PAINTING: WATERCOLOR | AFA 217_1 SEMESTER – Fall 2026

Instructor Name: Audrey Barcio, Associate Professor, School of Art

Course Information:

Meeting Time: Mon. & Wed. 4-6:46pm

Room: AJ 450

Canvas Address:
bsu.instructure.com/courses/130355

Email: akbarcio@bsu.edu

Office Hours: AJ 457 By appointment

Zoom Personal Room Address:
https://bsu.zoom.us/my/akbarcio

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: Introduction to materials and techniques of transparent watercolor as they apply to the solution of painting problems.

Course Overview: This is an introduction to transparent watercolor painting where we will cover a wide range of techniques and concepts. You will gain fundamental skills of watercolor using color, form, composition, design concepts and the creative process. In addition to production, we will focus on critique and art historical references while building a broader visual vocabulary.

This Course is part of the University Course Curriculum (UCC)
The UCC enables students to:

- Realize their intellectual potential
- Add breadth and depth to their educational experience
- Increase their personal well-being
- Participate actively in their communities

Rational for Inclusion of the Course in the UCC The AFA 217 course fits the University Core Curriculum themes of *Being Human* and *Innovation and Creativity* under the domain of *Humanistic and Artistic / Design.* The course is designed without any School of Art prerequisites, making the coursework accessible to any enrolled undergraduate student.

- Through the University Core Curriculum theme of *Being Human*, this course will encourage students to participate in art making with watercolor painting, hold individual and group critiques, learn about global art history and develop a deeper understanding of individual research.

- Through the University Core Curriculum theme of *Innovation and Creativity* students will learn new art media, processes and techniques in water-based painting of watercolor. This course will allow students to see their ideas through from the beginning concept to final project and learn about new methods of innovation and creativity in art making.

Course Objectives Aligned with Required ICC Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

Course SLOs	UCC SLOs (Humanistic and Artistic)
Research- Synthesize course content with individual academic research.	Apply disciplinary methodologies, epistemologies, and traditions of the humanities and the arts, including the ability to distinguish primary and secondary sources (ICC SLO 6.2).
Art Historical Canon- Demonstrate a working knowledge of diverse influential watercolor artists that are presented in class.	Analyze and evaluate texts, objects, events, or ideas in their cultural, intellectual, or historical contexts (ICC SLO 6.3).
Technique- Build on watercolor painting techniques and production via research and experimentation.	Create, interpret, or reinterpret artistic and/or humanistic works through performance or criticism (ICC SLO 6.5).
Critique- Continue to build upon verbal and written communication of critique and to group and individual critique and	Develop arguments about forms of human agency or expression grounded in rational analysis and in an understanding of and respect for spatial, temporal, and cultural contexts (ICC SLO 6.6).

Course Objectives:

- Learn foundation techniques and materials used in watercolor painting.
- Research artists/subjects and keep preparatory drawings in sketchbooks.
- Improve painting skills throughout the progression of the course.
- Develop vocabulary of concepts and principles pertaining to the visual structure and organization of artworks, both for the purpose of creating and discussing artworks.
- Participate in individual and group critiques using visual vocabulary.
- Learn safe studio and painting practices.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should demonstrate understanding and application of skills and knowledge in the following categories:

- Art Historical Canon- Demonstrate a working knowledge of diverse influential watercolor artists that are presented in class.
- Technique- Build on watercolor painting techniques and production via research and experimentation.
- Vocabulary: build upon visual art vocabulary of concepts and principles
- Critique- Continue to build upon verbal and written communication of critique and to group and individual critique and
- Research- Synthesize course content with individual academic research.

Course Modality / Structure: The format for this class will combine lecture, demonstration, studio work time, group discussion, and critique. There will be a Course Calendar located on the Canvas course site, which includes all weekly tasks, assignments, and due dates. This calendar will be updated as the semester progresses.

Course Time Commitment: It is expected that students will spend approximately 2 hours of study time outside of class for every one hour in class. Since this is a 3-credit studio, you should expect to study an average of 6 hours outside of class each week.

