

ART 234: BEGINNING WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Citrus College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Fall 2025
Credits:	3
Total Contact Hours:	108
Lecture Hours :	36
Lab Hours:	72
Hours Arranged:	0
Outside of Class Hours:	72
Total Student Learning Hours:	180
Strongly Recommended:	ART 111, ENGL C1000.
Transferable to CSU:	Yes
Transferable to UC:	Yes - Proposed
Grading Method:	Standard Letter, Pass/No Pass

Catalog Course Description

This is an introductory course to water media painting with emphasis on watercolor technique, composition, and formal theory. A spectrum of wash, glaze, and gouache techniques are explored using principles of color theory, composition, and space building concepts. 36 lecture hours, 72 lab hours.

Course Objectives

- Analyze traditional painting subjects for value content and apply knowledge of painting materials and techniques to rendering of the subjects.
- Apply principles of basic color theory and local color theory in watercolor painting
- Apply principles of perspective, form and space as they relate to traditional watercolor painting
- Assess and evaluate paintings based on color and composition.
- Participate in critical analysis of watercolor paintings, to include discussion of technical concerns, content (cultural, historical, emotional, etc.), and their contexts.

Major Course Content

- Introduction to painting materials and standard techniques
 - Paint application and layering
 - Light and shadow on basic forms
 - Painting using neutrals to create representation of 3-D forms
- Color Theory
 - Scientific relationships of colors (basic color theory)
 - Effects of light on colored objects
 - Effects of colors on each other
 - Methods of mixing paints
 - Using a limited palette to paint traditional subjects
- Composition
 - Historic approaches to use of space
 - Historic approaches to depiction of perspective, form, and light

- Abstraction
 - Creating content
 - Recognizing cultural, emotional and aesthetic content
- Critical Analysis of Class Assignments and Museum/Gallery Art
 - Technical concerns
 - Aesthetic qualities
 - Content subject matter, style, use of color, value, and meanings
 - Historical, cultural, and theoretical influences on painting approaches
 - Knowledge and application of the Elements and Principles of Art

Lab Content

- Watercolor paint media
- Color exploration
- Composition
- Painting Techniques: wash and dry brush techniques, brushes, edges, experimental techniques, masking fluid, drafting tape
- Planning a painting
- Color Mixing and layering
- Limited Palette
- Cropped Image
- Abstraction and Representational

Suggested Reading Other Than Required Textbook

instructor given handouts

Examples of Required Writing Assignments

2-3 page formal visual analysis or museum paper

Examples of Outside Assignments

practice brush skills prepare paper read handouts attend galleries and museums

Instruction Type(s)

Lab, Lecture