**Arts 512: Introduction to Watercolor**

Dianne Mahaffee, Professor USC Lancaster

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803 289-6473 HOME 2nd 8 Weeks (Fall II)

803 283-2001 EXT. 260 OFFICE 3 Credit Hours

Hubbard Hall 120 and LHS 103 No textbook, supplies only

OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

**Course Overview**

Development of painting skills, techniques, and aesthetic sensibilities to artistic expression in watercolor medium. Emphasis on interpretation of still life, landscape, architectural, abstract and botanical subjects.

**Instructional Methodology**

The course is structured around the basics of watercolor painting. It is designed to guide students in the development of formal aesthetics and to motivate students to develop the technical skills necessary to express their ideas. This course allows freedom of exploration and experimentation but places equal demands on proficiency of execution. We will explore techniques through still life, landscape, architectural, abstract and botanical subjects. The class format consists of studio work with lectures, examples, demonstrations, and individual critiques ,as well as, group critiques. Research assignments are coordinated with the studio work.

**Learning Outcomes**

Course Objectives: Students will be able to:

\*use transparent watercolor media to achieve a variety of effects.

\*use color mixing to achieve local color.

\*work with varied subject matter.

\*utilize Elements of Design ( line, shape, texture, volume, color) and Principles of Design ( balance, emphasis, proportion, rhythm, unity, variety) in compositions.

\*view and discuss traditional and contemporary works in watercolor.

\*demonstrate good studio working habits.

\* present their completed work in professional manner.

\*write an artist’s statement, reflecting upon their experience in painting their body of work.

\*recognize and apply a variety of watercolor techniques.

\*utilize hue, value, and intensity of color.

\*plan a composition.

\*express a personal direction in watercolor.

\*be professional in the presentation of projects.  
\*Meet set deadlines.

\*problem solve independently.

**Required Research:**

1. Winslow Homer
2. John Singer Sargent
3. John Martin
4. Andrew Wyeth
5. Jeffery Callahan
6. Jeannie Vodden
7. Verena Herour
8. Ron Krajewski
9. Percy Gray
10. Painting Wild Places.com

**Attendance**

USCL Course Policies: Attendance will be taken at each class meeting; there will not be any differentiation made between excused and unexcused absences. Arriving late and leaving early count as “late arrival”. Three “late arrivals” add up to one absence. Each absence beyond two lowers the final grade average by 5 points each.

**Grading System**

Class Assignment grades are based on the success of assignment goals as listed per project. Long-term projects are weighted more than short-term projects.

Example of Assignment Goals:

\*Composition: effective use of elements and principles of design

\*Color: effective use of hue, value, and intensity

\*Technique: effective use of watercolor painting techniques

Homework assignments are coordinated with the class assignments.

\*One full grade is given for working consistently throughout the semester, so be sure to show your homework in class M or W in order to get credit for this; work in progress is fine.

\*One full grade is given for the quality and completion of work accomplished.

\*Extra credit may be given for homework above and beyond the assignments.

A= Excellent achievement of assignment goals and personal artistic vision

B= Above Average achievement of assignment goals; adequate progress in the course.

C=Average achievement of assignment goals; adequate progress in the course.

D= Below Average, less than adequate progress in the course.

F= Does not meet minimum levels of acceptance in grading criteria.

A 93-100 B 84-88 C 75-79 D 66-70

B+ 89-92 C+ 80-83 D+ 71-74 F 65 or below

**Materials**

Brushes: 1” Wash ¾” flat #10 Round #5 Round #0-Type detail brush. (make sure you are getting watercolor brushes & not acrylic or oil brushes.)

\*(Optional- 2 or 3” Wash brush, 1” flat brush ) -Prang or Yarka Pan Sets or a set of tube watercolors with a palette intended for watercolor.

-Paper: 80 Ib and 140 Ib watercolor paper of any type. –Ruler- Water Container

3 ringed notebook Sketchbook papertowels

**Tentative Schedule**

**WK 1**- Introduction to Course and Materials, watercolor video,

Instructor demonstrates on techniques, color exploration – pigment properties, hue, value, intensity

Begin basic skills with Training Paintings - HW. Paint & work on artist, sketch

**WK 2**- Introduction to pigment & water interactions

Instructor demonstrates with Training Painting,and continues technique studies: wash, wet in wet, dry brush, and blotting.

Students practice relevant technique -HW. Paint,sketch

**WK 3**- Discussions & Demonstration in lifting ,resisting and layering

Complete all Training Paintings.

Discuss Final Exam Project of Abstract & Architectural. HW. Paint , sketch

**WK 4**- Begin working on subject of your choice in class. –HW. Work on a still life with objects arranged in a good composition, paint, sketch

**WK 5**- Continue class working on a painting of your choice. Critique Session –HW. Continue on the still life project, paint, sketch.

**WK 6**- Discuss Architectural Project and Abstract Project. Students will begin their proposal for this assignment. Continue painting, Class critiques. –HW. Work on current painting, sketch, write a reflection about your progress with painting.

**WK 7**- Class critique. Proceed with assignments. HW. Paint, sketch

**WK 8**- Final Exam and artists’ statements are due.

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