistakes" will be encouraged as we strive for a balance between the control and chaos that is inherent to serious painting. You will be given assigned projects in the first ten weeks of the semester. They are designed to teach lessons, while also being achievable and varied. A brief outline is below and will be explained in class.

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Draw with paint while increasing confidence and skill
- Synthesize color, form, light, and space more fully
- Grasp more advanced notions of composition
- Find a balance between controlled and active painting
- Bring a painting to a finished state

GRADING CRITERIA

Your grade on this course will be determined by your performance on the following:

Participation/Attendance	20%
Midterm Portfolio Review/Critique	35%
Final Portfolio Review/Critique	45%
TOTAL	100%

Letter Grade Format will be used for all assignments and examinations.

100-90 (A, Excellent), 89-80 (B, Good), 79-70 (C, Keep Experimenting), 69-60 (D, Unsatisfactory)
59 > (F, Fail)

UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

Incompletes, Withdrawals, Pass/Fail

Incompletes, Withdrawals, Pass/Fail: Incompletes or “I” grades will be considered for students completing satisfactory or better work and having serious legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All “I” grades are at the instructor's discretion and the Department chair's approval. Students are responsible for withdrawing from this course if that procedure is elected. Withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date to drop a course with a W. Students missing this deadline will be issued a grade for their performance on the course. NOTE: PTNG 2301 is a grade-based course and is not available for audit or pass/fail options.

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and unacceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without crediting the source of that information or wording; it is also unacceptable. Do not submit work, images, writing, or prints that are not your creative output, including the use of AI. If an image appears on Google or in another image source and you copy that image, it is plagiarism. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/standards/>

Accommodation Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services, and activities with documented disabilities to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

Reasonable accommodation will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship for the University. Students requesting accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915- 747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal (<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>).

Student Pregnancy and Parenting Nondiscrimination Policy

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, you are entitled to reasonable accommodation for as long as your doctor deems medically necessary. It will be important to review each student's situation individually, as reasonable accommodation will be highly dependent on the requirements of individual courses. Examples of possible reasonable accommodations (when deemed medically necessary) are:

- Excused absences due to pregnancy or related condition
- Reviewing lectures online if available
- Opportunity to make up field/lab work
- Rescheduling of tests or exams
- A larger desk or other adaptive furniture
- Breaks during class, as needed
- Submitting work after a deadline missed due to pregnancy or childbirth
- Providing alternatives to make up missed work
- Assignment of an Incomplete grade (if eligible)
- Allowing "Withdrawal" with a refund (if eligible)

If you have questions related to student pregnancy or pregnancy-related accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at cass@utep.edu or at 915-747-5148. You may also contact the Title IX Program at titleix@utep.edu or at 915-747-8358 if you believe you have been discriminated against due to being pregnant or a pregnancy-related condition. For more information visit <https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html>

COVID Guidelines

The COVIDaction@utep.edu is still active and is an available resource for those who don't know what to do in COVID-19-related incidents. In addition, even though self-reporting is not required, we recommend that individuals report and receive guidance based on the CDC guidelines. I have attached a link with the most up-to-date UTEP policy regarding COVID. If you have any other questions, please let us know. Thank you. <https://www.utep.edu/ehs/covid/>

INSTRUCTOR'S POLICIES

Attendance/Participation

Attendance, punctuality, participation and appropriate class conduct are crucial. Failure to perform to required standards will result in strong grade penalties and can cause failure of this course.

