



INTRODUCTION TO GOUACHE

Instructor: Daniela Henriquez Salman

SYLLABUS

Course Information

Instructor: Daniela Henriquez Salman

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Office Hours: Virtual via Zoom, Mondays from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm EST

Course Modality: Asynchronous Online (hosted via Canvas)

Course Description

This asynchronous online course is designed for beginner-level students (ages 13+) seeking to master gouache, a water-based opaque medium similar to watercolor or acrylics. This course will introduce gouache, covering its history and best practices for use and care. Students will engage in hands-on practice creating a variety of illustrations, utilizing different mixing, blending, and layering techniques.

There are no prerequisites for this course, however, the learner is responsible for acquiring their own supplies, listed in the [Materials](#) section.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Develop a personal reference guide to practice the different application techniques of gouache.
2. Integrate different techniques within a single composition, such as light/shadow, depth, and blending.
3. Produce original illustrations that incorporate a variety of painting methods and color-mixing principles.
4. Justify selection of specific gouache application techniques and color-mixing principles.

Course Readings

All the readings listed in the course breakdown section of the syllabus will be linked and posted on Canvas.

Course Flow

This course follows a consistent 8-week cycle, moving from foundational technical exercises to full-scale creative illustrations. Each module is designed around a Learn-Practice-Share framework to help students build mastery. Each module will include:

Introduction (Learn)

You will start each module by reviewing what will be learned throughout the week, in terms of objectives, topics, materials, and expectations.

Studio Time (Practice)

You will spend self-directed time reviewing the tutorial videos and resources, building your personal reference guide, and experimenting with gouache. You will move from small swatches to complex illustrations as the weeks progress.

Share with others (Share)

The final part of each module is the “virtual gallery.” You will share your progress, learn from others, and provide feedback to help everyone grow. See [Graded Assignments and Criteria](#) section on how to submit assignments.

Graded Assignments and Criteria

Student performance is evaluated based on the technical execution of painting techniques, completion of the reference guide, and the quality of peer engagement. The following chart lists all graded assignments, due dates, and their weights.

Assessment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
Reference Guide		30%
1. Consistency Control Chart	End of Module 1	6%
2. Color Wheel	End of Module 2	6%
3. Mixing Chart	End of Module 2	6%
4. Gradient Chart	End of Module 3	6%

Assessment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
5. <i>Layering Chart</i>	<i>End of Module 4</i>	6%
Vignettes		10%
1. <i>Landscapes</i>	<i>End of Module 4</i>	5%
2. <i>Still Life</i>	<i>End of Module 6</i>	5%
Illustrations		30%
1. <i>Landscape Illustrations</i>	<i>End of Module 5</i>	10%
2. <i>Still Life Illustration</i>	<i>End of Module 6</i>	10%
3. <i>Personal Choice Illustration</i>	<i>End of Module 7</i>	10%
Final Illustration & Reflection	End of Module 8	10%
Discussion Posts & Peer Critiques	End of each module	10%

Grading Scheme

A= 94-100
 A-= 90-93
 B+= 87-89
 B= 84-86
 B-= 80-83
 C+= 77-79
 C= 74-76
 C-= 70-73
 D+= 67-69
 D= 65-66
 F= below 65

Grading Criteria

Each assignment has a detailed grading rubric that you will reference as you complete your assignments. Your work will be graded using these rubrics. You can find them in the Canvas course.

Submission Criteria

All coursework must be submitted via the *Virtual Gallery* (Discussion Board) to facilitate peer learning and instructor evaluation.

Weekly Assignments

Due: Friday (11:59 pm ET)

Upload a high-quality photo (.JPG or .PNG) of your artwork to the current Module's Virtual Gallery. Include a brief comment identifying one technical challenge and one valuable takeaway from your practice.

Peer Feedback

Due: Sunday (11:59 pm ET)

Reply to at least one peer in the same thread. Your feedback must include one strength and one suggestion for improvement.

Course Schedule

This schedule provides a general outline of the course over 8 weeks. Detailed weekly topics and resources are subject to change.

