“All pictures painted inside in the studio will never be as good as the things done outside.”

(Paul Cezanne) Cezanne did live in southern France

"There is an undeniable urgency when painting outdoors – nature's so grand, the canvas so small. It takes the human mind with all its grand abilities and complexities to sort through the overwhelming visual feast set before it and re-create on canvas the essential components of such beauty and wonder.” (Jan Blencowe)

This class is about the excitement of combining art with nature. Within the genre of landscape painting, you will develop unique artistic vision while raising your awareness of the environment and your relationship to it. Through the act of manipulating paint while being surrounded by the subject, you will gain an appreciation of nature and the challenges of conveying it. You will also gain skills of a painter, familiarity of supplies and techniques, and an enriched seeing; and a clearer artistic vision for effective communication. In the end you will have a series of paintings of which at least one will be exhibited at the university, with an environmental focused one-page paper.

"Artists who battle the elements, the extreme effort and the exhaustive study to be able to paint a high-quality work in one sitting, wet-on-wet while on location, have something very special to offer.” (B. Eric Rhoads)

Catalog Language…….ART 335: LANDSCAPE PAINTING and the Environment

3 cr. This course will investigate the genre of landscape painting en plein air (painting on location) in an opaque media. The perceptual emphasis of this course will be on color development and the conceptual emphasis will be on the affects and interactions of human societies with the natural environment. Historical understanding of the genre of landscape painting and the relationships of geologist and artist will also be investigated.

ART 435 continuation of ART 335 with higher expectations.

CONCERNS: Any student that has concerns meeting the class criteria, or that may need special assistance to meet the class expectations, please see me as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to ask me to repeat myself or explain ideas more fully (please do not hesitate to have me repeat, slow down, define vocabulary words and simplify). There are many support services available on campus for the benefit of the student; you paid for them--USE THEM! Some of these support services include computer labs, recreational facilities and health service (which include mental health services).

“I don’t like most of what I paint outdoors, but the process is the point; and I know it will make me a better painter.” (Gaye Adams)
"To look, to see, to understand, to capture – however imperfectly – is to be part of the land in a way like no other." (Jan Blencowe)

**Text:** There is not a required text for this class. However this book is a great read:

**The Anatomy of Nature:** Geology & American Landscape Painting 1825-1875

"Color is my day-long obsession, joy and torment." Claude Monet

**GRADES:** Studio performance and demonstrations of knowledge will be evaluated. Studio progress will be evaluated in the regular class critiques as well as individual critiques. Students are encouraged to discuss grading procedures with me at any time. There are 100 points possible during the semester. During the semester you will turn in at least six paintings (days are denoted with “◼” on schedule) to earn up to 10 points each totaling 60 points. The other 10 points will be earned through participation writing assignments regarding Environmental issues (more information on this will be forthcoming). An additional thirty points will be given for behavior which includes: being sensitive to our environment, being responsible acting on all trips including camping trip (if you bring anyone, you are also responsible for their behavior), I expect you to act mature and avoid any behavior that endangers yourself or others, or leads to ranger/police involvement, or if I see you using alcohol or illegal drugs during class time (which includes the camping trip). In other words, if you do act irresponsibly you will receive 30 points. If you act irresponsibly you will lose 30 points, and probably fail the class. **IF YOU ARE AN ART STUDENT, PLEASE KEEP ALL DRAWINGS/PAINTINGS FOR CRITIQUES AND FOR SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION AND SOPHOMORE PORTFOLIO REVIEW!**

Let me reiterate grades are based on the following point system (110 points total):

- **60 points** 10 points each for large paintings—10 points for painting location there will be at least six larger paintings CRITIQUE mid-point on Sunday, August 10th, and FINAL CRITIQUE on the last day of class, August. 15th.
- **10 points** In addition there are 4 x 6 paintings due daily (starting August 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th.
- **10 points** There is a total of ten 4 x 6 paintings.)
- **30 points** behavior (see above, most students will get all thirty points if they act reasonable, responsible, with consideration to the environment)
- **- points** attendance (for absences, points are deducted; please see attendance)

