Centre for Lifelong Learning

**Learn to Paint with Acrylics**

**Class Code:** OS119 **Credits**: 10

**Rationale**

This class is designed to add a new strand of study to replace the class ‘Learn to Paint’ (OS642) and provide a basic foundation in the principles of working with acrylics.

Students who have previously taken the ‘Learn to Paint’ class which focuses on acrylics would not be able to gain credit again for this new class but should they choose to take the other proposed ‘Learn to Paint using Watercolours’ they would be able to gain academic credit (upon successful completion).

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the class students should be able to:

* Discuss the properties of acrylic paints
* Discuss the basic elements of colour theory in the mixing of paints
* Demonstrate the use of tone in relation to observational painting
* Demonstrate the use of colour mixing in relation to painting from observation
* Demonstrate the use of blocking in to begin a painting
* Demonstrate a technical grasp of the qualities of acrylic paints by painting still life and landscape paintings proficiently

These outcomes have been designed to align closely with those of the proposed classes ‘Learnt to Paint in Watercolours’ and ‘Learn to Pain in Oils’ in order to ensure consistency across similar levels. The section below outlining the content and curriculum takes account of the considerable differences between handling and applying these various media to work.

**Generic and Key Skills**

Completion of class will contribute towards the student’s development of the following key/transferable skills:

* *Communication and Presentation*:ability to convey ideas and articulate their work to others
* *Problem-Solving and Creativity*:Use strategies for achieving realistic solutions to a range of problem types; Use strategies for generating novel ideas
* *Teamwork/Collaboration*: Collaborate in learning and share information; Show respect towards, and interest in, the views of others; Perform agreed tasks or roles
* *Project Planning and Organising*: Develop and implement formal task plans; Show consistency of commitment
* *Personal Development*: Manage time and meet deadlines; Work on own initiative; Reflect on, and record, own work and skills

**Content and Curriculum**

Students taking this class should be able to already meet the learning outcomes outlines in the classes Learn to Draw (OS641) and/or Stage 1 Drawing & Painting (OS401). The class tutor will make an informal assessment of the student’s previous experience at the first class meeting and if it is appropriate will suggest an alternative class choice more suited their current skills set.

The following represents an overview of the main areas to be covered. It does not necessarily represent the order in which topics will be addressed, nor does it imply that equal time will be devoted to each topic.

* Acrylic paints and their specific qualities
* Introduction to mixing colours
* Blocking in lights and darks
* Exploring colour and tone
* Observation

Throughout the class, the work of various well-known artists will be used to encourage reflection on students’ work and to assist and stimulate discussion and reflection on technical problems and various techniques

# Modes of Delivery

The class will be delivered through practical sessions involving a tutor-led brief and/or demonstration and will usually be offered over a 10 week period with 2 hour sessions each week. Exercises in class will be closely supervised and guided by the tutor. There will be group discussion of individual work to prepare students for peer assessment in later classes. There will also be scope for revision according to the needs of students as they present drawing projects.

# Assessment

There are three elements to the assessment:

1. 2 colour exercises completed in class (one to be discussed by the class as a group) (20%)
2. 1 painting of a still life subject completed in class demonstrating use of techniques and skills learnt in class (40%)
3. 1 landscape or figure painting completed in class demonstrating some skill in mixing colours (40%)

All elements of assessment must be submitted and deemed satisfactory by the tutor before the student can be recommended for the award of credit. A sample of work will be second marked prior to scrutiny by the Open Studies External Examiner.

# Class Materials

Students are responsible for the purchase of their own materials and a list of materials suggested by the tutor will be supplied prior to the first class meeting.

**References**

Suggested book and web references include:

# Harrison, Hazel *The Encyclopedia of Acrylic Techniques: A Unique A-Z Directory of Acrylic Techniques with Step-by-step Guidance on Their Use* [Paperback]

Wilcox, M (2002) *Blue and Yellow Don’t Make Green* (Bristol: Michael Wilcox)

<http://www.artisancam.org.uk/home.php>

<http://www.getty.edu/education/>

<http://www.nsead.org/home/index.aspx>