Module 1: Getting Started with Gouache

Topics

- Overview of the course and how to take care of materials
- History of gouache
- How to achieve the perfect consistency

Readings/Resources

- [Explore the History, Features and Applications of Gouache with Jeff Olson](#)
-  Trying To Improve My Gouache Skills Part 3 - Consistency

Assignments

- Consistency Control Chart (Reference Guide)
- Discussion Posts & Peer Critiques

Module 2: Color Theory and Mixing

Topics

- Introduction to color theory
- Getting in the gray zone
- Mixing techniques

Readings/Resources

- [Basic Color Theory](#)
- [Gray Matters - DanSchultzFineArt](#)

- [▶ INVESTIGATING color theory // studio ghibli gouache studies](#)
- [▶ Tutorial : How to mix Chromatic Greys](#)
- [▶ The EASIEST color mixing charts for watercolor and gouache * STEP BY STEP](#)

Assignments

- Color Wheel & Mixing Chart (Reference Guide)
- Discussion Posts & Peer Critiques

Module 3: Blending and Gradient Techniques

Topics

- Blending and gradient techniques

Readings/Resources

- [▶ Gouache Blending Techniques](#)
- [▶ How To Paint Gradients With Gouache](#)

Assignments

- Gradient chart (Reference Guide)
- Discussion Posts & Peer Critiques

Module 4: Layering and Dimension

Topics

- Layering techniques
- Creating dimension

Readings/Resources

- [The 5 Most Common Layering Problems With Gouache and How to Fix Them](#)

Assignments

- Layering chart (Reference Guide)
- Discussion Posts & Peer Critiques

Module 5: Landscapes

Topics

- Rule of thirds in landscape painting
- Vignettes

Readings/Resources

- [▶ The Rule of Thirds in Landscape Painting by Will Kemp](#)
- [▶ How to SIMPLIFY the landscape * Gouache painting beginner tutorial](#)

Assignments

- Vignettes
- Landscape Illustration
- Discussion Posts & Peer Critiques

Module 6: Still Life

Topics

- How to set up a still life
- Creating a good composition

Readings/Resources

-  How to Set Up a Still Life
- [The Secret of Good Composition](#)
- [A beginner's guide to composition – Work Over Easy](#)

Assignments

- Vignettes
- Still Life Illustration
- Discussion Posts & Peer Critiques

Module 7: Creative Process

Topics

- Stages of the creative process

Readings/Resources

- [Creativity in art: the ultimate overview](#)
- [The art-making process](#)

Assignments

- Personal Choice Illustration
- Reflection of your creative process
- Discussion Posts & Peer Critiques

Module 8: Final Composition

Topics

- Working on Final Composition

Readings/Resources

N/A

Assignment

- Final Composition and Reflection

Materials

You are responsible for purchasing the following materials needed in the course:

- Gouache paints in various colors (any brand will do)
 - Required colors: White, Yellow, Red, Magenta, Blue (or Cyan), Green, Black
- Paint brushes of different sizes and shapes
- Mixing palette
- Watercolor paper or sketchbook (minimum 9" x 12")
- Pencils
- Eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Distilled water
- Spray bottle
- Palette knife

Accommodations

If you encounter any barriers to your learning, whether related to digital access, physical dexterity for painting, or neurodiversity, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Please see the list of [Adapted Painting Tools](#) that can assist your studio practice.

Visual/Audio

Transcripts and captions are provided for all video content.

Flexibility

While deadlines are set to maintain the course flow, I am happy to discuss flexible pacing for students who think they might need to turn in assignments at their own pace. In that case, the student and instructor will set together different deadlines for each assignment.

Policies and Expectations

Communication

I will respond to all course-related emails within 24 hours. Please use the "Q&A" board on Canvas for questions that might benefit the whole class.

Late Submission of Work

All course work must be submitted on time, on the date specified on the syllabus. To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, the student must email the instructor one week prior to the due date.

Artistic Integrity

As a student in this course, you are expected to maintain the highest standards of artistic integrity. All submitted work must be your own original creation and physically painted by you.

Inspiration vs. Plagiarism

You are encouraged to use stock photography or designs, AI-generated imagery, or nature as reference and inspiration for your compositions. However, your final submission must be a unique interpretation and not a direct copy of another artist's work.

Originality

All painting must be your own manual work. Submitting artwork created by someone else or significantly altered by AI or other automated tools will result in a zero for the assignment.

Participation

You are expected to upload assignments and peer critiques as established in the [Graded Assignments and Criteria](#) section.

Support Services

Technical Support

All students have 24/7 access to Canvas technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including live chat and a support hotline at 855-338-2770. Use the 'Help' icon in the lower left of your Canvas window to view all available support and feedback options. If you're looking for help on a specific feature, check out the [Canvas Support FAQ](#) and the [Canvas LMS Troubleshooting Guide](#).