

USCRoski

ART 499 DIGITAL PAINTING STUDIO

Spring 2021
Thu 6:00-8:40 PM
Units: 2

Location: Zoom
Instructor: Angie Wang
Office Hours: By appointment (in class or via email)
Contact Info: professor.angiewang@gmail.com

Course Description

The primary focus of this class is for student artists to create a portfolio of images that reflect their interests, voice, and sensibilities, by way of digital drawing/painting, and using the software and hardware of their choice. This is much like a traditional advanced painting class, in that the primary focus of the course is for the student to build a body of work with total creative freedom, and assumes that the students already have some experience creating digital work and have their own tablet/drawing devices.

Students will learn, experiment with, and engineer new techniques for creating digital images, using software such as Photoshop and Procreate, and additional software that may come up as being of interest. Students will analyze and remix techniques from other images, empowering them to learn from their inspiration without imitating. Students are also expected to learn from each other and contribute their knowledge and practices to the class in the form of demonstrations and critiques.

Learning Objectives

It is the aim of this class to provide a space for students to develop their digital painting skills and further educate the student in the skills and techniques of rendering digitally and in creative problem-solving, enabling the student to work to master their medium, while also inspiring the student to take stock of their digital process so as to strengthen their artistic voice.

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-Requisite(s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Recommended Preparation: Any drawing, painting, or graphic design classes.

Course Requirements

An internet connection, a computer capable of running Zoom, and prior familiarity with digital painting

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Adobe Photoshop

Tablet (iPad, Surface, Cintiq, Wacom tablets)

Screen-sharing—come to class prepared to share your screen!

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Optional

Procreate

Clip Studio Paint

Adobe Photoshop After Effects or Illustrator or InDesign

Your app or program of choice

Description and Assessment of Assignments

In this class, students will create six digital paintings and a final project, which is also a digital painting. Students will be given full creative freedom over the subject and style of the paintings they turn in, and may use any program or brushes they choose, so long as there is a digital component aside from simply scanning in a traditionally created image. This includes digitally-created paintings, digitally-colored lineart, vector art, animation, digital collage, and so on.

Additionally, every student will be expected to give a 10-15 minute demonstration of various aspects of their digital painting technique to present to the class. I will assign three students to give a demo every other week.

Regarding the demonstration: the demo can be as casual or as elaborate as you want it to be, but you will receive full credit so long as you do it on your assigned day. Examples of demos you could do: a few Procreate process videos with an explanation, a live demo showing how you paint a tree branch, a little Google Slides tutorial breaking down your animation method, a live demo of how you color lineart, or even a simple 12-minute live-drawing session, and so on. The goal of this demonstration is to impart knowledge to fellow artists in the class using your own particular process for digital drawing, and to recognize and acknowledge your own areas of expertise. Since there are so many wildly different approaches to digital art, this allows us all to learn from each other, as whatever your style or level is, you have something to teach everyone else about your own unique process.

Grading

In this class, you will be responsible for grading yourself. Grading yourself is an opportunity to help you understand the strengths and weaknesses of your finished pieces in relation to each other, as well as a chance to develop your own evaluations of your work. I will provide a rubric for you to use as a self-assessment tool, and a template for reflections to turn in with every assignment.

Assess what points you have earned on the assignment using the provided rubric, and I will record your points and tally them up at the end of the semester to determine your final grade. The assignment will not be accepted without filling out *both* the template for reflection and self-assessment using the rubric, and will be given a zero.

Please try to grade yourself with fairness and accuracy, and don't compare your grade to your classmates' grades, as you are all on different journeys. You alone know your growth and the effort you put in, and you know best how successfully you achieved your vision and where your weakest and strongest areas are.

However, 25% of your grade is still based on other factors, so expect your final grade to incorporate class participation and whether or not you are prepared with your demonstration on the day it's due. The participation grade includes coming to class, speaking up during the critique sessions, doing the in-class exercises, contributing to brainstorming, and asking relevant questions after demonstrations.

