

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

ART 135 – WATERCOLOR I

2 hours lecture, 4 hours laboratory, 3 units

Catalog Description

Introduction to basic watercolor tools, materials and techniques. Emphasizes color principles and skill development in handling form, space and the plastic aspects of paint.

Prerequisite

ART 124

Entrance Skills

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Define and apply the terms on the official Art 124 vocabulary list
- 2) Draw in realistic and representational modes
- 3) Draw using contour and cross-contour lines in mechanical, expressive, modeled and closure modes
- 4) Draw using blind, modified blind, gesture, sighting, geometrizing, massing and visualizing techniques
- 5) Draw in one and two point scientific perspective using T-square and triangle
- 6) Recognize and apply all traditional value ranges
- 7) Identify the nine achromatic value ranges
- 8) Render realistic and artist's textures
- 9) Apply control over compositions including balance, major division, eye movement, focal point, scale and format selection
- 10) Calculate and apply the golden section (0.618) and bioptic vision (.075) proportions to drawings
- 11) Enlarge, reduce and transfer drawing compositions from working drawings to finished drawing compositions

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Develop knowledge of painting techniques from the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Modern World
- 2) Develop methods of self-expression by looking at the accomplishments of past masters
- 3) Translate the three-dimensional reality into two-dimensional illusion using both objective and subjective interpretation
- 4) Produce manual control over line, shape, value, perspective and color
- 5) Paint in a realistic, representational, abstract and nonrepresentational mode
- 6) Compose the plastic means in a balanced composition
- 7) Criticize paintings of the past and present

Special Materials Required of Student

- 1) Watercolor paper
- 2) Board (minimum 16" x 23")
- 3) Heavy gummed tape
- 4) Sponge
- 5) Mat knife or razor blade
- 6) Plastic eraser, eraser shield
- 7) Red sable brushes: rounds-pointed (#2, #4, #8, #12) and flats (1/2", 3/4")
- 8) Palette
- 9) Color cups
- 10) Water containers
- 11) Tube paints:
 - a. Cadmium yellow, light and deep
 - b. Cadmium red, light
 - c. Yellow ocher
 - d. Burnt sienna
 - e. Alizarin crimson
 - f. Indian red
 - g. French ultramarine (blue)
 - h. Viridian (green)
 - i. Payne's gray
 - j. Ivory black

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Studio with drawing tables and easels, wall space with bulletin boards, adequate lighting, sink with traps, adequate ventilation, overhead projector, 35mm slide projector, AV screen, blackboard, marker board, paper cutter, mat cutter, cutting mat, art projector, light box, pencil sharpener.

Course Content

- 1) Use of Master Paintings:
 - a. Paintings from all cultures and epochs will be used to illustrate all painting techniques
 - b. Students will copy paintings to gain an understanding of past and present modes of expression
- 2) Student will learn to control the following tasks:
 - a. Select paper weight and surface quality
 - b. Stretch and mount paper
 - c. Methods of paint application:
 1. Dry brush
 2. Wet into wet
 3. Dabs and stipple
 4. Splatter and spray
 5. Mingling
 6. Wash
 7. Graded wash
 - d. Selecting and mixing colors
 - e. Correction:
 1. Scrubbing
 2. Eraser
 3. Knife/razor
 - f. Mount, mat and frame painting
 - g. Painting preservation
- 3) Student will use the following contour painting techniques to explore the form:
 - a. Parallel line
 - b. Expressive line
 - c. Searching line
 - d. Cross contour line
 - e. Modeled line
- 4) Student will use value (tone) to express the volume of form
 - a. Value scale (tints and shades)
 - b. Value key: high key, middle key, and low key
 - c. Predominant value
 - d. Chiaroscuro
 - e. Highlight, light, shadow, core of shadow, reflected light and cast shadow
 - f. Light source quality and local coloration
 - g. Influence of value on color
- 5) Form: student will explore the following ideas:
 - a. The differences between form, shape and silhouette
 - b. Negative space vs. positive shape
 - c. Categories of shape: geometric, natural and abstract
 - d. The mass of painting
- 6) Texture
 - a. Investigate the different surface qualities of form
 - b. Investigate the surface qualities of artists' materials:
 1. Different textures of canvas
 2. Different textures developed by the application of paint
 - c. Use of texture to promote realism
 - d. Use of texture as embellishment
 - e. Use of texture to unify the picture plane
 - f. Use of texture to emphasize the two-dimensional quality of the picture plane
- 7) Perspective: student will explore the following ideas:
 - a. Natural distortion through bioptic vision
 - b. Overlapping planes
 - c. Relative proportions (scale)
 - d. Aerial perspective (optical recession)
 - e. Linear perspective (one, two and three point)
 - f. Priority perspective
- 8) Composition:
 - a. Student will analyze paintings from various cultures and epochs in compositional terms.
 - b. The types of formats: rectangular (3:4, 2:3 ratio), square, triangular, circular and oval, will be analyzed.

