

San Jose State University
Department of Art and Art History
ART 162 Watercolor, Section 01, Fall 2020

Instructor:	Matthew Weston Taylor
Office Location:	ART 317
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Office Hours:	TuTh 6:00PM-7:00PM
Class Days/Time:	TuTh 3:00PM-5:50PM
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	ART 12, ART 24

Course Description

Art 162 is an introduction to both traditional and contemporary approaches to watercolor media. We will explore many skills and concepts such as: materials, processes, color theory, working with transparency and opacity, palette organization and more. Unlike oils or acrylic paints, watercolors are never fully controllable or predictable, and the artist must allow for unexpected movement, blending and mixing effects. We will explore that relationship between the controlled and uncontrolled and how it informs our decision making processes for watercolor in particular and our art making as a whole.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

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

1. Develop basic Watercolor skills by completing a series of technical classroom still-life exercises and homework assignments.
2. Learn the basics of brushwork, and Western techniques: layering, flat and gradated washes, wet on wet technique
3. Develop skills in traditional Eastern approach (notational style)
4. Learn to control and understand color mixing with both transparent and opaque applications.

5. Research and examine the work of selected artists known for their practiced and accomplished use of watercolor.
6. Stretch watercolor paper using either staples or traditional paper tapes.
7. Develop the ability to evaluate critically one's own artwork and the work of others.
8. Further develop skills in composition, value, color and space
9. Gain a working knowledge of historical and contemporary watercolor painting.

Texts and Readings

Readings may be assigned throughout the duration of the course, it is your responsibility to remain current with readings and be prepared for class discussions.

Course Materials

Watercolor paints are a basic emulsion of pigment suspended in a binder. Pigments are usually some sorts of dry ingredient that gives the paint its color. Binders are substances added to the paint to maintain even consistency, plasticize and preserve the paint. Examples are glycerin, gum arabic, and honey, which are used to keep the paint from drying and cracking. These pigments are ground into fine powders and are then milled with the binder. With a student grade watercolor paint you will find a ratio of less pigment to binder than you would find in a comparable color of professional paint. In the student grade line you will see colors that are called “hues”. A hue is a word that is used to let you know that specific paints are different in some way. For instance, in Winsor Newton’s Cotman Watercolor line, Cobalt Blue and Cobalt Blue Hue are going to be different. The “hue” lets you know that there is some pigment that has been substituted in the formulation to keep the price down.

WATERCOLOR MANUFACTURERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Art Spectrum (Australia)	Schmincke (Germany)
Blockx (Belgium)	Sennelier (France)
Daler-Rowney (England)	Utrecht (US)
Daniel Smith (US)	Rembrandt (Netherlands)

Da Vinci (US)
Holbein (Germany)
Kremer (Germany)
Maimeri (Italy)
Old Holland (Netherlands)

Winsor & Newton (England)
Yarka/St. Petersburg (Russia)
Lukas (Germany)
M. Graham & Co. (US)

REQUIRED COLORS: Please note that company names can vary for each hue

I like Winsor Newton Professional- the 5ml tubes will last you all semester and longer- buy the best quality you can afford

LEMON YELLOW or WINSOR LEMON
CADMIUM YELLOW (MEDIUM or DEEP) or WINDSOR YELLOW DEEP
CADMIUM RED SCARLET or CADMIUM RED LIGHT
ALIZARIN CRIMSON
ULTRAMARINE BLUE (French)
CERULEAN BLUE

VIRIDIAN GREEN
SAP GREEN or TERRA VERTE (YELLOW SHADE)

SEPIA or NEUTRAL TINT
PAYNES GRAY
BURNT SIENA or TRANSPARENT RED OXIDE
YELLOW OCHRE or GOLD OCHRE or QUINACRIDONE GOLD or RAW SIENA

BRUSHES:

There are a wide variety of brushes to consider. The highest quality brushes are Kolinsky Sable; next best is Sable, then Sable synthetic mix. The most affordable brushes are all-synthetic. The difference between the brushes is the cost, the amount of water they hold, the ability to maintain a sharp point and the effects that can be created with them. There are **round brushes, flat brushes, riggers** (for producing long fine lines) fan brushes (for special effects), **mop and wash brushes** (for applying large amounts of color). Be sure to get brushes made specifically for watercolor. The size of the paintings you intend to do will have an influence on the sizes of brushes used. Buy the best you can afford. If you are using lots of different colors in a painting you need a lot of brushes, and often many in the same size.

I recommend the Winsor-Newton Sceptre series. (Cottman might be a little cheaper)

ROUND BRUSHES: #3 #6 #10

FLAT BRUSH: 1 inch

MOP/WASH BRUSH: #6-8 squirrel mop- recommended (optional)

WATERCOLOR BOARD:

Preferred: Gatorfoam Board <http://www.dickblick.com/products/gatorfoam-board/> 16" x 23" x 3/8" thickness OR 23" x 31" x 3/8" thickness. Please be careful NOT to buy regular foam core, which is a paper laminate. This will result in warping. Gatorfoam board is a plastic laminate.

