

**Course Syllabus: ABSTRACT PAINTING**  
**SENR 7103 101CL**  
**9:30-11:30 / TH / LLGP Rm # 103**

**Instructor Information**

**Name:** Debby Brady

**COM Email:** dbrady@com.edu

**Course Description**

Learn what abstract art is, its development, and the history of famous “abstract” painters. Students will learn styles and techniques, objective vs, non-objective, and the “freeing” of one’s emotions and feelings as one paints. Pre-requisite - taking a previous acrylic painting class from this instructor, or previous painting experience. This is not a beginning painting class.

**Required Supplies**

1. Canvases in various sizes. 16 X 20 minimum.
2. Assortment of brushes - Sizes will be discussed. Buy brushes best for acrylic paints. They can be purchased at Paint departments, HL, Michael's, Lowe's, etc.) Synthetic bristles.
3. Painter's tape (green)
4. Palette knife for mixing paints. Several types/sizes are best. These can be purchased in packages with multiple styles. Metal is better than plastic but you can use both.
5. Marking tools. (We will discuss)
6. Plastic condiment bottle, spray bottle for water.
7. Paper towels, baby wipes.
8. Pouring medium - Liquitex is a good brand.
9. Cheap paper plates for mixing paints, or your choice of palettes. Check \$ Tree for trays.
10. Apron or old shirt to wear.
11. Waxed paper. Latex Gloves if you do not like to dirty your hands.
12. Matte medium - whatever brand you like. Liquitex or Golden are good. We will suggest other mediums later in the course.
13. A color wheel - a basic one is fine.
14. Pencils, eraser, and ruler or yardstick.
15. Cardboard for making templates.
16. Gesso - Liquitex is good
17. Acrylic paints: This list starts with basics (primary colors). Use whatever brand you like. We will be discussing the differences in brands. “Special” paints are marked with an asterisk. These are not required.

Note: It is best to have a warm and cool of each basic color, from which most colors can be mixed. Some of the colors listed below can be exchanged with similar colors in various brands. We will discuss the mixing results using different brands. Buy what you like and can afford. Some of these listed are not inexpensive. They are a suggestion. There are many good brands that compare in color close enough for this class. Do use regular consistency paints, not heavy body or pourable, to start the class. We will discuss alternatives later.

**PAINTS:**

Cadmium Red Light

Alizarin Crimson

\*Nickel Azo Yellow

Cadmium Yellow Medium

\*Quinacridone Magenta

\*Green Gold

Yellow Ochre

Naples Yellow

\*Hansa Yellow

Cobalt Blue  
Ultramarine Blue  
Phalo Blue  
Phalo Green  
Titanium White  
Ivory Black  
Payne's Gray  
Burnt Sienna

I have used the web site of [dickblick.com](http://dickblick.com) to order paints. They have good prices on some of the harder to find colors. Blick brand and Utrecht brands are very good quality. I use Utrecht Gesso for preparing my canvases. This brand is thicker and covers very well. It is especially good for covering over old/used canvases. It can be ordered from [blick.com](http://blick.com) or from Utrecht directly.

There are many sources for your supplies including the local Hobby Lobby and Michael's, Jerry's Artarama in Houston and online, Texas Art Supply. WalMart also has a few items.

### **End-of-Course Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a better understanding of abstract painting styles and techniques, objective vs. non-objective, and the "freeing" of one's emotions and feelings as one paints.

### **Course Outline**

**Week 1:** Introductions/get acquainted. Discuss syllabus and materials list. Introduction to the history of abstract.

**Week 2:** Discuss "rules" of abstract, including use of color, rule of thirds, basic design principles, objective vs. non-objective.

**Week 3:** Students will present research of their favorite abstract artist and will paint a canvas in the style presented.

**Week 4:** Mediums and their effects. Put it on. Scrap it off. Use of sanding to create effects.

**Week 5:** What is style? Do you want it? Do you need it? Feeling of place. Starting a journal of ideas.

**Week 6:** The use of color to create a mood. Students will paint a canvas using complimentary colors, bold colors, and quiet colors.

**Week 7:** Painting to music. Music provided by instructor. Students will get in touch with their emotions as they listen and apply them to canvas.

**Week 8:** Introducing "other" tools, such as Brayer rollers, stencils, sponges, and marking tools. A painting will be created using various tools.

**Week 9:** Painting with your non-dominant hand.

**Week 10:** Instructor will provide a subject/object to be painted in abstract style.

**Week 11:** Learning to "finish" your painting, to frame or not to frame? Attaching hanging devices. Preparing artwork to show.

**Week 12:** Collective painting on a large canvas. Each student will participate, rotating until the canvas is completed. Signing your work.

### **Grading Scale**

Students enrolled in non-funded non-credit classes will receive a final grade of "CR" (Completed Successfully) or "N" (no, did not complete).

### **Withdrawal Policy**

You may withdraw from this course at any time by speaking with the Front Desk Personnel who will file the necessary paperwork. Once the semester is underway, we do not issue refunds. If you have a special circumstance, please speak with the Program Manager.

### **Americans with Disabilities**

Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at 409-933-8520, which is in the Student Success Center. <http://www.com.edu/student-services/counseling.php>.

### **Classroom Conduct Policy**

College of the Mainland requires that students be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the on-line Student Handbook at <http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.php>. Students should always act in a professional manner and will be held accountable according to college policy. Violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Office for student Conduct and may result in class dismissal.

### **Emergency Notification System**

College of the Mainland uses a rapid notification system called COM Alert to send text, voice and/or email messages for unscheduled school closings and other emergencies. Student and employee contact information provided during registration is automatically loaded into the system and updated every night. Because of this, students are encouraged to provide a cellphone number as their primary contact phone number. Students may update their default contact information through the Lifelong Learning office. In addition to the automated process, anyone including non-student family and community members may create a COM Alert account by visiting <https://comalert.bbcportal.com>. This type of account is managed independently from the automatic uploads and allows for multiple contact phone numbers to be provided.

**Concerns/Questions Statement**

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact the instructor using the contact information provided at the top of this form. If, after discussing your concern with the instructor, you continue to have questions, please contact Lisa Renfroe at 409-933-8432.

**Drug-Free / Smoke-Free Campus Policy**

College of the Mainland prohibits the possession or use of illegal drugs or alcohol by students on campus or while representing the college at off campus student events. Violations of this policy will result in dismissal from the program. College of the Mainland campuses are smoke-free campuses.