Because this is a studio course, it is absolutely essential that you attend. The Department attendance policy is as follows: **Attendance is mandatory. If three classes are missed or if partial attendance occur (late arrivals and early departures) the final grade will be lowered (a full letter grade). If further absences or partial attendance occurs, grades will continue to be lowered accordingly. It is absolutely essential to attend classes. Obviously, this is SO intensive don’t be missing class!**
I have interpreted the Department Attendance Policy into my class point system in the following way: If you miss two unexcused classes, I will drop your grade by 20 points at the end of the semester. If you continue to miss classes, I will drop your grade 5 points for EACH further absence. For each early departure or late arrival, your grade drops at least 2 points. However, extenuating circumstances may exist--such as: death in the family, very serious illness, or other physical/emotional trauma. If this happens and the circumstances have an impact on your performance, contact me as soon as possible! Arrangements may be made for your specific situation. If you cheat in class (example: turning in paintings created for other classes or copying off the internet) I will deduct 20 points from your final grade for each incident (thus, it is not worth trying).

I will deduct 20% off any assignment turned in late.

I will curve grades thus there will be students who will achieve an “A.”
A = work of exceptional quality
B = strong work
C = good (average) work
D = weak work
F = work does not meet criteria/poor quality
Generally, no incompletes will be given as a final grade. The exceptions to this policy would be granted rarely and there should be clear documentation of very serious, extenuating circumstances.

In this class the intentions are:
- To gain skills of an artist through the excitement of combining art and nature.
  - To paint and paint LOTS!
  - The students will paint daily one small painting size 4 x 6” and give that painting to the instructor as the “ticket” into class. The students will paint these 4 x 6” probably during the class time during our en plein air opportunity (perhaps before, after, or during their longer canvases). BUT you can do these 4 x 6” paintings outside of class time. The first small painting is due at the beginning of Wednesday’s class. Have your name on the paintings so I can take attendance and grade these. So make sure you find me daily, if I can’t find you!
- To discover, through manipulating paint while sitting on location, an appreciation of nature and specifically this area’s parks.
  - Travel to various parks to paint in the central Wisconsin area spending two days at each location, while at these parks the student will paint one to two larger paintings every two days.
  - Classroom critiques will be used, in the field informal (individual) critiques will also be conducted.
- Within the genre of landscape painting, students will develop unique artistic vision, become involved creative individuals in society while raising their awareness of the environment and their relationship to it.
  - The course will culminate with the creation of paintings with a supporting paper that addresses an environmental issue in a one-page summary.
  - The students will create an exhibition (a selection will be displayed on our department walls in the Department of Art & Design. This is part of our final critique on the 15th.
  - The success of this group activity will be 10% of the student’s grade
Lab fees are spent on supplies—see supplies in red font.

If there are any questions you might have about meeting the requirements for this class please see me. Or give me an email/call.

**10 points--Writing Assignment:** (one page paper that can be presented with your large paintings)

**TOPIC:** address the place landscape painters (or one specific artist) had historically on raising consciousness of our environment; or relate your interest in landscape painting and your current concerns for our environment (can you make a difference in the environment perhaps using your own creativity?). Or take an environmental issue and convince the viewer. The writing can take a highly personal (even journaling type), or be very analytical.

“The first time we went out to paint en plein air, it was so cumbersome. I tried to drag my whole studio with me. They were already painting and I was still stumbling through the brush trying to get my gear set up.” *(Bill Davis)*

**Places to buy supplies:**

- UC Bookstore
- Jack Richeson & Co., Inc. • 557 Marcella Street • Kimberly WI 54136 • Phone: (920) 738-0744 (it is one hour and five minutes from Point) Check out their “bargain room” in the back—great deals can be made there! Call before going they have odd hours)
- Michael’s (near the Walmart and next to the Petco Store in Plover off the highway) Use coupons! If you go on line you’ll find them.
- JoAnn’s Fabric is handling art supplies too (near Walmart)
- Hobby Lobby in Wausau.

