

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**ARTS-121 WATERCOLOR I**

**I. Basic Course Information**

A. Course Number and Title: ARTS-121 WATERCOLOR I

B. New or Modified Course: Modified Course

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2023

**D. Effective Term: FALL 2024**

E. Sponsoring Department: Arts & Design

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 4                      Lecture: 2  
   Laboratory: 2  
   Out of class student work per week: 5

H. ☒ Prerequisite (s): ARTS-110 BASIC DRAWING I

☐ Corequisite (s):

☐ Prerequisite (s) and Corequisite (s):

I. Additional Fees: none

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair:

      Virginia Smith Virginia.Smith@raritanval.edu

      Darren McManus Darren.McManus@raritanval.edu

Divisional Dean at time of approval:

      Patrice Marks Patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

**II. Catalog Description**

Prerequisites: ARTS-110 Basic Drawing I

This course is an introduction to the techniques and aesthetics of watercolor. Gouache will be introduced as a minor element. Self-expression will be encouraged through creative problems. Color theory and methods of applying paint will be explored. Students will work from both indoors and outdoors from still life, nature, the figure model, self-portraits, and from their imaginations. Students will purchase their own art supplies.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. This course fulfills the Beginning Studio Art Elective requirement in the A.F.A. Visual Arts Degree. Watercolor is particularly relevant to students interested in pursuing careers as studio artists. It is also of interest to lifelong learning students.
- B. This course has a lab component because it is a studio art course and requires students to use special facilities such as a drawing studio, and to use art materials under the guidance of the instructor.
- C. This course generally transfers as a studio art program elective dependent on the institution.

### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course does not serve as a General Education course.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for A.F.A. Visual Arts – beginning studio art elective.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. Various instructor demonstrations as needed.
- B. Development of wash techniques, including; flat wash, graded wash, edge shading.
- C. Glazing with watercolor to develop mixtures of colors.
- D. Mixing colors on palette and directly applying to paper (as oppose to mixing via glazes).
- E. Working wet into wet.
- F. Working on pre-moistened paper.
- G. Development of gouache techniques (an opaque medium).
- H. Introduction of collage with watercolor.

- I. Mixed media with watercolor such as water soluble pencils and crayons, and India ink, waxy crayons, and gouache.
- J. Developing realism, abstraction and non-objective space with watercolor.
- K. Splattering technique.
- L. Introduction of a basic Color theory
- M. Subject matter:
  - 1. Still life
  - 2. Landscape, painted on site if weather permitting
  - 3. The figure model and portraiture
- N. Critiques conducted throughout the semester, as a group and with individual students.
- O. One written critical analysis paper of a watercolor painting/s viewed on exhibit at a museum or gallery.
- P. Students will be encouraged to research various historical and contemporary artists and to assimilate their approaches and techniques when advantageous.

#### **VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:**

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Develop and demonstrate critical analytic skill both verbally and in written format. (GE 1, 6)
- 2. Develop knowledge of a wide spectrum of paintings from various eras and cultures, including from contemporary art and artists. (GE 6)
- 3. Demonstrate an ability to use watercolor and gouache paint as a means to convey a creative visual idea.
- 4. Demonstrate through their paintings the ability to utilize various watercolor painting techniques and range of materials

#### **B. Assessment Instruments**

- 1. portfolio of artwork
- 2. museum/gallery paper
- 3. participation in group critiques and general class participation
- 4. sketchbook

#### **VII. Grade Determinants**

- 1. attendance
- 2. general class participation including group critiques
- 3. paintings completed during class time

4. completion of assigned painting homework
5. watercolor sketchbook
6. written paper

primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

1. lecture/ discussion/ slide lecture presentation
2. instructor demonstrations
3. in-class and homework painting assignments
4. develop a watercolor sketchbook
5. individual and group critiques
6. assigned readings
7. assigned museum/gallery visit and critical analysis paper of a watercolor painting/s
8. RVCC Gallery discussions

## VIII. Texts and Materials

Suggested textbook such as:

1. The Art of Watercolor by Charles LeClair
2. Criticizing Art Understanding the Contemporary by Barrett
3. Art Speak by Atkins
4. The Elements of Color by Itten
5. The Interaction of Color by Albers
6. Reading from periodicals such as: Art forum,  
Art In America, New York Times

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

## IX. Resources

1. Painting or drawing studio with sink, slide screen, track lighting, access to natural north light is preferable, working tables (preferably able to tilt), model stand, stools and chairs, still life props, boards to mount paper on, walls to display art work.
2. Employment of a nude model for a minimum of two sessions.
3. Slides, digital slides, DVD's, Videos, library books, articles from current periodicals, electronic equipment for various ways of projecting imagery.
4. RVCC Art Gallery.
5. Instructional supplies.

**X. ☐ Honors Course ☒ Honors Options ☐ N/A**

**A. Honors Option Content:**

In addition to all course content listed above, honors option students will engage in the following additional project

1. presentation on life and work of a watercolor artist
2. conceptualization, development and completion of an artist statement relating to the focus of the student's investigation and interest
3. development of a series of watercolor artworks that are connected under a unifying theme and interest of the student expressed in the student's artist statement
4. exploration of larger and more intensive production of watercolor paintings when compared to a regular Watercolor I class

**B. Assessment Instruments for Honors Option Work**

1. portfolio of artwork
2. museum/gallery paper
3. participation in group critiques and general class participation
4. sketchbook
5. artist statement
6. in-class presentation on a watercolor artist

**C. Grade Determinants for Honors Option Work**

1. attendance
2. general class participation including group critiques
3. paintings completed during class time
4. completion of assigned painting homework
5. watercolor sketchbook
6. written paper
7. artist statement
8. in-class presentation on a watercolor artist