



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter 2026	Instructor Name:	Jose B Olmedo
Course Title & #:	Watercolor Painting, Art 128	Email:	jose.olmedo@imperial.edu
CRN #:	15158	Webpage (optional):	N/A
Classroom:	Room 3400	Office #:	N/A
Class Dates:	Jan. 5 – Feb. 4	Office Hours:	N/A
Class Days:	Monday through Friday	Office Phone #:	N/A
Class Times:	12:30-5:10pm	Emergency Contact:	760 234 3515
Units:	3.0	Class Format/Modality:	Face to face on ground

Course Description

The study of watercolor painting with emphasis upon color, composition, and pictorial expression. Exploration of various techniques employing the medium of watercolor. Additional materials fee applies. (CSU/UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Develop a portfolio of watercolor paintings.
2. Present, discuss and critique watercolor paintings in a coherent manner.
3. Describe a famous watercolor painting, analyze it, and interpret it in a 600-900 word essay.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize contemporary and historic usage of watercolor.
2. Identify the materials and equipment, boards, papers, brushes, and pigments necessary for watercolor painting.
3. Experiment with color properties, color theory, hues, values, saturation, intensities, as well as transparency and opacity.
4. Experiment with fluidity of the watercolor medium, wash control, wash composition, and the application of glazes using a variety of subject matter such as still life, landscape, figurative, architectural, and imaginative.
5. Develop watercolor compositions employing balance, harmony, value contrasts.
6. Employ complementary, split complementary, triadic, and analogous color harmonies in completed watercolor assignments.



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7. Interpret the use of other media in conjunction with watercolors - collage, ink, pastels, Conte crayons, and a variety of papers.
8. Present several final compositions using individual techniques, properly matted for a final critique.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

These are suggested, not required:

Dewey, David. 2014. *The Watercolor Book: Materials and Techniques for Today's Artists*. 2nd (Discipline Classic) Echo Point Books & Media. ISBN: 978-1626548916.

Dobie, Jean. 2011. *Making Color Sing, 25th Anniversary Edition: Practical Lessons in Color and Design*. 25 Anv Rep (Discipline Classic) Watson-Guption. ISBN: 978-0823031153.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. **If you miss the first day of class, please contact the instructor. That will serve as an official engagement with the class.** If you have been dropped and wish for readmission, your status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. **It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class.** See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped.
- **If you have an emergency, illness or some other problem which prevents you from attending, please contact your instructor so I can work with you.**
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

- Audio Visual
- Computer Assisted
- Lecture / Instruction
- Video Demonstration
- Discussion
- Group Activity
- Individual Assistance.

CLASS PROCEDURE:

- 1-The teacher will present content and activities to the class. Students will listen to lectures and instructions, work on class activities and projects.
 - 2-The teacher will present to the class a project written description, each project will be posted on Canvas.
 - 3-The student will draw sketches containing the conceptual idea of the project.
 - 4-The projects should be completed and presented punctually to the class on the specified date, All sketches and
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references should be provided to the teacher. All sketches and references count for the grade. 5-Each project will be presented physically at class and correctly uploaded to Canvas and will be discussed by the author, the class and teacher in a critique.

6-Presentation counts as part of the grade. The author should talk about his/her solutions, ideas, creation process, experiences etc.

7-Grades will be given by the teacher on each project.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

MATERIALS: Students should bring the materials to class, not bringing materials to class will cause loss of points. The following materials will be used in class.