I also do lots of mail order from the following places:

- The Jerry’s Catalog 1-800-U-Artist (www.jerrysartarama.com)
- Daniel Smith 1-800-426-6740 (www.danielsmith.com)
- Pearl Paint 1-800-451-PEARL (www.pearlpaint.com)
- Dick Blick 1-800-621-8293 (www.dickblick.com) Dick Blick is typically incredibly fast!

When you’re an artist – especially a *plein air* artist, where you’re working outside – you see the best of life all the time. *(Tom Nichols)*

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*I only paint one thing - the effect of light. If I can do that, then anything worthy of being painted will appear on my paper or canvas - a tree, a forest, a mountain... It will have been worthy because of the unique river of light and shadow that flowed across it for that one brief hour or two.* *(Michele Cooper)*

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*It's all that reality - you are in the world that you're painting. The light changes, the wind blows, things are constantly moving. You are forced to paint quickly and spontaneously.* *(Sherrill Cooper)*
SUPPLIES

I will be providing a very small kit of oil paint, palette, a borrowed metal container for turpentine substitute, the substitute that goes in the metal container (Eco House), a bottle of Liquin (painting medium), a cigar box that will convert into a pochade box, boards to paint on, the gesso to prepare your boards.

Other things: palette knife, sketchbook with pencil (to do some compositional studies), paper towels, wide brim hat, long sleeved shirt and long pants for sun protection OR strong sun block lotion; comfortable shoes, bug repellent (I recommend Deep Woods OFF, yes it has Deet in it, but it works), something to sit on (the ground could be hard and damp); drinking water (LOTS OF WATER) and rain gear (hopefully it won’t be needed). Sack Dinner! If it is raining hard at the beginning of class, meet in the painting studio in NFAC for class. If it is raining bring a photo you have taken to work from.

If you want a small container to put in your pochade box you could buy something like this: Guerrilla Palette Cups (these are cups that seal they are called “large mouth palette cups” and look like this, sealing completely when not in use (or another brand will be fine):

You may want to attach your Pochade box to a tripod, so you may want one of those, or find one in a garage sale. I like to have the blue paper towels they sell in auto sections. Also bring suntan lotion, bug spray (get it with Deet, Deep Woods Off is a good brand or Cutter). A large brim hat, durable shoes, something to eat, something to sit on (blanket or pad), water—lots of water!

I actually paint studio paintings with Golden Open acrylics and paint oils en plein air typically.

EN PLEIN AIR PAINTING EQUIPMENT…….
Remember I'll be provide a small set of oil paints but if you prefer you can bring acrylics or even watercolor. To be honest, I tend to use my oils for en plein air painting it provides more time to blend. If you have large containers and want to lighten your load
you may want to get a pill plastic box and squirt paint in there—make sure it seals well. You’ll need a palette knife to scoop the paint out.

COLORS: Below are recommended supplies for oil painters, please feel free to vary the supplies for your special interests, media or needs. If you are working in gouache, acrylics or pastels please adapt the list for your media.

Bywaters’ oil palette usually consists of the following oil colors: Cobalt Blue, Cerulean Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Alizarin Crimson, Cadmium Orange, Cadmium Red, Cadmium Yellow, Ivory Black, Sap Green, Cadmium Green, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Raw Sienna, Raw Umber and a large tube of White. She uses Weber’s Permalba White and for colors prefers Winsor & Newton Professional quality paint. Please adapt that list of colors for your media.

BRUSHES: Bywaters prefers all sable or sable blend brushes (or soft synthetic) with a strong preference for flats (or brights). Size range: 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 or 1” with perhaps one or two smaller round brushes and a liner brush. I will provide you 3-4 tiny sable brushes, but pick up some ¼- ¾” sizes (such as flats).

