

**Plein Air Abroad**  
**Advanced Painting**  
**INT 300**

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Or by appointment

**Course Description:**

Plein air painting is the practice of creating observational works of art on-site. During this course, students will gain the technical proficiency necessary to create on-site watercolor paintings while learning about the unique cultural heritage of the country/countries visited. The skill of visually capturing the surrounding environment is a tool that benefits many visual careers. Additionally, trips to major art centers and works of architecture will enrich student's art practice and cultural knowledge.

**Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites or language requirements. The course will be conducted in English, although students who know the language of the country visited will have opportunities to practice their language skills. It is preferred, but not required for students to successfully complete Painting I (ART 218) before the trip.

**Credit Hours:**

This course counts for three hours of upper level painting (ART 318, 330, or 418). In addition to the study abroad trip, several workshop days will be planned during the preceding semester to build student's technical skill in watercolor and on-site paintings.

**Course Goals and Learning Outcomes:**

- To study the history and culture of the country visited.
- To observe how art and architecture communicates civic identity.
- To learn travel skills abroad.
- To develop an appreciation of cultural differences both past and present.
- To develop the technical, conceptual, and creative problem solving skills appropriate to the level of study and the needs of the work.
- To build historical awareness and develop an understanding of how your work fits into the larger social contemporary dialogue.
- To analyze and critique your work and the work of others.

**Student Requirements:**

- Attend all meetings and events.
- Participate in discussions and activities.
- Complete all assignments and projects.
- Clean up your work area. Do not leave trash on site.
- Follow the student code of conduct.
- Act as a considerate and respectful member of the research team.
- Consider a presentation to the university community (e.g. at the Undergraduate Research Symposium or through Residential College programming).

**Textbook:** N/A

**Recommended Guidebook:**

“Discover Spain” by Lonely Planet.

- This may help you plan unstructured days that are open for you to explore.

**Required Materials:** See Supply List

**Intercultural Component:**

This course counts toward the LSP component of Interconnecting Perspectives (Intercultural). Students completing the Intercultural Perspective requirement will:

- Have a greater knowledge and appreciation of cultural diversity through the study of other cultures, as well as their own.
- Be critical and self-reflective, developing an understanding of how culture influences behavior, and in turn, how cultural differences impact intercultural interactions.
- Have an awareness of the political and social aspects of culture and cultural diversity, and an awareness that intercultural consideration allows one to transcend (but not erase) cultural and ethnic differences.

**Grading:**

50%	Paintings
15%	Assignments
10%	Watercolor Sample Book
20%	Sketchbook / Travel Log
5%	Participation

**GRADING CHART**  
 A = 90 and above  
 B = 80 - 89 points  
 C = 70 - 79 points  
 D = 60 - 69 points  
 F = 0 - 59 points

## PAINTINGS

- During the workshop preparation meetings in the spring, students will create works of art that focus on building plein air painting skills. One or two of these will count toward the painting grade. Other more technique-based works will be considered assignments. Students will be notified ahead of time what category their work will fall under.
- Once students are abroad, a series of plein air paintings will be pursued. Many of these works will be of specific sites visited while others will include places the student chooses.

## ASSIGNMENTS

- Assignments will be given the semester before the study abroad trip and collected periodically. They will cover watercolor, perspective, and plein air techniques. Learning or refining these crucial skills will prepare you for a successful class.
- Some assignments will be given in person during workshops and others will be given through email or blackboard. Furthermore, some techniques will be explained through YouTube tutorials created by me. If you need additional assistance, I encourage you to come to my office hours or create an appointment with me.

## SKETCHBOOK / TRAVEL LOG

- Keeping a sketchbook is an essential part of your painting practice. Students who use theirs frequently tend to have better final results. Refer to your sketchbook often as a place where great ideas can grow.
- During the workshop preparation meetings in the spring, students will be given sketchbook assignments to enhance plein air skills that will be applied abroad.
- During the 2-week trip abroad, students will maintain a daily travel log. This log will include information about major sites visited, artworks seen, and cultural interactions. It should also include sketches from your experiences.
- This will be submitted at the end of the trip and returned once graded.

*Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:* Academic dishonesty of any kind, whether in an artwork, paper, exam or any other context is unacceptable. In addition to any University penalties, any plagiarized work will result in a minimum of an F for that assignment, and possibly an F for the course. In addition, the student's name will be submitted to the Dean of Student Affairs Office and the Vice President for Academic Affairs will be notified.

**Attendance Policy:** Students must attend all required events. Additionally, it is required for students to arrive on time for each event and departure so we can make connections and maximize our time.

**Passport:** If you do not have a U.S. Passport, you need to apply for one. This is urgent, as processing will take 4-6 weeks. You cannot travel without this document. You also need to send a copy of the ID pages of your passport to the study abroad office; you

should also leave a set of copies at home, take a set with you and pack it separately from your original. In the unfortunate event that your passport is lost or stolen, replacement becomes much easier when you can produce a copy on the spot. You should not carry your passport with you during day-to-day activities. You can buy the International Student ID Card from the Study Abroad office; this is also a good photo identification.

**Disability Services:** The University is committed to making every possible effort to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact me and the Disability Services office (660-785-4478) as soon as possible.  
For details, consult the Truman website: <http://disabilityservices.truman.edu/>

**Title IX and Sexual Misconduct:** As an instructor, one of my priorities is to help create a safe learning environment. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as a faculty member. I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred on Truman's campus with the University. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting University Counseling Services at 660-785-4014 (660-665-5621 for after-hours crisis counseling.)

**Email Notification:** Only the official Truman student email address will be used for all course notification. It is your responsibility to check your Truman email on a regular basis.