Course Title: Basic Watercolor Techniques

Course Number: ARS 2020-100

Semester/Date: FALL 2015
Office hours: Wednesday 3:30-5:30, Monday 4:30-6:00 or by appointment

Instructor: Christine Clay Gorka
        Phone: (215)-495-2699
        Email: christine.claygorka@villanova.edu

Course Description: This course is designed to enable the student to learn basic principles of painting through application of watercolor technique. Each class will begin with a lecture or demonstration and the student will be expected to understand and execute the exercise described through class work and the corresponding assignment.

Place in College Curriculum: open elective

Course Objectives:
.to develop an aesthetic sensibility
.to increase awareness of the physical world
.to promote spiritual growth by developing the ability to look inward
.to acquire a skillful handling of materials and painting techniques
.to understand the importance of artistic pursuit and it’s relation to other aspects of education and to life

Course Content:

Week 1: Color Mixing-outline of color theory and mixing with regard to hue, value and chroma/ Description and demonstration of materials
Assignment: Color chart containing darkest and lightest values of each color, 5 variations of each primary (red, yellow, blue), 5 variations of each secondary, 5 values from light to dark using two DARK colors (black may be added for darkest value), tonal bar of one dark color ( choose from burnt umber, alizarin crimson,black,dioxizine purple)
        Due: September 2
Week 2: Wet-on-Wet technique using a loose interpretation of still life
Assignment: Divide paper into (16) 3”x4” rectangles. Create a pattern by repeating two different designs with alternate color choices
Due: September 9

Week 3: Composition - analysis of types of composition in an historical context
Experiment with different ways of designing a painting using an arrangement of objects in three small compositions
Assignment: Before painting, arrange five objects of varying sizes, taking into account the background and spaces in between objects and proportion the perimeter of your painting accordingly. Underpainting should be loosely laid out in different values of one dark color and should be dry before more colors are introduced.
Due: September 16

Week 4: Value Studies of basic geometric forms (cube, cylinder, cone, pyramid, sphere)
Assignment: painting of an egg on same page as the other forms/control lighting to produce strong shadows. Add more transparent color to basic form studies.
Due: September 23

Week 5: Landscapes with color restrictions-one with cool colors (blue, green, blue-violet), the other with warm colors (yellow, orange, red, red-violet)
Assignment: Choose one of those and change color scheme to contrasting or opposite colors (blue/orange, red/green, yellow/violet)
Due: September 30

Week 6: Circular Design/ Mandala - arrangement of geometric shapes to create symmetrical or crystallographic composition
Due: October 14

FALL BREAK

Week 7: Study of Neutral/Grey/Low Chroma Colors
Color Chart/ Painting of still life using neutral colors
Assignment: Detail of black and white landscape photo. Interpretation in color is an individual choice of palette.
Due: October 21

Week 8: Painting of Sculpture using principles of atmospheric perspective
Assignment: Completion of sculpture painting
Due: October 28
Week 9: Interior Painting (1) realistic  (2) fantasy (on same page)
Assignment: Find a space on campus as a subject for two paintings (one in cool colors, 1 in warm colors)
Due: November 4

Week 10: Study of Master Paintings/ Six small studies of slides with the emphasis on making quick decisions, simplifying and approximating color choices
Assignment: 12 small landscape sketches (no larger than 3” on either side) from direct observation or from reference
Due: November 11

Week 11: Caricatures/study of the human face through observation and exaggeration
Assignment: Self-portrait in caricature
Due: November 18

Week 12: Food Illustration/Work from photos and illustrations in class
Due: December 2  ALL PAINTINGS DUE (except for final project)

Week 13: Self-portrait in Symbols/use of personal iconography and images to create inner self-portrait within a realistic silhouette
Final presentation and critique
Due: December 9

Course Activities
- demonstration and description of painting technique
- explanation of proposed project and suggested means and equipment
- lecture/slide presentation
- completion of outside assignments
- weekly group critiques/individual review at midterm and end of semester

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Student Responsibilities

Attendance
It is the policy of Villanova University that students are expected to attend all classes as scheduled. An emailed excuse does not constitute an excused absence. Participation is paramount to do well in a class of this nature. Any more than three absences will result in a failure. Significant late arrivals to or departures from class will be considered an absence.
All cell phones, laptops, and ipods must be turned off and put away before class begins. Learning a skill such as painting requires the whole attention and focus of the artist in order to succeed. Any infraction to this request will be reflected in the final grade.

Evaluation

The summation of all work done in class and outside assignments will be reviewed on an individual basis at midterm and at the end of the semester. Work will be evaluated on the basis of effort shown, understanding of the concepts introduced, progress attained, and skills mastered. Creativity and time spent on each project are noted and are intrinsic to the development of a successful painting.

Weekly outside assignments will be given with an approximate time appropriated for each exercise.

Class participation 100% / weekly assignments (5 points each) 80%

Final project: 20 % ( 20 points )

Grading Criteria

A Outstanding: Student attends all classes, completes all assignments in a timely manner and shows understanding of the concepts addressed in each exercise. Student is able to focus on the problem presented and is able to put considerable effort and thought into every assignment.

B Above Average: Student shows progress, completes all assignments, misses no more than two scheduled classes.

C Average: Student shows average progress, completes all assignments, misses no more than three classes

D Below average: Student is unable to grasp content of course material, does not complete assignments, misses more than three classes.

F Failure: Student does not complete assignments or show proper studio behavior/misses more than four classes
Office of Disabilities and Learning Support Services:
Students with disabilities who require reasonable academic accommodations should schedule an appointment to discuss specifics with me. It is the policy of Villanova to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. You must present verification and register with the Learning Support Office by contacting 610-519-5176 or at learning.support.services@villanova.edu or for physical access or temporary disabling conditions, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 610-519-4095 or email Stephen.mcwilliams@villanova.edu. Registration is needed in order to receive accommodations.

Academic Integrity
All students are expected to uphold Villanova’s Academic Integrity Policy Code. Any incident of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for disciplinary action. For the College’s statement on Academic Integrity, consult the Enchiridion or visit the Academic Integrity Gateway web site.