- c. The divisions of the picture plane: golden section, square, right angle triangle, equilateral triangle, circular, and typographical, will be analyzed.
 - d. Student will study compositions balanced symmetrically and asymmetrically.
 - e. Student will study open and closed compositions.
 - f. Student will analyze the viewer's eye movements using center of interest, secondary focal points, dynamic and static shapes, subjective lines, direction lines, overlapping shapes and value contrast.
- 9) Color: student will explore the following concepts:
- a. Hue, intensity, and value
 - b. Primary, secondary, intermediate and tertiary
 - c. Harmony, balance and interaction
 - d. Color mixing (additive and subtractive)
 - e. Color scheme
 - f. Color transparency
- 10) Studio safety practices

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lectures with transparencies, 35mm slides, works of art
- 2) Instructor demonstrations
- 3) Individual student discussions
- 4) Studio instruction on an individual basis
- 5) Homework assignments
- 6) Field trips

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Attendance and participation
- 2) Quantity of homework and work accomplished in the studio
- 3) Individual student conferences
- 4) Skill demonstration
- 5) Formal critique
- 6) Periodic written tests, where applicable
- 7) Final presentation (Student Art Show)
- 8) Portfolio of work accomplished during the class

Texts and References

- 1) Required: Wehlte, Kurt. The Materials & Techniques of Painting. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1975.
- 2) Supplemental:
 - a. Barbour, Arthur J. Painting The Seasons in Watercolor. Watson-Guption Publications.
 - b. Barbour, Arthur J. Watercolor: The Wet Technique. Watson-Guption Publications.
 - c. Blake, Wendon. Color in Watercolor. Watson-Guption Publications.
 - d. Blake, Wendon. Landscape in Watercolor. Watson-Guption Publications.
 - e. Blake, Wendon. Seascapes in Watercolor. Watson-Guption Publications.
 - f. Blake, Wendon. Watercolor Painting. Watson-Guption Publications.
 - g. Blockley, John. Country Landscapes in Watercolor. Watson-Guption Publications.
 - h. Bolton, Richard. Painting Textures in Watercolor. Watson-Guption Publications.
 - i. Bolton, Richard. Weathered Texture Workshop. Watson-Guption Publications.

Exit Skills

Students having successfully completed this course exit with the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge:

- 1) Select and evaluate watercolor tools, materials and techniques using the terms on the official Art 135 vocabulary list
- 2) Make realistic and representational paintings using the watercolor medium
- 3) Paint lines, seamless flat washes and seamless graded washes using brushes and the watercolor medium
- 4) Select, prepare and stretch watercolor paper
- 5) Mix and paint achromatic grays, secondaries, intermediates, tints, tones, shades, broken colors and chromatic whites, grays, blacks and local colors using watercolor paints
- 6) Make watercolor paintings using paint additives, washes, glazing, lifting off, masking and textures
- 7) Paint depth with value gradients and atmospheric perspective in watercolor painting
- 8) Select colors based on color chords, harmonies and contrasts in watercolor painting
- 9) Make focal points in watercolor paintings
- 10) Control external scales in watercolor paintings
- 11) Control painting formats in watercolor paintings
- 12) Make paintings using safe and ecological studio practices