

**VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**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,dioxazine 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.