CIEE Alicante, Spain

Course title: Spanish Art and the Process of Painting  
Course code: AHIS 3003 ALIC  
Programs offering course: Language and Culture  
Language of instruction: English  
U.S. semester credits: 3  
Contact hours: 45  
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

This course offers an overview of modern and contemporary visual arts in Spain. Emphasis is placed on painting. Students learn to analyze a painting from different practical approaches (for example, formal/thematic) and apply these methods to masterpieces of Spanish Art. The theoretical component of this course is completed by an equally important hands-on art portion. The practical section is based on practicing the painting methods presented in the theoretical section by creating works of art. Visits to different museums are scheduled, helping students understand the arts in Spain and in the valencian community in particular.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

Students will learn how to analyze a painting from the formal and thematic approach and apply these methods to masterpieces of Spanish art. They will get an overview of the Spanish tradition in Art in order to recognize the artistic style and author and to investigate the time those artworks were created. Students will also create a piece of art under the guidelines of the instructor.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

In order to accomplish the first two learning objectives previously listed, students will complete a series of homework assignments in Canvas. These daily assignments, organized in modules, contain a reading portion and a quiz designed to assess the student’s comprehension of the reading. Class time will be devoted to different individual and group activities, fieldtrips, discussions and debates based on the homework readings and quizzes the students previously completed. In order to achieve the third learning objective listed above, students will participate in hands-on art workshops and will put together a portfolio including all the artifacts created throughout the semester.

Assessment and Final Grade

| 1. Paper 1 | 10% |
| 2. Paper 2 | 10% |
| 3. Midterm | 20% |
| 4. Final Exam | 25% |
| 5. Portfolio & Oral Presentations | 10% |
| 6. Homework Assignments | 15% |
7. Class Participation  
   TOTAL  
   10%  
   100%

Course Requirements

Paper 1

Paper 2

Students will write two 1500-word essays. The first essay –due before the midterm exam– will analyze any topic related to the first four units of the course. The second essay –due before the final exam– will examine any topic related to the four units seen on the second half of the course. Each paper is required to include discussion of at least three relevant research papers on the topic. Both papers are submitted electronically in Canvas. More guidelines and the grading rubric are available in Canvas.

Midterm

Final Exam

Both exams will consist of the following sections: multiple choice questions, short essay questions, and an essay question.

Portfolio & Oral Presentations

Students prepare a portfolio in Google Slides and present it in front of the class. The portfolio includes all works of art created throughout the semester in both the in-class and museum workshops. The portfolio also documents all museum visits and other fieldtrips (pictures, videos, etc.). The link to the portfolio is submitted in Canvas. Google Slides presentations have to be updated right after each museum visit, fieldtrip or workshop. By the end of the semester, students will prepare a 10-minute talk based of the Google Slides presentation. Further guidelines and the grading rubric are available in Canvas.

Homework Assignments

Students will read the assigned materials in Canvas, complete the written assignments electronically in Canvas, and come to class prepared and motivated to participate in class discussions and activities.

Class Participation

Active participation and attendance are essential. The participation grade will depend on the frequency and quality of the student’s oral contributions in class and his/her ability to respectfully listen to other people’s thoughts. More information is available in Canvas.

CIEE ACADEMIC POLICIES

Papers and assignments submission

According to CIEE Alicante academic norms all assignments, paper, readings, etc. must be turned in on the due date. Late submissions of coursework/assignments during the course of the term of study are not accepted.
If an exception is granted by the Academic Director, the new deadline for the assignment will be set for the next earliest possible date for the student for reasonably submit the assignment.

Course Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program. Students must notify (via e-mail with a copy to the Resident Director or Program Coordinator) their instructor beforehand if they will miss class for any reason. Students are responsible for any materials covered in class during their absence. Students who miss class for medical reasons must inform the professor and the RD or PC and provide appropriate documentation.

For CIEE courses, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students will be marked absent (student will be reminded of the policy). Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or events, etc. Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused.

An absence in a CIEE course will be only considered excused if:

1. A doctor’s note is provided. The UA medical center does not generally provide class absence notes. In the case a doctor’s absence note is extremely necessary, students will need to go to the Vithas International Hospital to be examined.

2. A CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class

3. Evidence is provided of a family emergency

Persistent absenteeism (students exceeding 10% of the total course hours missed, or violations of the attendance policy in more than one class) will lead to a written warning from the RD, notification to the home school, and/or dismissal from the program in addition to reductions in class grade(s).

1. Since each CIEE Alicante course is 45 hours, 10% of the total course hours are 4.5 hours.

2. Students who miss more than 4.5 hours of class without justification will see their final grade reduced by -5%. For instance, students achieving a grade of 89.00 out of 100 points and missing more than 4.5 hours of class will see their grade reduced from 89.00 (B+) to 84.00 (B).

Students with unexcused absences exceeding 20% of the total course hours will fail the course. Written warnings and home school notifications will happen well before the absenteeism causes the student to fail the course so that the student has an opportunity for corrective actions.

Likewise, if any CIEE group organized activity/informational session (e.g. Intercultural development sessions) is scheduled during class hours, attendance to this activity or session is also mandatory for all students enrolled in courses that meet during that block of time. Not attending these CIEE group organized activities/sessions during regular class hours will result in an absence.

Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment may result in failing the course or being expelled from the program. Students are expected to adhere to the US American and norms.

Important principles:

1. Final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from other person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes,
books, or other pertinent information (unless the professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an “open book” basis).

2. The same written paper may not be submitted in more than one course.

3. Any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with the course.

Add/Drop

The add/drop period lasts for 1 week after the start of the courses. After the end of the add/drop period, the student’s registration is considered final, and no course(s) may be changed or deleted from the student’s CIEE Academic Record.

