

Community Education – Winter Quarter 2026

Course Title: Acrylic Painting for All

Instructor: Nathun Finkhouse

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Course Details

- Mondays, 1/12 to 2/9
- 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- Main Campus (1933 Fort Vancouver Way) Anna Pechanec Hall, room 112

Course Description

Explore acrylics with a focus on color, composition and pattern. Demonstrations will show color mixing, shading and texture. Work on projects of your choice or suggested demo projects.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- **Color-** Students will learn how to accurately identify colors from life and photographs and how to properly mix those colors on a palette. Students will also implement creative use of color through exaggeration, saturation, and high contrast.
- **Technique-** Students will learn how to use proper brushes, amount of paint, and amount of water to achieve desired effects. Students are also able to use other tools to experiment and achieve various visual qualities.
- **Creativity and Imagination** - Students will learn to build and strengthen their creative vision. Students will use the basic knowledge of techniques and artistic vocabulary as a foundation for their own creative expression.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Intro.

- Explanation of Materials
- Color Mixing
- Color Wheel

Week 2: Blending Techniques

- Practice Blending Color into Another
- Practice Blending Dark to Light

Week 3: How to Get Fine Lines.

- Create Detail Over the Top of the Blending Exercises

Week 4: Layers and Blocking In

- Practice Exercises

Week 5: Start Project

- Draw
- Block In

Week 6: Continue Project

- Layer and refine

Week 7: Start 2nd project using a toned canvas

- Tone canvas, block in

Week 8: Continue Project

- Layer and refine

Supply List

All supplies are recommendations. It's ok if sizes, colors, or anything else is a little different. Just remember you get what you pay for.

- Acrylic Paint- Cheap paint is ok for this class.
- Recommended Colors- Titanium White, Payne's Gray or Mars Black, Red Light, Red Deep, Ultramarine Blue, Cerulean Blue, Cadmium Yellow, Azo Yellow, Purple.
- Recommended Size- 2 oz tubes
- Bristle Brushes- A few sizes of round, flat, and filbert brushes
- Watercolor Brushes- a few sizes of round, flat, and filbert brushes. Also a rigger brush and medium sized fan brush
- Palette for Acrylic Paint. Paper plates are fine too
- Acrylic Boards or Canvases- (Recommended sizes- 9x12, 16x20, 18x24)
- Mixed Media or Watercolor Paper- 140lb, 9x12
- Masking Tape
- #2 Pencil
- Paper Towels (Recommended)

Resources

Recommended references for further study:

- Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain by Betty Edwards

Class Evaluation

- Class evaluations are sent by email.
- If you don't see it right away, check your **junk/spam folder**.
- Evaluations are **anonymous** and come directly from Clark College.
- If you don't receive one, contact:
 - Email: continuingeducation@clark.edu
 - Phone: 360-992-2939

Incident Weather

- If the college closes due to weather, updates will appear at www.clark.edu
- Community Education may also cancel classes independently if travel is unsafe.
- If canceled, you will be notified by both phone and email.
- Please check that your contact information is correct on the class roster.

More Classes

Looking for more Community Education courses? Visit: www.clark.edu/cce/