SURFACES: I’ll provide boards to paint on. Painting surfaces may be primed watercolor paper, canvas or primed wood or primed clayboard or pastelboard. To “prime” a surface you will need to coat the surface with Gesso (an acrylic based product). New studies indicate that four coats of Gesso are necessary on the painted side. An acrylic paint added to the Gesso would give your canvas a “tone” thus, a toned ground (also called color ground) is recommended. To do that, add a small amount of acrylic paint (any color, such as: red, orange, brown, blue) and mix it well into your Gesso. I STRONGLY recommend you "tone” your canvas with a color. Or you can white gesso several coats, then add acrylic paint in thin layers on top. If you are an oil painter and want to use watercolor paper use a very heavy weight, cold press paper; prime both sides of the paper (priming one side four times, the reverse side once). Of course, watercolorists need watercolor paper and boards to work on. You will paint 4 x 6” sizes and create 10 of those and I will provide the boards for those. I will provide boards for oil and acrylic painters and we will gesso in the first class.

PALETTE: palette (wooden or disposable, I use both) [watercolorists use a plastic one]. I’ll have paper disposable palettes for you.

OTHER:
- **Way to clean brushes while painting** (you need to wash them out with soap and water after each painting session too). Solvent and wide-mouth container with lid to put solvent in (I’ll have the metal containers that seal tight for you). Solvent is Eco-House which is slightly toxic and has no smell. We have that available for you.
- **Something to mix your paints with to make them fluid….medium; and I will provide it for oils** (I use Liquin or Grumbacher’s Copal Painting Medium). You may also mix your own medium with 1/3 turpentine, 1/3 damar varnish, 1/3 linseed oil or stand oil--these all must be the expensive artist quality NOT the hardware variety). We have Liquin as a medium for oil painters (I provide that—this is toxic).
- **Way to carry supplies.** Portable easel, such as a French or Yarka Easel (if you have one, if not then you’ll need something to carry supplies in and also something to prop a canvas up with). I used a fishing tackle-box for years. Also this year we will make small
prochade easels with Keith. I have some cigar boxes for you to convert, if you have a wooden box you would like to convert please bring it. http://www.daveotte.com/turning-a-cigar-box-into-a-pochade-box/

My oils are finished alla prima in the field... decorated with suicidal bugs... my shirt soaked in sweat. This is authentic "guerrilla" painting, backpacking everything into remote locations... enraptured there until the light fails. (Alan Craig)

Plein air painting and painting from a reference: The first is like going to Paris for two weeks with your girl friend, the second is like reading a book about Paris at the local library. (Sylvio Gagnon)

"Just try going outside and painting things on the spot! All sorts of things happen then. I had to pick off a good hundred or more flies from [my] canvases ... not to mention dust and sand [nor] the fact that if one carries them through heath and hedgerows for a couple of hours, a branch or two is likely to scratch them ... and that the effects one wants to capture change as the day wears on." (Vincent Van Gogh in a letter to Theo van Gogh, July 1885)
Art never exists on its own; rather, it reflects a need in society that it attempts to fulfill. Landscape painting reflects a need to turn our attention towards the environment and observe the effects our lifestyles have upon it. Thomas Cole arrived on the scene at the dawn of the Enlightenment period – a time when wealthy, upper-class citizens showed off their knowledge by turning to science and the study of nature. Cole’s interest in geology and diluvial theory showed up in his paintings, raising awareness of the subjects. Cole serves as an example of how art serves as a means of exploring new ideas about the environment.

Theories of the Deluge (the supposed flood that covered the earth during Noah’s time) were prevalent in the 19th century, and Cole was very interested in this phenomenon. His work portrayed geological features that were consistent with the theory – erratic boulders placed in precarious situations, possibly by a flood. Cole used the idea of flood evidence to explore moral degradation among humankind, often juxtaposing monumental forces of nature with tiny insignificant humans to suggest that we’ve been punished before, and it may happen again. His Course of the Empire series depicts humans interacting with their environment in a way that becomes more destructive over time. In this way, Cole used his imagery to communicate his ideas about our relationship with our environment. By far Cole was not alone in his interest – scientists were springing up right and left with evidence to support the diluvial theory. In the early 19th century, William Buckley discovered fossils in Northern England caves buried in sediment - fossils of animals that were not native to the land. Around the same time, scientists were investigating the strange movements of large boulders in ancient times. They concluded that these rocks must have been moved by the Flood. Over time each of these explanations gave way to more accurate and scientific ones, but the important thing is that they opened up our awareness to the natural environment. Thomas Cole, through his observation of natural phenomena, was a part of this movement towards environmental awareness.

