

**College of San Mateo  
Official Course Outline**

**1. COURSE ID:** ART 231    **TITLE:** Watercolor I    **C-ID:** ARTS 210

**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 32.0-36.0 Lecture hours; 48.0-54.0 Lab hours; and 64.0-72.0 Homework hours

**Method of Grading:** Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)

**Recommended Preparation:**

ART 204, and ART 214

**2. COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

Introduction to principles, elements, and practices of watercolor painting. Focus on exploration of painting materials, perceptual skills and color theory, paint mixing and technique, as well as creative responses to materials and subject matter.

**4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Create watercolor paintings based upon a strong understanding of studio art theory and techniques.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of art history and how it relates to watercolor painting, their own painting and various contemporary styles and movements.
3. Use painting as a critical thinking tool to examine, observe, discover and create what was previously unseen or unknown about themselves, art and their world.

**5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate ability to paint in watercolors based upon studio art theory and techniques.
2. Examine and describe historical and contemporary developments, trends, materials, and approaches in painting.
3. Assess and critique paintings in group, individual, and written contexts using relevant critique formats, concepts and terminology.
4. Safely handle and use studio painting materials and equipment.

**6. COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

WATERCOLOR I  
COURSE CONTENT

1. WASHES

- A. Flat wash
- B. Graded wash

2. COLOR

- A. Pigment characteristics—staining, non-staining, transparent, opaque, granular
- B. Complementary colors
- C. Warm and cool colors
- D. Double primaries color wheel

3. TEXTURE

- A. Drybrush
- B. Backruns
- C. Lifting and /or scratching out
- D. Granular pigments
- E. Salt, alcohol
- F. Frisket

4. VALUE

- A. Compare and discern values
- B. Identify the values of colors

- C. Use to describe form and create perspective
- 5. EDGES
  - A. Hard
  - B. Soft
  - C. Lost
- 6. NEGATIVE SPACE
  - A. Paint around objects
  - B. Role and importance of backgrounds
- 7. SHADOWS
  - A. Physical characteristics of shadows
  - B. Paint realistic, colorful and transparent shadows
- 8. COMPOSITION
  - A. Art elements
  - B. Design principles
- 9. PERSPECTIVE
  - A. Linear—one and two point perspective
  - B. Aerial perspective
- 10. PHOTOS
  - A. Reference material
  - B. Advantages and disadvantages

**Lab Content:**

1. Explore the physical properties of painting materials.
2. Organize and apply the basic formal elements and principles of design as they relate to painting.
3. Understand and demonstrate safety rules and procedures related to the handling of painting materials.
4. Evaluate and apply the basic principles of color theory.
5. Construct and prepare painting surfaces and supports.
6. Identify and use the materials and tools of painting.

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Lab
- C. Activity
- D. Critique
- E. Directed Study
- F. Discussion
- G. Field Trips
- H. Individualized Instruction
- I. Observation and Demonstration
- J. Other (Specify): Out of class assignments - Students will complete some of exercises and paintings begun in class. Reading assignments - Instructor will provide handouts to supplement lectures and demos. Media - Students will view a slide lecture of the history of watercolor and the artwork of the masters, contemporary watercolor artists and the instructor. Instructor will conduct daily one-on-one critiques of work in progress. Students will participate in class critiques providing discussion of each other's work and their own in relation to composition, color and value. Instructor will display books, magazines and instructor's artwork for discussion and exchange of ideas.

**8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

Students will write critical analysis essays of master watercolorists, as well as critiques of paintings done in class.

**Reading Assignments:**

Reading assignments - Instructor will provide handouts to supplement lectures and demos. Media - Students will view a slide lecture of the history of watercolor and the artwork of the masters, contemporary watercolor artists and the instructor. Instructor will display books, magazines and instructor's artwork for discussion and exchange of ideas.

**Other Outside Assignments:**

Out of class assignments - Students will complete some of the exercises and paintings begun in class.

## 9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Work
- C. Homework
- D. Lab Activities
- E. Oral Presentation
- F. Portfolios
- G. Projects
- H. Midterm and final portfolio presentations to indicate student's completion of assigned exercises and paintings. Painting exercises to reflect student's skill in watercolor washes, paint behavior, color mixing, texture creations and edges techniques. Participation in critiques to reflect student's active involvement in class discussions and evaluations of each other's artwork.

## 10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Merryl, J.. *The Beginner's Guide to Watercolor: Master Essential Skills and Techniques through Guided Exercises and Projects*, ed. Page Street Publishing, 2021

**Origination Date:** October 2021

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**Effective Term:** Fall 2022

**Course Originator:** Rebecca Alex