Materials in the Class Kit (Already paid with your student fee)

1. ONE ELEPHANT EAR SPONGE/WHITE SILK 3 INCHES
2. ONE VAN GOGH WATERCOLOR SET 20 COLORS 10 ML
3. ONE XL WATERCOLOR PAPER PAD 9 INCH X 12 INCH 30 SHEETS
4. ONE SOFT GRIP 5 PIECE STARTER BRUSHES SET
5. ONE RED WALLETS 17 X 22 X2 NYLON HANDLE
6. FIVE ARCHES WC PAPER/16 INCH X 20 INCH 140 LB COLD PRESS
7. FIVE BLICK WATERCOLOR PAPER/15X22 140LB EA

Materials The student needs to buy

1. Watercolor Palette or Palettes
2. Water container (Good size)
3. Masking tape
4. Rag
5. Spray Bottle
6. Extra Watercolor Brushes
7. Sketchbook 9 x 12 inches minimum
8. Exacto knife
9. 12 inch Metal Ruler
10. Box or Bag to carry your Materials
11. Drawing Boards optional
12. Apron optional
13. Drawing pencils
14. Cell phone or digital camera.

Other miscellaneous materials, the instructor will ask for them ahead of time.

PROJECT RUBRIC

CRITERIA	GOOD	AVERAGE	POOR
CONCEPT 3 Points maximum	The student created a project following the exact concept idea established on the project document description. (3 points)	The student missed or omitted the concept idea established in the project document description. (2 points)	The project does not communicate the concept idea established in the project document description. (1 point)
DESIGN AND COMPOSITION 4 Points maximum	Forms are recognizable, composition works effectively. Concepts and principles are applied and correctly communicate the concept. Guidelines established on the project document description were followed. Form, color and composition works very well. (4 points)	Most of the forms are recognizable, composition can improve. Most concepts and principles are applied correctly. Most guidelines established on the project document descriptions were followed. Form, color and composition works. (4 points)	The project displays weak forms and or weak composition. Concepts and principles established on the project document are missing. Form and function work weakly . Form, color and composition are insufficient. (2 points)
CRAFT AND TECHNIQUE 3 Maximum	Watercolor technique is effective , color hues are appropriate in the project. Shapes are recognizable. The technique was correctly executed. The project looks clean and professional. (3 points)	Most watercolor techniques are effective, colors hues are appropriate in the project. Shapes are recognizable. Technique works but can improve. The project looks clean. (2 points)	Watercolor techniques can improve, not all colors are appropriate or are muddy. Shapes are difficult to recognize. Technique is weak. The project looks unclean. (1 Point)



Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Seven aspects will be taken into consideration to grade during the course.

1. Classwork and Homework. Images of **everything** you create in class during each module. PDF document with images. 4 points each module = **20 points**
 2. Class and Canvas participation. During class sessions and project presentations 3 pts. Canvas participation replying to classmates projects and Discussions 3 point= **6 points**
 3. Canvas Discussions two during the semester = **4 points**
 4. Essay Report, five point value = **5 points**
 5. Exam ten points = **10 points**
 6. Portfolio. Your ten best watercolor pieces five points = **5 points**
 7. Projects, five, ten points each = **50 points**
- 100 points total**

Grade scale based on points: **A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=59-0**

PROJECTS

Three main aspects will be taken in consideration in order to grade projects; concept, design, and craft. Projects equals 50 Points of the final grade.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.



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Course Policies

- Respect between all class members will prevail all time.
- Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices must be put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Due to college rules and state laws, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed in the classroom.
- Students can step out of the classroom when needed. The time should be short and reasonable.

LATE SUBMISSIONS

- Projects can be turned in late, but they automatically **lose one point**.
- Late projects will be uploaded in the comments section of the project.
- The student can not turn in late discussions, class activities and comments.

CRITERIA FOR LATE SUBMISSIONS

- If projects are not uploaded as PDF or the format stated by the instructor, the student will **lose two points**.
- Projects without sketches **lose 1 point**.
- All criterias combine.

Other Course Information

All students will use CANVAS. Class content, projects, homework instructions and announcements will be published on CANVAS. It is the responsibility of the student to log in often.

DISABLED STUDENTS: Students with a documented disability should notify the instructor about their needs so they can complete the class with no obstacles.

