

COURSE SYLLABUS FORM

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department: Civilization Sequence Program
Course Number and Title: CVSP/Art222 Basic Painting I

1. **Course Learning Outcomes:** This studio course will introduce students to procedures and the use of three basic painting media: dry pastels, gouache paints and acrylics. Class exercises in sequence will bring to students the foundations of personal expressive technique. Specifically students will:
 - 1) Learn to see three-dimensional objects and their contexts and describe them in paint on a two-dimensional surface (observation and psychomotor skills).
 - 2) Learn to apply concepts of visual elements; e.g. light/dark, basic shapes, space, composition (analysis/synthesis).
 - 3) Learn color-mixing and paint-handling techniques appropriate to each medium (psychomotor skills).
 - 4) Develop awareness of how ideas of personal and social expression can be communicated through art (affective domain).

2. **Resources Available to Students** will include artwork from professional and student sources. Demonstrations will be given by the instructor or video as necessary. Field trips will include outdoor painting and trips to local exhibitions as possible. There is no text for the course but occasional notes and readings may be handed out.

3. **Grading Criteria** will be on the basis of:

A. Class Participation; attendance, citizenship	20%
B. Improvement and teacher's opinion	10%
C. Student Portfolio	40%
D. Test pictures	20%
E. Final project: two paintings in different media	10%

4. **Schedule:** (Week by week with some flexibility)
 - 1) Introduction to the course , the studio, art materials.
 - 2) Abrasive media, light and shadow. Value charts and pastel technique. Materials: dry black and white pastels/chalks on tinted paper.
 - 3) Surface color, versus light and shadow. Basic color mixing. Pastels on grey paper.
 - 4) Fruit studies: Surface description. Organizing multiple objects on paper. Intersecting forms.
 - 5) Introduction to gouache and its handling. Color wheel. Geometric shapes in space.
 - 6) Irregular objects. Treatments of background.

- 7) Still life in gouache using studio objects. Abstraction as an approach. Homework assignment using abstract/symbolic approach in pastels.
 - 8) Close up of small object with detailed surface and shadow examination in gouache. Possible test painting.
 - 9) Landscape considerations: architecture, distance, foliage. Field trip: AUB campus painting.
 - 10) Same as week 9.
 - 11) Introduction to acrylic painting. Lecture demonstration. Still life: ceramic subjects.
 - 12) Same as week 11.
 - 13) Painting drapery and figure/plaster cast subject. Assignment: submit ideas for final projects.
 - 14) Acrylic painting: last subject. Flexible; free choice of subject in class. May be from source pictures.
 - 15) Final painting sessions. Assembly of class work portfolios and possible display of selected items.
5. **Course Policy:** Attendance is of paramount importance and will affect the final grade if more than two classes are missed without a medical excuse. Students will pay for their own art supplies (expected costs: \$50). Lockers in the studio shall be free but keys are to be returned before the end of the last class. All artwork must be the student's own work. Research is encouraged but assistance with the execution of the artwork is not allowed and runs the risk of plagiarism. In case of doubt consult the instructor beforehand.