



The Abbey Studio's Calligraphy Certificate Program

Recognizing that it can be difficult to find in-depth instruction on calligraphy, we are embarking on a new schedule of workshops that will guide students through the skills required to improve their calligraphy and move beyond practicing and writing out simple quotations. How do we execute an attractive layout? Where do we learn about decorated letters? How about working with real gold? Over the course of twelve months beginning June 2023 and running through June 2024, these skills and others will be addressed by our new *Calligraphy Certificate Program*. Utilizing contemporary as well as historic examples, participants will study, analyze, and practice multiple techniques, materials and styles that have been used over the centuries to produce beautiful calligraphy.

Our program will be an extensive course covering many aspects of calligraphy. It has been carefully planned to offer sequential skill building with weekly virtual meetings. Home assignments have been designed to help participants learn, and to improve specific skills. Recordings of the meetings will be available for one week following each meeting. Participants who register for all ten workshops at the same time will receive a 20% discount off of the total tuition.

Anyone who has tried calligraphy knows regular and frequent practice is required to improve. It's also important to be utilizing high-quality examples of calligraphy as our guides, and to set specific goals. In our workshop series we'll provide the impetus for regular practice, problem-solving for difficult techniques, group discussion and critiques, a bit of an historical perspective on calligraphy, and general camaraderie within the calligraphic community.

Once our certificate program is underway, we'll expand our course selection to offer some "next level" and longer-term workshops including:

- Bestiary painting
- Creating herbal/botanical image and text pages
- Making a text-filled accordion book
- Making a manuscript
- Creating a piece to reprint as a limited edition

[Click to register for The Abbey Studio's Calligraphy Certificate Program.](#)

Certificate Program Withdrawal Policy: A refund (for the discounted tuition, less a 20% cancellation fee) will be issued if you withdraw from the program two weeks or more prior to the beginning of the first class. If withdrawal occurs less than two weeks before the start, or while the program is in progress, no refund will be provided. Occasionally there is insufficient registration for a class to run. In such cases, registrants will be given three options: (1) Private or semi-private lessons (with price adjustment), (2) placement in the same class held at a future date and time, or (3) refund.

Please contact us with any questions!

Workshop Descriptions

June/July

Deep Dive into Italic Lettering (8 sessions)

Wednesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19 & 26, 5:00 to 6:00 PM EST

Workshop Description: Starting with detailed instruction and hands-on exercises to learn about the broad-edged pen, based on Edward Johnston's "Seven Constant Features," we will begin our deep dive into the Italic hand. We'll use the double-pencil technique and skeletal letter shapes to really analyze how the broad-edge pen works and how letters are shaped. The knowledge gained in these early weeks of the workshop is applicable to any of the broad-edged pen letter families (Italic, Uncial, Carolingian, Gothic and Foundational). We'll then begin our concentrated study of the Italic hand. We will delve into the details and delicacies of Italic where we'll work with a variety of nib and lettering sizes with the goal of becoming proficient in this versatile hand. Originating in 15th century Italy (hence "Italic") we'll look at historic examples as well as contemporary sources to fine-tune this beautiful lettering style. Whether new to calligraphy or possessing some experience, this is a worthwhile workshop for anyone wanting to improve their broad-edged lettering skills, and in particular, their Italic hand.

Cost: \$240 plus supplies if needed.

August

Deep Dive into Copperplate Script (5 sessions)

Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 5:00 to 6:00 PM EST

Workshop Description: This workshop has been offered previously as Copperplate Level I and Copperplate Level II, but is now a single workshop. Copperplate, the beautiful script style that is the predecessor of modern handwriting, is formal and elegant and perfect for many applications today. Working with a flexible, pointed, dip-pen and ink, participants will learn how to create the graceful "thicks and thins" that add to the beauty of this hand. We'll also work on slope consistency, spacing, and attaining a rhythm to our script, all with the goal of achieving more professional-looking results.

Cost: \$150 plus supplies if needed.