CLASS RULES:

- Respect between all class members will prevail. Disruptive students will be sent to the campus disciplinary office.
- During class, the use of electronic devices is not allowed unless the instructor allows it.
- At any time, disrupting students will be asked to leave the classroom.
- The instructor will penalize any action according to his criteria by taking away points from any disruptive student under participation and criteria.

LATE SUBMISSIONS AND WAYS TO LOSE POINTS.

- Projects and a written report can be turned in late, but they will automatically lose one point.
- Not presenting projects during class will cause a loss of one point.

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- Students cannot turn in late discussions.
- Sending Projects, Written Reports or images in the wrong digital formats or hard to open will lose one point.
- Students will clean up their working area before the class ends.

It is important that the student keeps all of his or her projects together clean and ready to be revised just if the case is needed. Keeping your artwork in order to prevent misunderstanding.

ABSENCES: The class is face to face, students should be present at the classroom. Missing five class periods will automatically cause the loss of five points. Also three tardies will make the student lose one point.

DROP POLICY. If students miss three consecutive classes without contacting the instructor, he or she may be dropped.

The instructor is NOT responsible for dropping students. If a student needs to drop the course, he or she should do it. If the case is applicable, failing to drop will result in an "F" grade.

-Deadline to drop with a "W" Tuesday January 27 2026.

IVC Student Resources IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

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Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Week and Dates	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Due Dates
Week 1 January Monday 5th - Sat 10th	Module 0 & 1 Introduction to class, Watercolor Materials and its Basic Techniques. Introduction to class and syllabus. Intro to Materials. Brief Watercolor History. Brush Practices and Sketching. Wet on Dry and Wet on Wet technique. Graded washes on dry and wet paper, Granulated wash, lifting, wet-into-wet diffusions. Values, Monochromatic Geometric Forms (Spheres, Cubes and Cylinders) Monochromatic Still lifes.	-Discussion 1 due Jan Saturday 10th -Project #1 Due Jan Saturday 10th -Upload classwork Module 1 PDF format Saturday Jan 10th
Week 2 January Sunday 11th - Saturday 17th	Module 2 Color, Composition, Painting Landscapes and Lifting Methods. Color Definition and theory, hues, values, saturation, intensities, transparency and opacity. Color Still lifes. Painting the Sky, Capturing rhythms, Atmospheric effects and ambient colors. Painting Water. Composition Color progression in composition, employing balance, harmony, value contrasts. Fluidity of color. Exploration of lifting methods: blotting, sandpaper, razor blades, wiping, etc. and resist techniques, wax, mask-it, crayon, tape.	-Project #1 Critique Jan Mon 11th -Upload Classwork Module 2 PDF format Sat Jan 17th -Project #2 Due Jan Saturday 17th



Week 3 January Sun 18th - Sat 24th	Module 3 Portrait and The human figure. Head plains and facial features (Male and Female), Skin tones, shades and Hair. Proportions of the human body, Notes on human anatomy.	-Project #2 Critique Jan Mon 18th -Upload Classwork Module 3 PDF format Sat Jan 24th -Project #3 Due Jan Sat 18th
Week 4 January Sun 25th - Sat 31st	Module 4 Painting Architecture Subjects. Perspective. Painting the Light. Integrating Structures in Landscape	-Project #3 Critique Jan Tue 21st -Upload Written Report Sat Jan 24th -Exam Jan Thursday 30th -Upload Classwork Module 4 PDF format Jan Sat 31st -Project #4 Due Jan Sat 31st
Week 5 February Sun 1st - Wed 4th	Experimental techniques. Abstract, design, rhythm Patterns. Watercolor commercial applications.	-Project #4 Critique Feb Mon 2nd -Upload Portfolio Feb Saturday -Upload Classwork Module 5 PDF -Discussion 2 due Feb Sunday 2nd -Project #5 Due Feb Wed 4th -Project #5 Critique Feb Wed 4th

Subject to change without prior notice