

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
CSU VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM**

ART 390 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN STUDIO ART

SPRING VIP 2020

Credits - 3 CSU units

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Marsha Steinberg

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Office hours — one hour per week, to confirm with students once semester begins

Location of Course – California State University, Florence ~ Via G. Leopardi, 12 ~ 50121 Florence, Italy - **CSU Art Studio – Aula 3**

Course Description

This course offers each student the possibility of expanding his or her world through the study of drawing and/or painting and/or sculpture techniques so as to enhance the personal expression of each student. Each student will expand on the basics of painting and/or drawing and/or sculpture and will therefore learn to elaborate this information expressing his or her ability to paint, draw or sculpt.

Course Methods and Requirements:

This class uses various teaching methods, such as demonstrations, lectures, exercises and review of master artist drawings. Discussions will be held in class dealing with master artworks that relate to each student's person series.

Class Site Visits

No specific site visits are required for this class however students are encouraged to visit museums, architectural sites or any other sites that could contribute to the successful completion of their independent study.

Required Books/Readings

There is no mandatory course textbook.

Individual references will be given to each student according to the choice of inspiration for the final project. It will be necessary to consult the CSU Library, and in some cases other area resources and possibly local bookstores in Florence.

Course Goals and Objectives -

Each student is required to define the arena of activity, both conceptual (idea/theme) and technical (choice of media) for his/her project. The project is based on a series of artworks in one of the following media: painting, sculpture or drawing. The entire series of artworks must work together as a completed body of work.

The student is expected to focus on a body of related work (content). The student should be concerned with the development of his/her own personal voice as an artist. The student may work with a strategy of proliferation (lots of experiments with the expectation that many will not turn out) or a strategy of refinement (honing in on the details and nuances of a process or image), or some combination of both. In any event, the student will be expected to have a body of work that reflects significant time investment.

All independent study students must submit a concise, 500-1000 word (1-2 pages) **proposal** for the semester's work. The professor will assist the student in identifying ideas and goals and may suggest or require specific details of your creative research (readings, reports, technical challenges, quota of works, etc). These details should be included in the written proposal, which will become part of the agreement for your semester's work.

The proposal (due at the second lesson) should define the arena of activity, both conceptual and technical as well as choice of media/technique and measurements. All to be discussed with the professor. Possibilities include a project based on a series of artworks in one of the following media: painting, sculpture or drawing. The entire series of artworks must work together as a completed series and not as separate individual products. The student is required to do one of the following:

1. A series of 4 paintings and 4 "bozzetti" (small paintings investigating the series);
2. A series of 4 sculptures + 4 maquette (small sculptures investigating the series);
3. A series of 15 drawings and one conclusive 16th drawing. The 16th drawing is a conclusion of the analysis of the entire series.

At the end of the semester, the student will submit a **summative self-assessment** in which he/she will re-write this statement, assessing how his/her ideas have developed and/or changed as a result of the semester's work. This is due at the last scheduled meeting.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the semester students will have a better appreciation of the following points:

1. An improved analytical capacity that will allow them to examine the different elements of painting, drawing and sculpture, to explore its' nature, function, and interrelationship.
2. The technical-practical ability to realize a subject through the knowledge of mixing and the use of color, form, line, etc., and their relationship, as well as the knowledge of various pictorial approaches.
3. The cognitive capacity to make choices with distinction, in relation to their vision and intention, idea and concept, with the help of books and images of masterworks showing the different approaches to subjects.
4. An improved practical application of drawing, painting, sculpture and mixed media techniques.
5. The critical sense regarding the role of art of the past in a contemporary

context, characterized by analysis and judgment.

6. A more critical analysis towards color and drawing relationships, tonal quality, composition, color and black/white harmony, spatial relationships including balance and harmony, contrast balance as well as to how to “make” a well-balanced and harmonious work of art.

Grades and Exams

Your grade will be determined by the following assignments:

- Proposal - Statement of purpose	15%
- Midterm - presentation of work-in-progress and completed artwork up to the Midterm	20%
- Final Paper	20%
- Final Group Critique - presentation of Final Project and Final Paper	30%
- Class participation	15%

100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-88	B+
87-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-69	C-
68-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59 and below	F

A. Student performance has been outstanding and indicates an exceptional degree of academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements

B. Student performance has been at a high level and indicates solid academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements

C. Student performance has been adequate and indicates satisfactory academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements

D. Student performance has been less than adequate and indicates deficiencies in meeting the learning outcomes and/or course requirements

F. Student performance has been unacceptable and indicates a failure to meet the learning outcomes and/or course requirements

The + and - symbols will be used for grading (except for A+). Specific information about the paper, exams and other projects will be given to you during the semester. Late work will reduce the student's grade.