Knowing this, I have a better understanding of the role of a landscape painter. While it is true that people like to have pictures of happy little trees to hang on their walls, artists have the option – or more accurately, the obligation – to use their observations of the earth in order to point out environmental issues that we must address. In this way, I hope we all continue to use our landscape painting to convey ideas and concerns about the natural world.

Sources

http://www1.umn.edu/ships/religion/diluvial.htm

Do console your poor friend, who is so troubled to see his paintings so miserable, so sad, next to the radiant nature he has before his eyes! (Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot)
Example of paper written by student, Pa La Nor:

The lawn, originated from England and around the industrial revolution, became an American obsession. The lawn signified prestige and leisure. A nice well care weed free lawn signifies a well behaved family. A well kept lawn also symbolizes cleaness, sanitary-ness and healthy-ness. The social expectations to keep the lawn nice are also pressuring even though, it has no environmental significance. A combination of grasses invented by the U.S Department of Agriculture, the lawn grasses demanded pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to succumb its brilliancy. The lawn also requires more water and maintenance than a regular garden. The lawn, despite its social connotation, serves no purpose in everyday living.

It is no surprise families are starting to remove their lawns and replacing it with low maintenance and or edible plants. These gardens provides more leisure time because it demands less time. With the right combination of native plants of the environment, it will demand less water. In the case of inedible gardens, it has produces an environment full of colors and scents. It also provides a more calm and serene environment for personal growth. For edible gardens, families actually save money of produce.

The families in the article, “A Grassless Society”, found revelation the moment they decided to rid their boring green lawns. The families replaced their lawns with plants native to their environment. In particular, the father, who wanted to save money and energy, now runs a small organic front lawn, their customers includes bakeries and restaurants. In addition to the additional income and food, the garden also provides family time and a peace of mind (Young 83).

It has never occurred to me the lawn will have so much social power. I found myself asking why Americans go through so much for something that is not very productive and not very attractive. I see my father in law trying to keep up with his retired neighbors in keeping a well kept lawn as he runs a family, a full time job, his service to the church and Hmong community. My mother in law who is very productive gardener only gets a small slab of land in the backyard for her herbs and vegetables. I hope that more Americans will start to acknowledge the importance of enjoying their front lawns for a peace of mind instead of painstakingly trying to maintain it for social approval.

Works Cited


A true painter should have no home – but to wander in search of scenery and character – during Spring, Summer, and Autumn – some pictures to be finished on the spot, and others to be finished [in the studio] in the winter... (William Sidney Mount)
FIELD TRIP to Dells of the Eau Claire River (this is a required trip, but camping is optional)

How do I get to the Dells of the Eau Claire River? (This is NOT the “DELLS” but the Dells of the Eau Claire River near Wausau and about an hour from Point). The address is County Road Y, Aniwa, WI. It is about 50 miles from Point and is easy and a scenic drive. Take “Y” (which is the road at Jordan Park) and take that north … it will connect to “Y” and then stay on Y and eventually you’ll follow the few signs to the state park: Dells of the Eau Claire River. This park is only a few miles from Wausau.

Dells of the Eau Claire River is a BEAUTIFUL park with water, boulders, and challenging hikes. Wear sturdy shoes, a variety of layered clothing! Hard to believe, but we all froze August 2008, so plan on anything happening. It will be tempting to jump into the rocky area for a swim, however it is VERY DANGEROUS, so don’t do it! I will fail you if you do. There is a swim beach area for your pleasure that is safe (if you know how to swim).


Dells of Eau Claire County Park

Wausau  By Johnny Molloy

All Wisconsinites should see the Dells of Eau Claire. After all, the state deemed them significant enough to be preserved as a state natural area. The park's name might confuse folks trying to locate it. This is not “the Dells” that are so well-known in Wisconsin; those Dells are located on the Wisconsin River and are surrounded by tourist traps. No, the Dells of Eau Claire are located on the Eau Claire River, just east of Wausau in Marathon County, which operates the campground, trails, and swim beach. The name “Eau Claire” can also add to the confusion—there is an Eau Claire County, the city of Eau Claire, and three Eau Claire rivers in Wisconsin. Regardless of the confusion, visiting this park is well worth your time. Visitors will see amazing rock formations surrounded by cascading water and unusual plants. This recreational development has enhanced the work of Mother Nature, making these dells easier for tent campers to enjoy.

