MAPPPING PROVENCE

ASTU 4900
On location - Aix en Provence, France
Monday-Friday
Class hours - [See schedule]
June 2023

Brian Scott Campbell
brian.campbell@unt.edu
614.974.0869
Office location - by arrangement
Office Hours – by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This program immerses participants in the grandeur of Provence through on-site study of the city of Aix en Provence and through the materiality and visual cartographic qualities of drawing and paint media. Students will engage in an innovative and experimental approach to the traditions of plein air painting while investigating and traversing the landscape of Provence.

In this course, students will explore the city and countryside of Aix en Provence, weaving the past and the present through the physicality of walking, experiencing, reflecting in the tradition of the flaneur. Merging past and present, the rich cultural resources and inspiration of the region will provide young artists with greater insight into how history and study can serve as a catalyst for both personal and creative growth as contemporary artists and thinkers. Whether traipsing through the pastoral scenery, reliving the past of Cezanne or Van Gogh, or meandering the streets and markets as a boulevardier in the old city of Aix, students will gain appreciation for creating in a place with hundreds of years of vibrant cultural traditions and how this affects contemporary identity and expression.

The duration of this study in Aix en Provence will focus primarily on visiting key sites within the city and surrounding region and representing the variegated landscape two-dimensionally in small-scaled sketchbooks and watercolor blocks. We will also gather reference information to document our observations: sketches, lists, diagrams, photographs, research notes, and reflective writing. As practitioners of the city, students will relate image data with known artifacts on the ground and interpret their topographical narratives into artworks. Students will use a variety of approaches to both drawing media and digital devices as resources to collect and construct images.

These activities will be augmented by day trips: to Avignon, one of the most historically important cities of the region, Arles and Saint-Rémy de Provence, where Van Gogh once lived and worked, and to charming La Ciotat and Cassis for sea-side drawing sessions.

COURSE SCHEDULE & CONTENT

(See attached Course Schedule)

*The course schedule has been arranged in cooperation with IAU’s Marchutz School of Fine Arts. This reflects expected class progress in course subject matter and may be subject to minor changes based on our progress or unexpected weather changes.
COURSE OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES

a. Exploration of the city of Aix en Provence and the surrounding region of Provence in the South of France, and a willingness to reflect those cultural and historical examinations through works of art.

b. Understanding of basic principles of design and color, concepts, media and formats, and the ability to apply them to a specific aesthetic intent. This includes functional knowledge of the traditions, conventions, and evolutions of the discipline as related to issues of representation, illusion, and meaning. The development of solutions to aesthetic and design problems should continue throughout the degree program.

c. Ability to synthesize the use of drawing, two-dimensional design, and color. These abilities are developed by beginning with basic studies and continuing throughout the degree program toward the development of advanced capabilities.

d. Knowledge and skills in the use of basic tools, techniques, and processes sufficient to work from concept to finished product, including knowledge of paints and surfaces.

e. Exploration of the expressive possibilities of various media, and the diverse conceptual modes available to the painter. This may deal with direct painting from nature or with alternative approaches to the making of traditional or innovative two- and, at times, three-dimensional images.

f. Encouragement to develop a consistent, personal direction and style through independent work.

CONTENT, EVALUATION & EXAMINATION

Group critiques will form a large component of this course and will play a role in your evaluation. You are required to work during scheduled class time for presentation of assignments, instruction, personal critiques and group discussions. Students will be evaluated on the timely completion of assignments and the resulting inventiveness and fluency of their work.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

60% - Daily on-site Drawing and Painting Portfolio
   [600 points or 50 points/session]
36% - Participation in our In-Class Drawing, Discussion, Critiques, and Cooperation
   [360 points or 30 points/session]
4%  - Third Week Final Piece - {40 points}

*I use a point system for grading. You will earn a total of 1000 points for the three weeks.

A = Excellent [100-90%]
B = Above Average [89-80%]
C = Average [79-70%]
D = Inferior [69-60%] [passing but not necessarily satisfying degree requirements]
F = Failure [59% or below]
DAILY / WEEKLY ON-SITE EXPECTATIONS / EVALUATION

**Daily** - You should produce a total of five sketches/preliminary/gestural studies each day/session. We have twelve scheduled sessions for the course, so you should have a total of 60 sketches for the three weeks.

