



SUNY Orange _____02/25/2025

Name of Faculty member: Jenny Durkin

Department: Arts and Communication

Date of Observation: February 25, 2025. 8:00 am

Name and Title of Observer: Martin Dominguez, Instructor Arts and Communication

Department

Class Visited: Intro to Art, SUNY Orange

Intro to Art Class at SUNY Orange

1. First Impressions:

The class began on time in a welcoming, friendly atmosphere. Professor Durkin's warm greeting immediately set a positive tone, and it was evident that her presence was both professional and approachable.

2. Teaching and Learning:

The lesson focused on Post-Impressionism. Students were assigned a creative project: to cut a picture in half and duplicate the other half in the style of one of the discussed artists. Professor Durkin circulated the room, providing individualized assistance as needed, ensuring that each student could grasp the concepts being presented.

3. Curriculum and Instruction Support Materials:

The professor showed a seven-minute video discussing different post impressionism artists followed by a short presentation and discussion. In addition, she was proactive in distributing supplementary materials to those students who required extra support.

4. Classroom Management:

While the class officially started on time, there were a few instances of late arrivals. Despite this minor disruption, Professor Durkin continued with the lesson.

5. Learning Climate:

The overall learning atmosphere was very relaxed, reflecting the professor's calm demeanor. However, there were moments when the room became a bit chaotic. Despite these occasional lapses, the environment remained conducive to learning.

6. Strengths:

- **Approachability:** Students appeared very comfortable with Professor Durkin, benefiting from her approachable nature and willingness to assist.
- **Active Engagement:** By walking around the classroom, she ensured that each student received the attention needed to understand the lesson, fostering a supportive learning environment.
- **Communication:** The video of Post-Impressionist, paired with visual presentation/discussion, enhanced student understanding.

7. Suggestions for Improvement:

- **Historical Context:** Integrating class long lectures on art history will provide students with a richer understanding of the topics being explored. It is important to remember that this is not a studio class but an art appreciation class which requires lectures.
- **Visual Enhancements:** Utilizing a presentation format with larger images and clearer image identifications would help ensure that all students can better appreciate the visual details discussed.
- **Attendance:** Implementing a quick attendance check at the beginning of class could help minimize disruptions and maintain consistency, especially if some students are arriving late.

Overall, the class was well-structured. With a few adjustments, Professor Durkin's already effective teaching style can further enhance the learning experience for her students.

Jenny Durkin Jenny Durkin Jenny (Durkin)

Observed Faculty Member's Name (print).
(Date)

(Signature)

Martin Dominguez 3/3/2025 Martin Dominguez

Observer's Name (print). (Date)

(Signature)

Department Chair's Name (print). (Date) (Signature)