September

Uncial - The Hand of the Book of Kells (3 sessions)

Tuesdays, September 12, 19 & 26, 5:00 to 6:00 PM EST

Workshop Description: Round and bold and closely associated with the Celtic culture, Uncial, the style of lettering used in the Book of Kells, will be the topic of this workshop. Using the flat pen angle and sharp serifs typical of this hand, participants will perfect their lettering by learning from historic examples. A really fun and useful hand today, despite the fact that it is over 1200 years old!

Cost: \$95 plus supplies if needed.

October

Perfecting Your Pencil Work (3 sessions)

Tuesdays, October 10, 17 & 24, 5:00 to 6:00 PM EST

Workshop Description: Creating beautiful calligraphy requires much more than beautiful pen work. Learning to use a T-square for lining up your work, fine-tuning your lettering by practicing with a pencil, and understanding different pencil types and lead hardnesses to create the most effective base for your calligraphy are all essential skills when working to perfect your lettering. Cost: \$95 plus supplies if needed.

November/December

Layout Essentials (4 sessions)

Tuesdays, November 7, 14, 28 & December 5, 5:00 to 6:00 PM EST

Workshop Description: An ideal follow-up to *Perfecting Your Pencil Work*, this workshop will take participants to the next level in layout skills. Working extensively with tracing vellum and pencil, we'll experiment with creating thumbnail sketches, skeletal letter shapes, centering text, and other elements. We'll then work toward fine-tuning your design in pencil before transferring the layout to good paper for the inking of the final product. Cost: \$125 plus supplies if needed.

January

Roman Capital Letters à la Dürer (3 sessions)

Tuesdays, January 16, 23, & 30, 5:00 to 6:00 PM EST

Workshop Description: In 1525 Albrecht Dürer created an instructional manual on how to create Roman Capital Letters. His book remains in publication today and that's what we will use to learn about spatial relationships of letters, and how to perfectly draw beautiful Roman caps! These letters – magnificent in and of themselves – also provide the proportions and shapes that are the foundation for numerous calligraphy hands in use today. This workshop pairs well with our upcoming *Sketching and Decorated Capital Letters* workshop and will give you a solid understanding of the classic Roman letterforms that form the structure upon which Versal and Lombardic letterforms are built. Cost: \$95 plus supplies if needed.

February

Sketching & Decorated Capital Letters (3 sessions)

Tuesdays, February 13, 20 & 27, 5:00 to 6:00 PM EST

Workshop Description: Everyone should keep and use (frequently!) a sketchbook. In this class, we'll start with a few sketching exercises using medieval decorated letters as the subject matter, then move on to drawing and painting our own Versal and Lombardic capital letters. They can be added to a calligraphic piece to add interest, color, and emphasis. This workshop pairs well with our *Roman Capitals* class as the structures of the decorated letters use Roman Capitals as a foundation.

Cost: \$95 plus supplies if needed.

March

Communicating Through the Use of Color (2 sessions)

Tuesdays, March 12 & 19, 5:00 to 6:00 PM EST

Workshop Description: Adding color to your calligraphy project adds interest and can help send a visual message about the text you are lettering. Color ink doesn't give the look or permanence we need. Gouache is the way to go! In this workshop we'll work with tubes of gouache, mixing and matching colors, and working to get to the correct consistency so the gouache will flow smoothly through your pen.

Cost: \$65 plus supplies if needed.

April

Go for the Gold (5 sessions)

Tuesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 5:00 to 6:00 PM EST

Workshop Description: If you want to capture someone's attention, **Go for the Gold!** This fun workshop will explore using gold for all the text of a piece. We'll work with gold paint, metallic ink, and experiment with gold leaf using both gesso and miniatum.

Cost: \$150 plus supplies if needed.

May/June

Think Inside the Box (6 sessions)

Tuesdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28 and June 4 & 11, 5:00 to 6:00 PM EST

Workshop Description: This will be a really fun workshop and could be viewed as the culmination of the entire workshop schedule. We'll put to use all the skills that have been acquired in the year's workshops to create a piece that will be confined to a certain area: a 6" x 6" square. Incorporating knowledge gained through the layout, pencil techniques, sketching, decorated capital letters, color, and gold workshops, each participant will create a beautiful quotation consisting of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 75 words.

Cost: \$190 plus supplies if needed.

Total Certificate Program Cost for 42 Sessions: \$1300, less a 20% discount = \$1040