

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

ARTS-132 COLOR THEORY

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ARTS-132 COLOR THEORY

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2023

D. Effective Term: FALL 2024

E. Sponsoring Department: Arts & Design

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 4 Lecture: 2
 Laboratory: 2
 Out of class student work per week: 5

H. Prerequisites: NONE

I. Additional Fees: none

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair:

Virginia Smith Virginia.Smith@raritanval.edu

Darren McManus Darren.McManus@raritanval.edu

Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Patrice Marks Patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

No prerequisites and/or co-requisites required.

This course is an introduction to the characteristics of color and its interaction. Major color theorists will be presented such as Itten and Albers. Assignments will include the creative application of color theory in various media including computers. Students will purchase their own art supplies.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. The course will provide valuable and fundamental knowledge about properties and qualities of color interaction. The knowledge gained from this course can be applied to a majority of art courses at RVCC and elsewhere. Color Theory is a required course for students majoring in the A.F.A Visual Arts and A.F.A. Graphic Design.
- B. This course has a lab component that utilizes design/ painting studio, as well as computer labs for digital artwork.
- C. This course generally transfers as a visual art program requirement dependent on the institution.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course does not serve as a General Education course.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for the A.F.A. Visual Arts and A.F.A. Graphic Design & Interactive Design.
This course serves as a Specialization Elective for the Interface Design & Web Development A.S., A.A.S. and Certificate programs.
- D. Course Transferability: Based on the colleges that reviewed this course at www.njtransfer.org this course will transfer as either a Color Theory studio, studio, or free elective.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. The Color Theories of Itten and Albers and other major color theorists-the study and application.
- B. Color Models including:
 - 1. The three elements of color-hue, intensity, and value
 - 2. Subtractive color-the traditional twelve part color wheel-mixing colors with paint.
 - 3. Process color-such as CMYK separations
 - 4. Color on computer vs. printed versions
 - 5. Additive color-colors of the spectrum and how they can be utilized/mixed
 - 6. Pantone Colors
- C. Studying the use of color through an art historical perspective
- D. Seven Color Contrasts-hue, light/dark, cold/warm, complementary, simultaneous contrast, saturation, and extension
- E. Color creating various planes in space.
- F. Color's capability to express various emotions and moods

- G. Limitation of palette, such as analogous, triadic, complementary and monochromatic
- H. The use of color in world cultures
- I. The development of a personal color palette
- J. Development of a color sketchbook
- K. Lectures/discussions/slide presentations/videos/DVD's relating to color
- L. Museum/gallery visit: Written assignment (critical analysis with focus on color issues seen in artwork/s) based on the visit

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Develop and demonstrate critical analysis skills both verbally and in written format (GE 1, GE 6)
2. Develop knowledge of the use of color in world cultures, past and present (GE 8)
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic properties of color and various color interactions.
4. Develop and demonstrate a theoretical and practical knowledge of color - with focus also on self-expression.

B. Assessment Instruments

- A. portfolio of artwork
- B. museum/gallery paper
- C. participation in group critiques and general class participation
- D. sketchbook
- E. test/s through writing and/or discussion

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. attendance
- B. general class participation including group critiques
- C. color theory projects completed during class time
- D. completion of assigned color theory artwork homework
- E. color sketchbook
- F. written paper
- G. test/s

Primary formats, modes and methods for teaching and learning:

- A. lecture/discussion/slide lecture presentation
- B. instructor demonstrations
- C. in-class and homework art related color assignments
- D. group critiques and individual critiques
- E. assigned readings
- F. test formats such as: written tests; in-class writing and discussion
- G. assigned museum/gallery visit and critical analysis paper of art work focusing on color issues
- H. RVCC College Gallery discussions
- I. Color theory concepts introduced by videos/DVD's

VIII. Texts and Materials

A. Required Textbooks such as:

- 1. The Elements of Color by Johannes Itten
- 2. Interaction of Color by Josef Albers Yale Univ. Press
- 3. Color by Zelanski and Fisher Prentice Hall

B. Supplemental Reading such as:

- 1. Color and Culture Practice and Meaning from Antiquity to Abstraction by John Gage Univ. California Press
- 2. Principles of Color by Faber Birren Schiffer Pub., Ltd
- 3. A Grammar of Color by Albert Munsell Van Nostrand Reinhold Co.
- 4. The Color Primer by Wilhelm Ostwald Van Nostrand Reinhold Co.
- 5. Color and Meaning by John Gage Univ. of California Press
- 6. Color A Workshop Approach by David Hornung McGraw Hill
- 7. Contemporary Color Theory and Use by Steven Bleicher Thomson/Delmar Learning
- 8. Color by Alison Cole Dorling Kindersley, Inc.

C. Suggested reading from periodicals such as:

Art Forum, Art In America, NY times

D. Students will purchase their own art supplies.

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. Studio with drawing tables and stools, sink, chalkboard, slide screen, track lights, still life props should be available, walls that allow artwork to be displayed.
- B. Use of computer art studio.
- C. Slides, digital slides, DVD's, videos, library books, articles from current periodicals.
- D. RVCC Library
- E. Instructional art supplies.

X. ☐ Honors Course ☐ Honors Options ☒ N/A