

THE LEADER IN GLOBAL EDUCATION



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**

School of Art & Media Studies

Course Number and Section: ART 1169, Spring 2026

Course Name: Watercolor Painting I & II

Instructor Name: Frank Ippolito

Instructor Email: fip@fd.edu

Number of Credit Hours: 3 Credits

Term Period: Spring, January 20, 2026 to May 13, 2026

Meeting Time: Tuesdays from 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 12:30 – 1:00 PM by prior appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a studio class in Watercolor Painting. It is designed as an introduction to the concepts and techniques of working within this medium. Design, perspective, value study, and color theory will be discussed and employed. Different approaches to working with the medium will be explored. Examples of artwork will be studied, both in person (museum visits etc.) and during class time. Various techniques and visual styles will be studied and deconstructed. Students will create a series of paintings and one Final Project.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the successful conclusion of this course, students will have mastered:

1. The understanding of the principles employed in composition and design.
2. Knowledge of paint handling, color mixing, and the interaction of color.
3. The ability to draw from life, copy, and render images on a 2 dimensional substrate.
4. The ability to suggest three dimensional form by expressing tonality.
5. An appreciation for history of watercolor painting through lecture and gallery visits..
6. The ability to discuss the various techniques used in the creation of paintings.

Prerequisite: None

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES

Lectures, demonstrations, and instructions.

Critiques and group discussions.

Class direction on projects as well as one on one individual development.

Require Text and Materials:

1. Optional text: Watercolor Basics - *Let's Get Started* by Jack Reid ISBN13: 978-0-89134-867- Additional printed and online articles, handouts, as assigned.
2. Materials: A limited palette of tube watercolors, pad of watercolor paper, and brushes, as per the attached Materials List.
3. Other Resources: Art Museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Morgan Library, area galleries, as assigned. There will be one field trip to a New York area gallery/museum -details TBA.
4. Use of Technology: Printed material, projected images, online searches.

NOTE: A minimum of 3 hours of time outside of class is required each week to practice techniques and to work on individual projects. Any problems or questions can be raised in class and addressed either as a group lesson or on an individual basis. More time spent on projects will ultimately enhance the quality of your work. Additional individual help beyond the class time is available and can be scheduled upon request.

EVALUATION:

The final class grade will be based upon:

1. Projects and Assignments.
3. The Final Project.
4. The midterm Project
5. Attendance, In Class Participation and Extra Credit Work.

Projects handed in late for any reason will be graded down for lateness by 10% for each week.

GRADING POLICY:

The final weighted grade average will be based on 100% effort (shown incrementally):

Project Homework : (8 Assignments in total)

1. Two Projects and Assignments = 60 %
2. The Final Project = 30 %
3. Attendance, In Class Participation and Extra Credit Work = 10 %

The skills, originality, creativity and attention to detail reflected in your assignments will constitute the grade for each milestone of the projects. An average of your accumulated grades and attendance will comprise your final grade for the semester. Poor attendance will be reflected in your final grade.

GRADING SCALE (Letter Grades: GPA Points vs. Numeric Percentage):

100-90%	A		79-75%	C+
89-85%	B+		74-70%	C
84-80%	B		69-60%	D
Below 60 = F				

PARTICIPATION

Attendance is mandatory. Absences will be reflected in your final grade. More than three (3) absences may result in an "F" for your final grade. If you miss a class you will need to make up the work.

If you come after attendance was taken, at the beginning of class, you will be marked late. Three (3) lateness will equal one (1) absence. Leaving a class early by one hour or more is equivalent to a lateness. In the event of an emergency, contact me immediately to explain the absence.

WEEKLY INSTRUCTIONS

Week 1: Introduction

1. Course syllabus
2. Analyze and dissect paintings
3. Assignment – Materials

Week 2: Introducing Watercolors

1. Working with Flat Washes
2. Assignment - Barn Scene

Week 3: Flat Glazes

1. Review Work in Progress
2. Restricted Glazes
3. Assignment – Boat Scene

Week 4: Graded Washes

1. Review Work in Progress
2. Graded Glazes
3. Assignment – Landscape with Graded Sky

Week 6: 3-color Flat Wash

1. Review Work in Progress
2. Washes
3. Assignment – Red House in Snow

Week 7: Color Wheel / Color Grid

1. Color Wheel
2. Assignment – Midterm

****Spring Break****

Week 8: Wet into Wet

1. Review Midterm
2. Introduce Wet into Wet
3. Assignment – Sunset

****Midterm Reporting Due****

Week 9: Plein Air

1. Review work in progress
2. Plein Air Painting
3. Assignment – Plein Air

Week 10: Still Life

1. Review work in progress
2. Assignment – Still Life

Week 11: Textures

1. Review work in progress
2. Assignment – Salt Textures

Week 12: Studio Time

1. Review work in progress
2. Assignment – Painting

Week 13: Portraits

1. Review work in progress
2. . Assignment – Self Portrait

Week 14: Production

1. Review work in progress
2. Assignment – Final

*****Reading/Snow Make-up days – No Class unless Needed for Make-up Day*****

Week 15: Final Presentation

1. Final project Review

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<https://www.fdu.edu/about/university-leadership-offices/university-provost/fdu-syllabus-policy/nj/>