**Daily** - Additionally, you will produce one drawing per day that is a longer investigation. (It could be that this is more detailed, layered, complicated, or requires more time for another reason). This may take anywhere from 1-4 hours. We have twelve scheduled sessions for the course, so you should have a total of 12 longer duration drawings.

**Weekly Critique Schedule:** (This may be subject to minor changes, depending on progress)

Week 1: Saturday June 8th in Avignon, France  
Week 2: Thursday June 13th in the landscape  
Week 3: Friday June 21st at Marschutz School Studios

Each critique should include:
- Four longer duration drawings/works on paper
- Four faster sketches or relevant studies of particular quality
- ***You may include more sketches to show if you wish.
- ***Final Critique will include the daily drawings from Week 3 (8 total drawings) + Final Drawing

**EXAMPLES OF GRADING STANDARDS**

**A**

*Student work that is superior and goes above and beyond standard expectations.* Superior work and rigorous effort is demonstrated through in-class & homework assignments, on time and up to faculty-defined standards, as well as full classroom participation. Grades in this category indicate excellence in the subject matter.

**B**

*Student work that meets high expectations.* Hard work and skill are demonstrated through assignments and classroom participation. Grades in this category indicate strong aptitudes for the subject matter.

**C**

*Student work generally meets standard expectations, but* other factors (such as hard work, sub-average participation, attendance, attainment of faculty-defined standards, and timely completion of work, etc.) may not be up to expectations.

**D**

*Student work, attendance, participation does not meet minimum expectations.* Student progress within the subject matter is at a sub-average level. Students that fall into this category are generally late to class regularly, and absent often, fail to turn in assignments, quizzes, and projects, and fail to display an understanding of the subject matter.

**F**

*Failure to meet expectations.* This can include, but is not limited to, quality of work, progress within the discipline, participation, attendance, etc.
GRADUATE / ADVANCED LEVEL COURSE TEXTS / OPTIONAL READING

Cezanne’s Doubt - Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Eccentric Spaces [MIT Press] - Robert Harbison (Excerpt)

***If you are enrolled as a graduate student, you may choose between these two texts.
***If you are enrolled as an undergraduate student, you may choose between these texts for extra credit.
***If you are interested in this as extra credit, you’ll need to inform me during Week 1.

ADDITIONAL EXTRA CREDIT

In addition to our reading assignments, I will offer extra credit to any student that is willing to document our class in action [shots of us as a group drawing, critique, or walking, etc.] with high quality photographs. The images should be approx 1000K or [1MB] and twelve or more photos. At the end of the program, if you can upload your photos in a folder via WeTransfer. These are not the typical tourist shots that we might all take and share on Instagram, etc. Rather, these should document that class activities and will require extra effort.

PARTICIPATION

Participation includes speaking during crits and in-class discussions, drawing during our in-class practice sessions, as well as, initiative, attitude, teachability, and cooperation with the class rules and goals. Participation includes but is not limited to attendance. You must be present during our practice sessions to receive credit and to contribute

You are expected to assist in maintaining an environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from our time in Aix and from the drawing and discussion, a professional and polite manner of behavior is expected.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory.
- Two absences will be tolerated. You’ll need to make up work that was missed for credit.
- More than two absences will require a note from a doctor or a note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences) in order to be counted as excused.
- More than two absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade per additional absence
- Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments will occur at the beginning of class periods and will not be repeated for those who come in late. If you are late to class, you will need to notify me at the end of the class period to replace an absence with a tardy. Three tardies will constitute an absence.
• A tardy is considered to be arrival 5 minutes after the beginning of class.

• Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student’s failure to participate in the critique discussions.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA ACCOMODATION

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Students are required to follow the Department of Studio Art Health and Safety guidelines and are required to complete training for each studio course. The goal of the Studio Art Health and Safety Program is to protect the health and welfare of all faculty, staff, and students and to cooperate with the University of North Texas’ Office of Risk Management. Please visit the website for details and the departmental handbook: https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety.