Withdrawal from a course

Students are required to register in 5 courses during their studies at CIEE Alicante. Each CIEE course is worth 3 credits (45 contact hours) and each Universidad de Alicante course is worth 4 credits (60h - unless the course has more than 60h of instruction). If exceptional circumstances warrant, the student may request permission from the Center Director to withdraw from a course. However, a student participating in a semester program is not allowed to drop below 12 US semester credits.

Attendance

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class 1.1 Introduction

Course presentation. Explanation of learning objectives and methods.


Class 1.2

Different approaches to the question of “what is art?” will help the students to form their own opinion on such a difficult subject. Participation on debates will be mandatory, always helped by the instructor’s guidelines.

Reading: Kandinsky, Wassily, and Genoveva Dieterich, 2012 (extract)

Week 2

Class 2.1

“The first manifestation of Hispanic Art: Prehistory, Paleolithic & Neolithic Art”. Explanation of learning objectives and methods. The instructor will give presentations on each subject.

Class 2.2
Practical class: "How the cave paintings were made": students will create their own paintings from natural pigments and they will apply their knowledge on canvas, painting using different techniques and styles.

Reading: Martínez, Antonio Beltrán, and Matilde Múzquiz Pérez-Seoane, 1999. (extract)

**Week 3**

Class 3.1 .

"The first manifestation of Hispanic Art: Iberian & Roman Art". The instructor will give presentations on each subject.

Class 3.2 .

A short background on Iberian and Roman society will be provided through presentations and readings before studying their artistic representations in Spain.


**Week 4**

Class 4.1 .

"The Middle Ages: Romanesque, Gothic and Islamic Art". The instructor will give presentations on each subject. “The Name of the Rose”: Students will extract from the movie every aspect about medieval life and spirituality they observe.

They will comment on how art during this period is a perfect reflection of the medieval world and how the changes in society are reflected on the new types of art. Students will learn how to identify the parts of Romanesque, Gothic and Islamic buildings through a series of models provided by the instructor.

Class 4.2 .

Students will visit the Gothic temple of Santa María in Alicante.

BBC documentary “When the Moors ruled Europe” (in Spanish): discussion on Muslim contribution to Spanish and European history.

Practical class: “The Art of Calligraphy”: students will create their own artwork using just Arabic letters and no images.

Reading: Bevan, Bernard, 1938 (extract).

**Week 5**

Class 5.1 .
“The Renaissance: El Greco and the Mannerism” The instructor will give presentations on the subject. The color & new Art techniques: students will learn about mixing colors, perspective, portrait, chiaroscuro and the rest of Renaissance techniques through a series of practical exercises in class.

Class 5.2

Practical class: “Painting like a Renaissance master”. Students will follow the steps of one of the Spanish Renaissance Masters while creating a small painting.

Reading: Musso, C. G. 2004 (extract).

Portfolio + Oral Presentation

Week 6
Class 6.1

“The Baroque: Ribera, Zurbarán y Murillo”. The instructor will give presentations on each subject. The Baroque as a reaction against the Renaissance. Students will learn the importance of Religion in Art. A visit to the local Art Museum will provide the students additional information about the subject.

Activity: “The still life”. Students will learn how to paint a real life object.

Reading: Mallory, Nina A. 1990.

Class 6.2 Midterm Exam

Week 7
Class 7.1

“The Baroque: Velázquez “The instructor will give presentations on the subject. Students will learn the importance of the greatest painter Spain ever produced. His life and work will be investigated through the documentary “Velázquez: pintor de los pintores”.

Class 7.2

A visit to the only Velázquez in the region will provide the students with the opportunity of examine the master’s work.


Paper 1

Week 8
Class 8.1
"Neoclassicism and Romanticism. Goya" The instructor will give presentations on the subject. The movie “Los fantasmas de Goya” will help the students understand the importance of the last great master of Spanish art and the first modern artist of Spain.

Class 8.2

Practical class: “Drawing like Goya: the caprichos”.

Reading: Chastenet, Jacques, 1963.

Week 9

Class 9.1

“Modernism and impressionism. Gaudi, Sorolla” The instructor will give presentations on the subject. Students will approach this period from different angles: society, industrial revolution and the mass production, the new revolution in ideas, etc.

Class 9.2

Practical class: "How to capture light on a canvas".


Week 10

Class 10.1

“Cubism and Surrealism. Picasso” The instructor will give presentations on the subject.

Students will understand the importance of Picasso in Art History.

Class 10.2

Practical class: “Destroying perspective”: students will try to represent their own faces from different angles at the same time.

Documentary “Picasso y Barcelona (Picasso infinito)”

Week 11

Class 11.1

“Cubism and Surrealism. Dalí” The instructor will give presentations on the subject.

Students will understand the importance of Dalí in Spanish Art.

Projection of “Destino”, a Walt Disney-Dalí project.

Class 11.2
Practical class: “Painting your dreams (or nightmare)"

Paper 2

Week 12
Class 12.1

“Contemporary Art: an overview on the latest manifestation of Spanish Art: the “vanguardias”

Class 12.2

The instructor will give presentations on the subject but the students will investigate about the current Spanish art industry.

Reading: Read, Herbert. 1988.

Week 13
Class 13.1

Final Exam

Course Materials

Readings


Online Resources

http://www.masdearte.com
http://www.artehistoria.jcyl.es
http://pintura.aut.org

Media Resources

“El Nombre de la Rosa” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBljIYuoWBM

“When the Moors ruled Europe” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3TuWFWA340

“Velázquez: the painter’s painter” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgRWMsYBgbE

“Los fantasmas de Goya” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ9WNFV4ggM

“Picasso” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Il8Nhv6OyRY

“Destino” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BO8ffgDbM80