

NCAL 406K: WATERCOLOR II FOR OLDER ADULTS

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Winter 2026
Units:	0
Hours:	3 lecture, 3 laboratory per week (72 total per quarter)
Degree & Credit Status:	Non-Degree-Applicable Non-Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Non-GE
Transferable:	None
Grade Type:	Non-Credit Course (Receives no Grade)
Repeatability:	Unlimited Repeatability

Student Learning Outcomes

- Create intermediate level paintings that demonstrate a variety of watercolor painting methods.
- Critique intermediate level watercolor paintings based on terminology, technique, and criteria.

Description

This noncredit course is targeted towards older adults. Study of intermediate techniques using transparent and opaque watercolor painting. Emphasis on intermediate techniques of watercolor painting, composition, and personal subject matter.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Use intermediate techniques in transparent and opaque water-media paints on various types of watercolor substrates, papers, and grounds.
2. Understand intermediate color and design principles and use these principles in developing complex compositions.
3. Recognize complex color and use it expressively and spontaneously, developing form, movement, and composition directly on the paper.
4. Share through discussion in student critiques an understanding of the cultural and personal differences in their water-media artwork.

Course Content

1. Intermediate lab exercises structured to define and explore the various relationships between color terms, such as value, intensity, and brilliance, and their application in watercolor.
2. Intermediate lectures and lab assignments in drawing, designing, and composing in the watercolor medium exploring appropriate techniques for expressing the subjects painted.
3. Recognize complex color and use it expressively and spontaneously, developing form, movement, and composition directly on larger papers and supports.
4. Art projects cannot be precisely defined or measured. They naturally offer wide latitude of interpretation. Student assignments may be

concerned with a diversity of personal experiences and cultural heritages and therefore bring these perspectives into a shared activity. The art classroom offers multiple opportunities to illustrate concepts by artists representing broad cultural and personal histories.

Lab Content

1. Painting lab exercises using resists, wax, and other intermediate-level tools.
2. A series of the similar intermediate-level subject matter.
3. Exercises focused on intermediate-level traditional and experimental watercolor techniques.
4. Intermediate lab time focused on intermediate brush techniques.
5. Experimentation with watercolor pencils, opaque gouache paint, and water-based inks.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

1. Tables, chairs or stools, sink area.
2. When taught via Foothill Global Access: on-going access to computer with email software and capabilities; email address; JavaScript-enabled internet browsing software.

Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Demonstration of intermediate levels of color mixing and value control in transparent watercolor
Complex intermixing of transparent and opaque paints on various surfaces
Complex practice in water-media in washes, glazes, and substrates, using both transparent and opaque paints
Creative use of experimental media, such as resists, block-out, and textural modifiers
Final class portfolio of water-media projects
Participation in class discussions. Demonstration of interest and awareness and overall contribution to the class

Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

Lecture
Electronic discussions/chat
Laboratory
Demonstration

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Whyte, Mary. Watercolor for the Serious Beginner: Basic Lessons in Becoming a Good Painter. 1997.

Although this text is older than the suggested "5 years or newer" standard, it remains a seminal text in this area of study.

Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

1. An artist statement connecting a personal watercolor project.
2. A study of contemporary great works of watercolor painters.

Discipline(s)

Art