*** Please see health and safety information specific to Study Abroad and IAU in your Orientation packet / materials**

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the course management system for contingency plans for covering course materials.

https://studyabroad.unt.edu/emergency

*** Please see Emergency information specific to Study Abroad and IAU in your Orientation packet / materials**
ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from “UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification” [no-reply@iasystem.org] with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

** I’m going to request that we set time aside during our session to complete SPOT surveys. More info on this forthcoming.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

An Incomplete Grade (“I”) is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule.

In consultation with the instructor, complete a request for an Incomplete Grade. This form can be found on the department website and must be turned into the department chair prior to the last day of classes [not the exam date]. Note: A grade of Incomplete is not automatically assigned to students.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT & ASSAULT

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you [or someone you know] has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources. UNT’s Student Advocate she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.
MATERIALS LIST

Provided:

Rhodia Sketchbooks (2)
Moleskin Journals - Sketch and Watercolor
Arches Watercolor Block

Recommended:

1 Winsor Newton Watercolor Compact Set

1 Winsor Newton Designer Gouache - Ivory Black 14ml

1 Holbein Drawing Inks - Opaque Special Black
https://www.dickblick.com/products/holbein-special-drawing-inks/

1 Silver Brush Travel Brushes

1 Collapsible Water Pot
https://www.dickblick.com/products/plastic-water-pots/#description

1 Faber-Castell 15 Piece Drawing Set

1 Conté Crayons Sketching Set of 4
https://www.dickblick.com/products/conte-crayons/

Optional:  
Travel Easel - [Supplied by Marchutz School of Fine Art]
Daypack and pack+chair combo, and well as travel storage containers
Winsor Newton Gouache Primary Set of 6
Palette knife of choice for tearing watercolor block sheets
Additional water-based acrylics, inks, and brushes
Additional drawing supplies
Travel watercolor palette
Pack of plastic brush TUBZ for transport of wet brushes
PERMISSION TO USE STUDENT ARTWORK

We would like to use your work to spread the news about the amazing art made at CVAD! Please help us put your talent on display by allowing us to photograph and exhibit your art on CVAD’s social media, websites and paper advertising. Thank you!

I hereby grant permission to UNT and CVAD to use, copy, reproduce, publish, distribute or display any and all works created in my classes while at UNT. Additionally, I consent to the use of my name to coincide with images of my artwork.

1. Scope of Permission. This permission extends to the use of the described work and images of such work: [1] for academic purposes in order to demonstrate examples of student work to current and future UNT students; [2] for public display in the galleries or on the campus of the UNT or on the UNT website; [3] for promotional materials created by UNT in all forms of media now known or later developed, including but not limited to exhibition catalogues, direct mail, websites, advertising, social media, and classroom presentations. My permission is on-going, but can be revoked by giving the professor of record for this course written notice of my wish to revoke permission and use of any images of my artwork. UNT will have three months from the date of my notice to stop all use agreed with this permission.

2. Certificate of Ownership. I am the owner of all work submitted and the work is not subject to any restriction that would prevent its use consistent with this permission. All aspects of the work are original to me and have not been copied. I understand that as owner of the work I have the right to control all reproduction, copying and use of the work in accordance with U.S. copyright laws.

3. Privacy Release. I hereby authorize and consent to the release, maintenance and display of my name if necessary and any other personally identifiable information that I have provided in connection with the work and its use described in this Agreement.

4. Signature. By signing below I hereby grant the permissions indicated above. I understand that this grant of permission relates only to the use of the described work. This is not an exclusive right and I may sell, give or otherwise transfer the rights to such work to others on a non-exclusive or exclusive basis. However, in the event that I do sell, give or otherwise transfer ownership or the exclusive right to use my work to another party, I will notify UNT immediately in writing through the professor of record for this course. UNT will have three months from the date of my notice to stop all use in accordance with this permission.

Printed name: ____________________________________________________________

Signature: ________________________________________________________________

Date: ___________________________________________________________________

Name of Course: ___________________________________________________________
STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I __________________________ (print your full name) acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus. I understand the course structure, grading and attendance policies as well as the risk factor rating. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

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<tr>
<th>Course number and section</th>
<th>Risk Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student phone #, e-mail address (print)</td>
<td>Signature</td>
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<td>Faculty Name</td>
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