- Each student is permitted 2 excused absences during the semester without penalty (**Critique dates are excluded from this statement.**) Students with more than 2 absences should consider dropping this course and retaking it at a time when the student can commit the proper attention to the course.
- **Each unexcused absence after 2 will result in the final course grade being lowered by 1 full letter grade. Absences after the first 2 can be excused only if the first 2 absences are excused.**
- Excused absences are defined as documented illness or serious illness or death in the immediate family.
- Coming to class late or leaving early is unacceptable. All students are required to attend class on time and to remain in the class the entire time. Entering class late and leaving early is disruptive, disrespectful and sets an intolerable standard for everyone.
- **3 X ½ hour or less late = 1 absence**
- **More than. ½ hour late = 1 absence**
- Coming to class unprepared or attending class and not working is regarded as absent.
- Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student.
- **Final Attendance Grade will be calculated at the end of the semester.**

Students must login to Blackboard daily and attend face-to-face meetings according to the schedule provided at the beginning of the course. If an emergency occurs and you must be absent, you must show proof/or documentation of the event for your absence to be excused. Absences may be excused with proper notification for documented serious illness, documented COVID issues, documented child-care emergencies, documented death in the immediate family, or documented university-sanctioned events. Scheduled appointments, transportation problems, and job demands are not excused absences.

Unexcused absences and late arrivals to class will be counted against your overall grade.

Course Communication

Please check at the top of the syllabus for days and times. I will only answer emails Monday through Friday from 8-5 am. I will not be available at weekends. I suggest maintaining all communication through Blackboard, so please try to make this your first option for communicating with me. Announcements will be made weekly via Blackboard for reminders of possible events occurring during the upcoming week. Check Blackboard daily.

Community Atmosphere

Studio courses involve constructive dialogue between classmates and the instructor. We can learn much from one another through open communication and collaboration during class. Communication is so important in this class. If you ever need anything in class, do not hesitate to communicate. Listening to your peers, asking questions, joining discussions, and actively engaging in class activities benefits everyone's learning experience and will positively affect your grade. Constant focus on your projects

during class is expected. This is part of your participation grade. Any student creating distractions for other students or constantly moving in or outside the studio for no reason will be marked as late or absent.

Guests are not permitted at any time during class. You are expected to always remain in class and may not step out to visit with guests during class. There will be one warning. After that, you will be asked to leave class, and you will be counted as absent.

Cleanliness

You are required to clean up your work area when you are finished working in the studio. Please put all your tools, materials, etc., away in your lockers and wipe down tables, easels, and sinks. Do not leave paint or mineral spirits on the floor. Close all jars containing mineral spirits and put them in the flame-retardant cabinet in Studio A457. Put all rags with solvent on them on the red, flame-retardant trash cans with lids.

Work Removal

Finished work must be removed at the end of the semester. UTEP will not be responsible for the work left in the studio. All materials, canvases, etc. will become the property of UTEP Painting after the clean-up deadline. Exceptions to this rule must be discussed with me.

Studio Hours

Official studio hours will be discussed once the semester starts.

Studio Safety

Some aspects of painting can be hazardous if proper precautions are not taken. All safety procedures will be explained to you throughout the semester, and every consideration has been taken to create a safe environment for you to work in. If you are pregnant or have other physical issues such as allergies to dust, respiratory issues, or anything that I should be aware of, please inform me of this immediately, and we will work to make you safe and comfortable.

Electronics Policy

Electronics will be used at the instructor's discretion. However, there will be ZERO tolerance for constant texting, or any electronic distractions not related to the course content. Earphones are permitted in one ear and not during class discussions. If you need to take a call, you can simply step outside of the classroom. Any student not complying with this policy will be marked late or absent.

Recommendation Letters/References

I will be more than happy to give a recommendation letter or reference only when the following criteria are met:

- The student has taken and finished one or more courses with me as the instructor
- The student passed the course(s) with an A letter grade (100>99)

Coursework and Assessment

- Projects are the main core of this course. Constant practice is key to continuing to improve your painting skills. There are expectations to work outside class time to finish the projects, so keep this in mind. **Time Management is KEY!**
- Critiques and portfolio reviews are essential to this course so that they will have no make-up option. These are equivalent to exams. Guidelines will be explained later in the semester.
- A digital portfolio will be submitted via Blackboard.