Course Calendar:

Week 1– Syllabus & Materials / Intros	Color Theory
Week 2 – Observational Painting /Color Theory	Observational Painting (1)
Week 3- Observational Painting (1)/ Color Theory	Observational Painting (2)
Week 4- Observational Painting (2)	Observational Painting (2)
Week 5- Personal Mandala	Personal Mandala
Week 6- Personal Mandala	Translating Poem
Week 7- Translating Poem	Translating Poem
Week 8 - Translating Poem	(Midterm)
Week 9 - Collage Project	Collage
Week 10- Collage	Collage
Week 11- Clothing and Process	Clothing and Process
Week 12 – Clothing and Process	Clothing and Process
Week 13- Greenhouse Paintings	Greenhouse Paintings
Week 14- Greenhouse Paintings	Nostalgia Final Painting
Week 15- Second Portfolio Due	Nostalgia Final Painting
12/11/26 – Final 2:15-4:15 pm AJ450	**FINAL**

COURSE MATERIALS AND FEES

You will find a basic materials list in our Canvas course. As we progress through the semester, we will discuss other potential materials that you may choose to experiment with.

COURSE FEES: Studio materials for this class will range in cost between $55 – 100

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Assignment details, including instructions, relevant readings, due dates, and grading criteria/rubrics will be posted and updated on Canvas. Please check Canvas regularly to stay informed and on track.

Guidelines for Grading: (Grades are determined by quality of work, progress, effort, participation, and attendance. Specific criteria will be handed out with individual assignments. Projects that are presented and are unfinished will result in a below C grade. Late work will not be eligible for a grade higher than C.

Course grade will be 80% studio production and 10% participation and 10% Artist Lecture Reflection Papers. Rubrics are provided for portfolio and individual projects during the semester. All assignments are due via canvas, please document artwork cropped and label in canvas.

Students are responsible for the following areas:

STUDIO PAINTINGS/PORTFOLIOS - 80% OF FINAL GRADE

1. Portfolio 1 - (50 Points)
2. Portfolio 2 - (50 Points)
3. Individual Projects & Final - (10 & 40 Points each)

PARTICIPATION - 10% OF FINAL GRADE

1. Discussion & participation during class and critique

TWO ARTIST LECTURE PAPERS – 10% OF FINAL GRADE

Studio Project Grades 80%
Projects may be graded multiple times at different phases of completion. Assignments will generally be evaluated by the following criteria: handling of technique and concept, effort, creativity and thoughtfulness, and compositional elements. Specific criteria will be handed out with individual projects and may vary between assignments.

Participation Grades 10%
Participation includes thoughtful, consistent contribution in discussions and critiques, as well as consistently demonstrated physical and mental effort towards work, research, and intellectual growth. Areas considered are overall effort toward your work, observance of classroom studio etiquette, class preparation, and oral participation. Participation in all aspects of the course is mandatory and weighs heavily in the final average including attendance.

Visiting Artist Papers Grades 10%
Students are required to attend at least 2 events- such as: School of Art Visiting Artist Lectures (VADS), Arts Alive, Fred Meyer Lecture Series, Student Show Juror talk or visit The Ned and Gloria Griner Gallery, DOMA or any other art gallery/museum and write (2) 1-2 page response papers that outline the major ideas presented in the talk. You can discuss how the artist uses materials, their conceptual/thematic concerns, motivation and inspiration, area of research.

Format: 1-2 page in length, double-spaced, 12 pt. font. This should be in essay format, not merely a transcription of notes nor opinion based on if you liked or did not like the art or artist (see above description on what to discuss in your paper). Quality of writing will affect your grade, so please make sure these papers reflect college level writing standards.

Each Assignment will have a rubric posted on Canvas for grading- below is a sample rubric.
Example Assignment Rubric

Process	Followed the parameters of the assignment	10 Points	Comments
Process	Ambition and Creativity	30 Points	Comments
Outcome	Formal Qualities: Craftsmanship, Attention to Detail	25 Points	Comments
Outcome	Technical Fluency	25 Points	Comments
Outcome	Documentation	10 Points	Comments

Letter Grade Explanation

A = Excellent / Consistently superior effort, completion of all work, strong attendance, evidence of significant growth and commitment. Consistently exceptional work that raises the standards for one's entire peer group.

B = Above Average / Strong effort, high quality of work and above-average growth; good participation and understanding of concepts; Exceeding the expectations of the class

C = Average / Average performance, work, and attitude that meet bare minimum expectations; work shows promise but has not been developed to full potential.

D = Below Average / Inconsistent effort, poor attendance/participation, below-average quality of work. Completion of most, but not all course requirements.