Very Important

Failure to complete all work assigned in the course could result in a WU grade, which is equivalent to "F".

Credit

Students may pursue Independent Study for 3 credits, The student should discuss with the faculty member his or her expectations for the number of hours he/she plans to pursue. In general, the student should work a minimum of 3 hours per week per credit hour.

Course Evaluation

Evaluation is based on individual response to the proposed series of artwork as well as on the entire body of work, including all work completed during the course. **Attendance is mandatory.**

The grade for the independent study is determined at the discretion of the faculty member. It is based on the quality of the exploration as evidenced by the work completed, the relationship of the work to the initial proposal and/or final self evaluation and the student's compliance with the terms set out in the agreement. Late work will influence the student's grade.

Proposal: A written proposal by each student (explained above in the Course Goals and Objectives) will be evaluated.

Mid Term Review/Group Critique will consist of a review and critique of the each student's project.

Discussion relating to working methods, procedures, inspiration, and catalog success and failures experienced during the project.

A Group Final critique will take place during Finals week. Individual critiques before the Group Final Critique will be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time for the faculty member and student.

Final Paper: The Final paper which is due at the Final Exam Group Critique must include a self-assessment in which he/she will re-write the initial proposal/statement, assessing how his/her ideas have developed and/or changed as a result of the semester's work. Inspiration from master artists is a fundamental part of this investigation and analysis of one's series of artwork. The Final paper must be at least 3-4 pages including all references and resources (books, internet, etc.) used in order to execute the project. All references and resources to be discussed with the professor. A bibliography is required using the MLA format.

Grading procedure is based on the four aspects of each project.

1. Production and Creativity, (planned carefully, exemplifying the tenants of mastering a skill. Every effort was made to make each work the best he/she has ever made)
2. Effort and Perseverance, (the project was continued through the daily doubts and insecurities while developing new skills)

3. Craftsmanship and Skill, (The artwork was beautiful and patiently done; it was as good as hard work could make it.)
4. Final Finished Project Scopes, (The final written description of the working methods utilized and cataloging of success and failures encountered during the project.)

Important: Exams – note: dates for mid-term and final critiques can not be changed to accommodate personal travel plans. Check critique dates before making travel plans.

Midterm exams and Final Exams are held at CSU in a group critique. Presentation of the series of artwork executed by each student. Various reviews and individual critiques of student artwork will be held with professor Steinberg during the course.

Class Code of Conduct

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

Safety

All students are expected to respect the safety and security policies in place at CSU Firenze. Students will be expected to follow the procedures outlined by CSU Firenze for the safe use of lab spaces upstairs. Refusal to respect these policies and procedures could lead to 24/7 access restrictions to the lab and studio spaces upstairs.

Each student is required to focus and pay attention to the use of hazardous materials: solvents, paints, mediums for oil paint, etc. These materials must be used in glass jars with lids and stored away in the students' lockers. It is important to keep the art studio room clean and organized.

Academic Dishonesty Will Not Be Tolerated

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/or the Resident Director for more information.

Attendance –

CSU Attendance Policy 2019-20 (for classes that meet once a week)

Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester. More than TWO unexcused absences could result in the lowering of your grade or failure of the course.

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of final presentations cannot be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the final presentation dates and plan their trips after the last presentation. Missing the Mid term presentations in the Mid Term Group Critique could mean failure at Mid term; and missing the final presentations in the Final Group Critique could mean failure of the course.

During the academic year, photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

Other class policies:

- Use of the computer in class is not allowed, unless previously approved by the professor.
- Eating is NOT allowed in class.
- Cellular phones must be turned off or placed on silent mode during class.

You must attend all exams and quizzes as scheduled. Make-up exams are given only for valid reasons. Please check your academic calendar **BEFORE** you book trips, flights and hotels.

Copyright and Privacy Laws

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.

Changes - Important

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Class Calendar — Content and due dates

Independent Study meetings as a group at CSU will generally be held once a week in the Art Studio Room (aula 3) in the Fall and/or Spring semester following the CSU Academic calendar. A more specific schedule of meetings will be provided by your instructor once the semester begins. On-going review of art work, further explanations and discussions relating to each student's series and demos of various paintings, drawing and sculpture techniques will be held during the entire semester.