Make-up Work/Late Assignments/Unfinished Submissions

- Make-up work or late assignments will be accepted at the instructor's discretion.
- Unfinished submissions (if accepted by instructor) will receive a grade not higher than 79-70 (C, Keep Experimenting).
- Any student arriving late to a group critique will receive a grade not higher than 79-70 (C, Keep Experimenting) to their portfolio/critique grade.
- **All ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED and DISPLAYED DURING CRITIQUE DAY TO QUALIFY FOR FULL CREDIT.**
- **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY GROUP CRITIQUE.**

REQUIRED MATERIALS

The size and quantity of these materials are required. Note: You will likely need to restock some materials as the semester progresses.

- ***Oil Paint: some will be supplied, but you may supplement by purchasing your own colors as well. Colors: White, Alizarin, Cad Red hue, Cad Yellow hue, Ultramarine Blue, Pthalo Blue, Pthalo Green, Burnt Sienna, Dioxazine Purple, Paynes Grey, Yellow Ochre. Small Tubes will suffice.
- ***Set of 7 Pro-stroke bristle brushes
- **Palette knife
- Small detail brush set. You will need these for fine details.
- Containers, jars, paint rags or old shirts, apron
- Nitrile Gloves
- Large paper towels
- Sandpaper (Fine Grain)
- Large Brush for gesso, 3"- 4".
- Masking or Blue painter's tape
- Color wheel (OPTIONAL)
- 1-Pre-Stretched Canvas Frame (Size will be announced later in the semester)

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS ARE REQUIRED. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HAVE THEM READY BY AUG. 28. PLEASE, BE RESPONSIBLE, OR POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE. The school will provide some materials. They are highlighted in yellow and marked with an * in the materials list.

CALENDAR

*Syllabus and dates are subject to change. You will be informed if any changes occur.

WEEK	PROJECTS, CRITIQUES, ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1 Aug 25-Aug 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: Syllabus, Intro, Prep Boards, Studio Cleanliness, Etc. • TH: P# 1 Sunglasses Portrait (Exhibition Painting)
Week 2 Sept 1-Sept 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH: workday
Week 3 Sept 8- Sept 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: P# 2 Facial Features (Eye, nose, and mouth) • TH: workday
Week 4 Sept 15-Sept 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: P# 3 Extreme Expression • TH: workday
Week 5 Sept 22-Sept 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH: P#4 Color Plushie
Week 6 Sept 29-Oct 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH workday
Week 7 Oct 6-Oct 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: TH: Midterm Portfolio Review/Critique • TH: P#5 Surreal Flower
Week 8 Oct 13-Oct17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH: workday
Week 9 Oct 20-Oct 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH: P#6 Aerial View or Candy Painting
Week 10 Oct 27-Oct 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH: workday
Week 11 Nov 3-Nov 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH: P#7 Movie Scene
Week 12 Nov 10-Nov 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH: workday
Week 13 Nov 17-Nov 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH: P#8 Rorschach Abstraction
Week 14 Nov 24- Nov 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH: NO CLASSES, Thanksgiving
Week 15 Dec 1-Dec 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T: workday • TH: workday
FINALS WEEK Dec 8-Dec 12	FINAL CRITIQUE, Date and time TBA

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug 25th- Fall classes begin

Aug 25th-29th- Late registration period (fees are incurred)

Sept 1st- Labor Day holiday - University Closed

Sept 10th- Fall Census Day

Note: This is the last day to register for classes. Payments are due by 5:00 pm.

Sept 22nd- 20th Class Day

Note: Students who were given a payment deadline extension will be dropped at 5:00 pm if payment arrangements have not been made.

Oct 3rd- Graduation application deadline for degree conferral

Oct 22nd- Freshman Midterm grades are due

Oct 31st- Fall Drop/Withdrawal deadline

Note: Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F.

Nov 14th- Deadline to submit candidates' names for commencement program

Nov 27-28th- Thanksgiving Holiday - University Closed

Dec 4th- Fall last day of classes

Dec 5th- Dead Day

Dec 8-12th- Fall Final Exams

Dec 13-14th- Fall Commencement

Dec 17th- Grades are due

Dec 18th- Grades are posted to student records; students are notified of grades and academic standing