F = Failing Grade / Failure to meet the requirements of the course.

Final grade is determined according to the following point scale:

A = 100-94	B = 86-84	C = 76-74	D = 66-64
A- = 93-90	B- = 83-80	C-= 73-70	D- =63-60
B+ = 89-87	C+= 79-77	D+= 69-67	F = 59 or lower

Ball State University Grading Scale:

A = 4.000	B = 3.000	D+ = 1.333	F = 0.000
A- = 3.667	B- = 2.667	D = 1.000	
B+ = 3.333	C+ = 2.333	D- = .667	

COURSE STATEMENTS AND POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Attendance, participation, and professionalism will comprise 10% of your final grade. This course meets twice per week; you may miss up to four unexcused classes without penalty. A fifth unexcused absence will result in automatic failure of the course.

Unexcused absences can be used for personal reasons, brief illnesses, appointments, car trouble, travel, etc. I don't require you to share your reason for missing class, as it may be personal. That said, you are responsible for making up any missed work or materials.

Excused absences that are university-approved are reserved for funeral or bereavement, serving on a jury or as a court witness, participation in military duties, observance of a religious holiday, medical absences due to pregnancy or chronic/prolonged illness, or representing the university at official athletics or academic events. Such absences must be justified by solid written documentation sent via email to instructor within one week of the missed class(es).

More information on excused absences is available here: https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/vice-provost/student-services/attendance-policies
Each faculty member is required to take and maintain records of class attendance. It is your responsibility as a student to keep track of and/or confirm with your professor how many sessions you have missed.

PARTICIPATION

Participation for scheduled classes is mandatory. Participation is marked by a variety of ways- in person class studio, discussion posts, progress images and critiques.

LATENESS/ LEAVING EARLY

Students arriving or leaving more than 10 minutes late are considered late. Three late/leaving early counts as one

MISSED WORK / EXTENTIONS

In the event of absence, students are responsible for all missed work. It is the student's responsibility to email the Professor within 24 hrs. and make up all missed work and meet assignment due dates, regardless of absence.

If you require an extension for an accommodation or unexcused absence you will need to have an accommodation letter submitted to professor prior or submit documentation listed above from an unexcused absence. All requests for extensions must be submitted via email to professor within 24 hrs. of requested extension. Instructor will reply to emails within 48hrs.

CRITIQUES / COMPLETENESS OF ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance at critiques is mandatory. A missed critique automatically lowers the participation grade. All assignments must be completed on time; late work will result in a lower grade of 10% per day late.

SYLLABUS STATEMENT

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

University Statement

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services Office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-2855293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Freedom of Expression

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's Statement on Freedom of Expression, the resources on Ball State's Freedom of Expression webpage, and Ball State's Beneficence Pledge.

Title IX

Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit bsu.edu/titleix or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285-1545 or at titleix@bsu.edu

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations.

What happens after I report? The Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting. If the complainant **chooses** to meet with the Title IX Coordinator,

- Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward.
- If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy.

University Grade Appeal Policy

If you believe you received a final course grade that does not reflect your performance due to fairness or a procedural issue, you have the right to file an appeal within 5 school days after final grades are posted by the Office of the Registrar. Review the University Grade Appeal Policy and Process.]

Student Academic Ethics Policy

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the VPAA's academic integrity website (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University Student Academic Ethics Policy

Academic integrity violations include giving or receiving an unfair academic advantage (cheating), presenting someone else's ideas or work as your own (plagiarism), and falsifying academic records. Unless otherwise indicated, you must work independently by yourself. Check with me if you are unsure whether something constitutes academic dishonesty. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Using resources not authorized by the faculty member (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books)
- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments (Chegg, Course Hero, StudyPool, OneClass, etc.).
- Without the instructor's written permission, giving away, buying, or selling graded assignments class notes, exams, study guides, or other course materials to other students or to third-party vendors (Course Hero, Chegg, 24HourAnswers, etc.).
- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Reusing your own work from another semester, course, or section.
- Sharing answers with others during exams (passing notes, texting, whispering, gesturing)
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.

Generative AI Statement

All work conducted and/or submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the Ball State University's Student Academic Ethics Policy. Ball State University AI Learning Guide can be found here.