1/4" birch plywood no smaller than 23" x 31". You can make this yourself. A Small can of Varathane seal to waterproof the board (use a cheap house paint brush)

PAPER:

You will need approximately 10 sheets of 22" x 30" **140lb cold press-** Arches or Fabriano Paper Recommended

MISCELLANEOUS REQUIRED ITEMS:

An Art Box for your materials
Large and Small plastic Container for water

Portfolio for your work

LARGE PLASTIC PALETTE WITH LID 11" x 16"

DO NOT buy an open round plastic palettes

Soft rubber erasers

“Light duty” Staple Gun (not medium or heavy)

Bamboo roll up brush holder (or placemat) to protect brushes

Sponges (natural from Trader Joes are good) one to be left in your covered palette for hydration.

Pencils

Paper towels

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott

email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

phone: (408) 808-2094

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

4th Floor Administration Offices

Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors: <http://www.sjsu.edu/art/> or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4320, art@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Classroom Protocol

Objectives for each class will be outlined at the start of each day. It is imperative that you arrive to class on time and with all materials necessary, ready to work.

The structure of the course is one that encourages students to participate and take responsibility for their own learning experience. Think of your time in this class as a laboratory, where you are encouraged to explore the concepts and topics set forth.

It is important that all students feel safe and comfortable in our class so as to be fully engaged with their work and the works of others, any Disruptive Conduct will not be tolerated and will result in one being asked to leave class and/or any further actions deemed necessary by myself or the institution.

Throughout the course we will conduct critiques and discussions. These may focus on in class work, homework, or other topics. Participation from all students is required.

Due to the online nature of the course this semester it is even more important for you to be engaged and active for your own learning experience. The online environment will introduce some new challenges that we will all face together. I am here to help in any way that I can, but I need you to participate and be proactive with your communication. Since I can't walk around the classroom and look over your shoulders and interject with questions, advice and feedback as I normally would, I am much more dependent upon you, documenting your work, sending it to me, and asking questions. Tell me how I can help, if something doesn't make sense, or if the format or structure of the class is creating challenges for you, anything insight into how I can best help you.

I also anticipate that it will take a little bit more effort to foster the sense of community that grows in our classes and is a critical part of everything we do. Meeting online isn't the same as being in person, but I hope to make it as personable as possible. I encourage and request that you turn your cameras on if possible, speak up, ask questions, share your thoughts, the dialogue that surrounds the ideas and exercises that we explore is where we really make new discoveries- be present and take part.

Email is the best way to get in touch with me outside of our scheduled class times. Please put your course number in the subject line when you send an email. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7PM. Office hours are online, let me know if you are interested in setting up a meeting.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grading will be based upon a combination of “in class work”, homework and participation.

In class work consists of all work made over the course of the semester, due to the nature of the course this semester all work will be done from home. Students are also required to maintain a portfolio of all work throughout the semester.

Homework assignments will be assigned weekly and will vary in scope and concept, but will coincide and aid the in class work. It is your responsibility to know what has been assigned and when homework is due.

Participation includes each student’s engagement with their work and the work of their peers both in and out of class. It includes class discussions and critiques as well as the day-to-day class environment.

Assignments will all be turned in online, either via email or another web portal. We can discuss what process will work the best over the course of the semester. Email is the best way to get in touch with me for all issues, stay tuned for more or future info.

ClassWork/ Home Work	70%
Participation	30%

Grade percentages are as follows:

A: 93-100, A-:90-92, B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82, C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72, D+ 67-69, D: 63-67, D-: 60-62, F: 0-59

Due to the nature of the course it is imperative that you attend all classes. In class work and participation makes up a large portion of your course grade. In the event that you must miss a class it is always better to notify me ahead of time so that appropriate alternatives can be made. Much of the work that you make this semester might end up being produced outside of our normal meeting schedule. There is flexibility there, and I am happy to help make this new learning environment as successful as it can be. But I can’t help you if I am not seeing the work. So be sure to use our class time and be in communication with me, so that I can adequately provide you with feedback and guidance.

University policy F69-24, “Students attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

University Policies

All University Policies can be found at this link:

[Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo)

(<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>)

Art 162: Watercolor, Fall 2020 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change

1	8/20	Introduction- go over syllabus, materials, expectations, procedures
2	8/25 8/27	Boards, Stretching Paper, Materials Demonstrations, Palette Organization, Demo: Flat wash, Gradated Wash. Value Studies
3	9/1 9/3	4 value still life- value control, layering- hard vs soft edges? 4 value still life
4	9/8 9/10	Glazing Demo, Glazing abstractions
5	9/15 9/17	Glazing abstractions
6	9/22 9/24	Wet on Wet
7	9/29 10/1	Wet on Wet
8	10/6 10/8	Notational Flowers
9	10/13 10/15	Notational Flowers
10	10/20 10/22	Key color artwork color shift
11	10/27 10/29	Key color artwork color shift
12	11/3 11/5	Boring Project
13	11/10 11/12	Boring Project
14	11/17 11/19	Boring Project
15	11/24 11/26	Final Project No Class- Thanksgiving
16	12/1 12/3	Final Project
17	12/11	Finals- 2:45PM-5:00PM