Finally, I reserve the right to adjust your final grade up or down. If you've been turning in beautiful paintings you've clearly spent hours on but you're nitpicking yourself to death on grading, I'm not going to let you wind up giving yourself a C in the class, for example. But I will try to avoid using this option—I want you to be responsible for accurately assessing your own work.

Grading scale:

A	Minimum 95%
A-	Minimum 90%
B+	Minimum 87%
B	Minimum 83%
B-	Minimum 80%
C+	Minimum 77%
C	Minimum 73%
C-	Minimum 70%
D+	Minimum 67%
D	Minimum 60%
F	Below 60%

Grading percentages:

10% Demo
15% Participation
10% Assignment 1
10% Assignment 2
10% Assignment 3
10% Assignment 4
10% Assignment 5
10% Assignment 6
15% Final Project

Assignment Submission Policy

All final art will be delivered digitally. You should always keep a high-resolution (300 dpi+) PSD or TIF files for all of your digital paintings so that you can print them, but you should send me a smaller JPG or PNG

preview file of at least 1200 px wide, just so you're not sending me a 200 MB file. If animated, GIF files should be under 2 MB or MP4 files under 7 MB.

Either attach the file in your email with professor.angiewang@gmail.com or use Dropbox, Google Drive, or whatever file transfer service you prefer. Again, please include the written explanation and your grade for yourself with the file, using the template given, or you will not receive a grade for the assignment.

This is also a group critique class, and so each student is expected to turn in their final art **the day before full-class critique**, and each student is also expected to contribute to discussion of each other's works.

Late work that isn't finished in time for group critique will not be critiqued, and your final grade will be docked by 5%. If the piece isn't turned in at all, your final grade will be docked by 10% total--the value of the assignment.

However, given that we're still in a worldwide pandemic, I will offer relief on one (1) assignment. I would prefer that you complete all 7 paintings, but if you have a week where you are simply unable to, you may email me and ask for relief. I will mark down a solid B for that assignment, no questions asked, and you can skip that assignment. Again, I would strongly prefer that you complete all seven of your paintings, but this is a way to help manage your load if you are having a hard time.

Additional Policies

If you miss a class, you will miss critiques of your work, demos, technique analysis and breakdowns, time set aside to work as a group, and time to connect with your fellow students. Even though we are learning remotely, class participation--building rapport with your fellow artists, seeing your work in the context of your peers, and carving out space for yourself to sit and work uninterrupted for several hours, surrounded by others doing the same--is truly important. Please come to class, and come to class on time.

After 2 absences, your grade will be docked by 5% per unexplained absence after the initial 2.

Again, send me final art **the day before** the critique class for the assignment. When working on final files, try to give yourself enough time to account for technical issues and always make backups as you work. Technical issues will not be accepted as valid reasons for your assignment to be late.

I will be checking my inbox regularly and will try to answer promptly, but I can't guarantee checking my email outside the hours of 9am to 5pm on weekdays.

Code of Conduct

Only constructive critique will be allowed. Any insults or damaging or malevolent comments will invite consideration for immediate expulsion from the class. In addition, no racist, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, or otherwise bigoted remarks or work will be allowed in this course. If I judge a comment or work to be harmful in this way, I will have a serious talk with you; if it happens more than once, expulsion from the class will be considered.

Be respectful of your fellow students. Refer to them with the correct names and pronouns.

I expect all assignments in this class to have been created by you, and you alone, from concept to finish.

Tracing or reusing any part of someone else's artwork without their permission and credit will be considered plagiarism. Copying a concept or composition without giving credit to the other artist will also be considered plagiarism. Master copies, with proper credit and for practice, are not plagiarism but they will *not* be accepted for any of the seven digital painting assignments because the point of this class is to challenge

yourself to create original artwork. We will be doing a modified form of master copies in class, but *do not* do master copies for your assigned paintings.

If you have plagiarized someone else's work, you lose credit for that assignment, you'll have to write a 1000-word essay on plagiarism, and 10% will be knocked off your final grade—this is all for the first plagiarism infraction. You will automatically fail the class for the second.