CANVAS AND STUDENT PRIVACY

Canvas Accessibility

Canvas provides a user experience that is easy, simple, and intuitive. Special attention has been paid to making Canvas screen readable. The Rich Content Editor encourages users to create accessible content pages (i.e. text formatting is accomplished using styles). Canvas is designed to allow limited customization of colors and schemes to be accessible for all users. The National Federation of the Blind granted Canvas the Gold Level Web Certification in 2010.
Find more information by visiting the Canvas Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT).

FERPA and Privacy

As a student, your educational records are considered confidential. Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), your records are confidential and protected. Under most circumstances, your records will not be released without your written and signed consent. However, some directory information may be released to third parties without your prior consent unless a written request to restrict this is on file. You can learn more about student rights to privacy by reading **Ball State's FERPA and Privacy and Protection.**

Video Conferencing Recording

In this class, software may be used to record live class discussions. As a student in this class, your participation in live class discussions may be recorded. These recordings typically will be made available only to students enrolled in the class, to assist those who cannot attend the live session or to serve as a resource for those who would like to review content that was presented. Students who prefer to participate via audio only will be allowed to disable their video camera so only audio will be captured. Students who prefer to listen only must disable their audio capability and visual camera. If you have concerns, please discuss these options with me.

Plagiarism Detection

The campus subscribes to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service, through Canvas. You may need to submit written assignments to Turnitin. Student work will be used for plagiarism detection and for no other purpose. The student may indicate in writing to the instructor that he/she refuses to participate in the plagiarism detection process, in which case the instructor can use other electronic means to verify the originality of their work.

Proctoring

[Check with your department chair/school director to determine if you can use Respondus tools in your course. Suggested: This course will require the use of the Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor for online exams. Watch this short video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the optional webcam feature (which may be required for some exams.) Instructions for obtaining the software can be found in our course.]

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Learning Center

The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments. To make an appointment, visit myballstate.bsu.edu and click on "Navigate" in the Academic Tools section, or just go directly to bsu.navigate.eab.com.

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center. Supplemental Instruction is available in select courses. If you have an SI leader for your course, that person will provide students with information the first week of school regarding weekly study sessions. For more information about Learning Center programming, visit bsu.edu/learningcenter or call 765-285- 1006. Follow us on Instagram: BallStateLC.

The Writing Center

All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center (in Robert Bell 295 during weekdays, Bracken Library First Floor West in the evenings, or online during any of our regularly scheduled hours) to get additional feedback on your writing.
The Writing Center offers free planning, feedback, and accountability sessions (in person and online) to all students composing essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. To schedule a free appointment to discuss your writing, go to bsu.edu/writingcenter. Online and in-person appointments are available; however, plan ahead because appointments book quickly!

The Basic Needs Hub

If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the Basic Needs Hub. The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a Basic Needs Assistance Form.

Financial Wellness

The Ball State University Financial Wellness Office provides free and confidential financial education services to all students. Our mission is to help you take control of your finances and achieve your financial goals. We are in Lucina Hall, Room B32, and can be reached at 765-285-3939 or via email at financialwellness@bsu.edu. Our services include personalized financial coaching, workshops, and resources on topics such as budgeting, debt management, financial aid literacy, credit building, and planning for your future. We also provide tools to help you tackle your eBill, navigate student loans, and make informed financial decisions. Whether you're looking to create a budget, reduce financial stress, or set a path toward financial freedom, our team is here to support you. To learn more or schedule an appointment, please click our link here Financial Wellness Appointment Link or reach out directly.

The Counseling Center

The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact us at 765-285-1736. Ball State also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.

At the Ball State Counseling Center, we see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. We assist students with getting connected to therapy at our Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found **here**.

The Speaking Center

The Speaking Center is a free resource available to all members of the BSU community wanting to improve their public speaking abilities. We offer personalized coaching designed to help you become a more confident and effective speaker. Our trained coaches provide constructive feedback and support throughout the entire speech preparation process, whether you are in the early stages of brainstorming ideas and organizing your thoughts, or you need to practice your delivery and refine your message.

The Center is in the David Letterman Communication and Media Building, room 302. To schedule an appointment, please access us through your Navigate app or use this direct link to sign up for a time**.** Appointments are available both in person and on Zoom. Appointments are available in person, on Zoom, and in virtual reality (VR) for those interested in practicing in an immersive speaking environment.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE STATEMENT

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.