I don't want to mislead you the natural landscape is the star of the show here. It was two million years in the making. The campground works, but it is no destination unto itself. It—like the rest of the park—is well kept, neat, and in good shape.…. 

Like much of the Wisconsin landscape, the dells themselves are of glacial origin. The frothy waters of the Eau Claire crash, twist, and work their way among broken boulders, outcrops, crags, and step-like platforms, forming waterfalls and cascades. Visitors hopping from rock to rock near the river will also notice "potholes," smooth depressions carved into the rock back when the glaciers were melting. Rock-hopping isn't the only thing you can do on your feet here. A network of interconnected trails has been laid out in this geologically significant valley. The High Bridge downstream from the Dells of Eau Claire enables hikers to make a loop through rich fern woods along both sides of the river. The forest's dark "fairyland" nature contrasts with rocky dells open to the sky overhead. The high ground is covered in pine. Even a short section of the Ice Age Trail passes through the Dells of Eau Claire. The entire trail network can be accessed directly from the campground.

One trail leads from the campground to the picnic area/swim beach on the banks of the Eau Claire River above the dells. A grassy lawn with both sun and shade stands above steps leading down to the beach. Changing rooms are conveniently close. The park urges campers to dip at the swim beach and not take their chances in the swiftly moving waters near the dells. [The swift moving waters are VERY dangerous—beware! I recommend only swimming at the beach]

Another picnic area features a large playground for kids near some rustic-looking open-sided shelters. As you look around, you will agree this park is so well maintained that Marathon County should receive kudos. Remember, the natural scenery here outstrips any shortcomings the campground may have. So put the Dells of Eau Claire on your “must do” list of natural Wisconsin, now that you know where they are.
To get to the Dells of the Eau Claire River from UWSP campus: Take County Road Y all the way out (this is the road that runs next to Jordan Park lake. It is northeast of Wausau.

To get to the Dells of the Eau Claire River from downtown Wausau, take Franklin Street east and stay with it as it becomes County Road Z. Follow Franklin Street/County Road Z for 14.5 miles to County Road Y. Turn left on County Road Y and follow it for 1.7 miles to the park.

Optional camping is Monday through Tuesday. It would make sense to have a morning painting and an afternoon painting, and perhaps an evening painting.

We’ll arrive on Monday leaving Point at 3:00 pm and arriving at park campsite about 3:50. Then we’ll head out on location to paint. Plan on having dinner late that night: 7:00ish.

Optional Camping Trip Info….

Can I bring someone? Yes, you can but you are responsible for their behavior (and if they misbehave it will affect your grade). I have a camping van I’ll be using. Hiking, swimming, and hanging out are options for your guest. Bring some folding chairs if you have them.

Electricity? There are campsites with electricity they cost a wee bit more, otherwise the other sites do not have it.

Bathrooms? Yes. But they are out-houses.

Swimming? Bring your suit, there is swimming (in the beach area).

Can we drink alcohol? No, think of this as a class since it is, so no drinking. No illegal drugs either! See the deduction of points and possibility of failing if you do.

How do I get tenting equipment? Borrow from a friend or rent (University rents equipment).

What about food? We’ll have marshmallows and s’mores for evening campfires. Otherwise any food is on you. There is well water or you can bring jugs of water. To prevent tree bug-related diseases they have firewood there that you must purchase for campfires (so do not bring wood with you).

Campground is open until 11:00 pm then guests must be either at their campsite or vacate. I read on-line a man got a $160 fine for being in a Wisconsin park after 11:00 pm, and not as his campsite. So save the money and plan to always be at your camping site at 11:00 pm or earlier. And at 11:00 on is quiet time (camp site rules).
This is a fun and hard-working class, so don’t be intimidated, even if you have never painted before. You will get lots of painting done, and hopefully love being in nature!