

Bergen Community College
Division of Arts and Humanities
Department of Visual Art

Course Syllabus

Course Designation, Number, and Title

ART-128: Watercolor

Basic Information About Course and Instructor:

Semester and Year:

Section Number:

Meeting Times:

Location:

Instructor:

Office Location:

Email Address:

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the techniques and aesthetic considerations of watercolor media. The curriculum covers a formal study of structure, spatial relationships, value, composition, color temperature, and texture, as well as contemporary approaches unique to watercolor. Subjects include portraiture, still life, interiors, landscapes, and abstract/nonobjective compositions. Outside assignments are required.

Credits: 3 credits (2 lectures, 2 labs)

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

As a result of meeting the requirements in this course, students will be able to:

1. Utilize tools and materials used in watercolor painting.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in traditional and non-traditional watercolor techniques.
3. Create well-composed and executed paintings using watercolor media.
4. Communicate artistic ideas and concepts effectively.
5. Identify and analyze historical influences in watercolor painting.

Means of Assessment:

- Graded classwork and homework assignments
 - Final project
 - Class participation
 - Midterm and final critiques
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Course Content:

- Water-based media techniques and demonstrations
 - Study of form, spatial relationships, and composition
 - Assignments covering still life, portraiture, interiors, landscapes, and abstraction
 - Museum visit and related assignment
 - Historical and contemporary watercolor masters
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Course Texts and Study Materials:

Required Materials:

- **Paper:** Watercolor pads (9x12 and 18x24), Mixed Media pad (14x17)
- **Brushes:** 1 flat Hake brush (1.75 in); 1 Sapphire w/c brush (sizes 14, 8, 4 round)
- **Paints:** Watercolor set including Azo Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Ultramarine Blue, Phthalo Blue, Naphthol Red, Alizarin Crimson, Titanium White, Black
- **Miscellaneous:** Palette, graphite pencils, jars, 1-inch blue drafting tape

Recommended Text:

- Dewey, David. *The Watercolor Book: Materials and Techniques for Today's Artist*. Watson-Guption, 2000.

Bibliography of Supportive Books:

- Armstrong, Carol. *Cézanne in the Studio: Still Life in Watercolors*
- Gotz, Adriani. *Cézanne Watercolors*

- Little, Carl. *The Watercolors of John Singer Sargent*
 - Itten, Johannes. *The Elements of Color*
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Research, Writing, and/or Examination Requirements:

Students are required to conduct research on watercolor artists, attend exhibitions where applicable, and complete outside assignments.

Grading Policy:

- **30%** Midterm critique (includes homework and classwork assignments)
- **30%** Final critique (includes homework and classwork assignments)
- **20%** Final project
- **20%** Classroom attendance and participation

Grading Scale:

- A = Excellent work and high level of effort
 - B+, B = High caliber work and effort
 - C+, C = Average work and effort
 - D = Below average work and effort
 - F = Poor work, lack of effort, or failure to complete assignments
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Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend every class. Missing three unexcused classes will result in a grade reduction. Persistent lateness and leaving early will affect the student's grade.

Other College, Divisional, and/or Departmental Policy Statements:

Refer to the Bergen Community College policy statements on plagiarism, academic integrity, and student support services.

Student and Faculty Support Services:

Students can access tutoring, academic coaching, and additional resources at (<https://bergen.edu/currentstudents/>).

Course Outline and Calendar:

Week	Topic/Activity	Assignments/Events
1	Introduction to course, materials, and techniques	Purchase materials
2	Still life - monochromatic study	Form study with light source
3	Still life - full color palette	Composition and temperature study
4	Organic object studies	Exploration of texture and color
5	Figure study - live model	Anatomy and form
6	Expressive figure study	Study of movement and emotion
7	Midterm critique	All work due for review
8	Interior composition and perspective	Study of interior spaces
9	Landscape painting - en plein air	Atmospheric perspective study
10	Advanced landscape techniques	Texture and environment
11	Abstract/non-objective composition	Developing personal style
12	Abstract composition refinement	Exploring modern techniques
13	Final project development	Begin final series
14	Final project continuation	Individual critiques
15	Final critique	All work due for final review

Note: This course outline and calendar are subject to change.