Please don't even toe the line with plagiarism. If you turn in an assignment and I have to explain to you *why* your assignment was plagiarized, it will automatically count as plagiarized and will be treated as such.

If ever in doubt—if you're wondering about whether or not this image you're working on is too close to that beautiful painting you saw yesterday, or if you are working with collage or in homage and you are not sure if you've transformed your sources enough—**ask me before you turn in your assignment**, and I will be able to clarify for you what changes are needed, if any. As long as you ask me for help and make any changes I request, I won't consider it plagiarism and will not think any less of you, as we are all here to learn. But if you haven't checked with me and I find out that plagiarism of concept or execution has occurred, you will face the consequences listed above: writing a 1000-word essay on plagiarism and 10% off the final grade for the first infraction, and an auto-fail for the second infraction.

Auto-plagiarism, or "double-dipping" by turning in assignments for this class that you made for other classes, is also a form of academic dishonesty. You'll have to write a 500-word essay on auto-plagiarism, 5% will be knocked off your final grade, and you'll have to do the assignment again.

Have faith in your own concepts, your own perspective, your own voice!!!! I don't mean to scare you all, but plagiarism is an extremely serious and indelible black mark against your character and your work in the real world. But do ask me if you are worried your work might be too closely copying someone else's, and we can fix it.

For any other code of conduct issues that may arise that are not covered here, I will create a written amendment to the syllabus that I expect you to sign to be able to continue taking the class, and the rest of the class will receive notice of the amendment as well. You will be bound by the rules and consequences in the amendment for any further infractions, and the initial infraction may also incur a penalty or consequence.

Last Notes

You are in control of what you make for this class, and you are in control of how it's evaluated. Try your best to make art you're proud of and excited by, and if it doesn't come out well, that's understandable and totally normal! Move on and try your best on the next assignment.

Course Schedule

Please note that this schedule is tentative and may be subject to change over the course of the semester.

	Topics/Daily Activities	Homework	Deliverable/Due Dates
Week 1 Th 1/21	Introductions, orientation	Fill out the Introductions Google Form	

Week 2 Th 1/28	Workshop: Assignment 1	Continue to work on Assignment 1	
Week 3 Th 2/4	Critique		
Week 4 Th 2/11	Workshop: Assignment 2	Continue to work on Assignment 2	
Week 5 Th 2/18	Critique		
Week 6 Th 2/25	Workshop: Assignment 3	Continue to work on Assignment 3	
Week 7 Th 3/4	Critique		
Week 8 Th 3/11	Workshop: Assignment 4	Continue to work on Assignment 4	
Week 9 Th 3/18	Critique		
Week 10 Th 3/25	Workshop: Assignment 5	Continue to work on Assignment 5	
Week 11 Th 4/1	Critique		
Week 12 Th 4/8	Workshop: Assignment 6	Continue to work on Assignment 6	
Week 13 Th 4/15	Critique		
Week 14 Th 4/29	Workshop: Final	Continue to work on the final project	
Final Th 5/6	Final class critique & party	You're done!	

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism--presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words--is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards: <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus & university policies on scientific misconduct: <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Discrimination, Sexual Assault, Harassment

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity <http://equity.usc.edu> or to the Department of Public Safety <http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety>. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community--such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member--can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> describes reporting options and other resources.

Language Support

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali> which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services & Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations.

Emergency

If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information <http://emergency.usc.edu> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

Counseling and Mental Health

(213) 740-9355

<http://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling>

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1 (800) 273-8255

<http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services

(213) 740-9355, press "0" after hours

<http://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault>

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity

(213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298

<http://equity.usc.edu> or <http://titleix.usc.edu>

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment

(213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

http://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

(213) 740-0776

<http://dsp.usc.edu>

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Department of Public Safety

UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120

<http://dps.usc.edu>

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Campus Support & Intervention

(213) 821-4710

<http://campussupport.usc.edu>

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC

(213) 740-2101

<http://diversity.usc.edu>

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency

UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000

<http://dps.usc.edu> or <http://emergency.usc.edu>

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.