“I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown. For going out, I found, was really going in.” John Muir

“Must I then lose the world forever, that I had so loved? Was it all, the whole bright and various planet, where I had been so ardent about finding myself alive, only a passion peculiar to children, that I would outgrow even against my will?”
Annie Dillard, An American Childhood

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth A. Ford
Office Hours TH: 3:30-4:30, or by appointment
Contact info: Campus mail bford@westminster.edu
For appointments make 24 hrs. in advance by email-I’ll confirm

Texts:
Online readings make up our course texts.

Course Description:
Although our country has many famous natural wonders, you don’t have to travel to the Grand Canyon to see amazing nature. This semester, we’ll work at looking at what’s around us and reacting to what we see with images and words. This class teaches watercolor skills; we will also use ink and pastels. Just as you don’t have to travel to observe nature, you don’t have to be an expert to produce pleasing natural images. Wonders can happen when your mind, eye, arm, hand, brush, paint, water, and paper are aligned. This basic course will help students of all skill levels strive for those moments, working with composition, color, and design as constants, We’ll examine old and new art/nature conjunctions, learn and practice watercolor techniques, and explore the possibilities of mining everyday surroundings for inspiration.

Course Outcomes:
By the end of this course a student should
a. Be able to “read’ and critique watercolors by other artists with more understanding and more sophisticated language.
b. Know and be demonstrate core watercolor techniques.
c. Demonstrate improved skills in completed projects.
d. Have an increased awareness of snatural urroundings.

Assignments/Projects:
Class time will be used for learning and practicing watercolor techniques, looking at watercolor paintings, working on ideas, and completing exercises. Work we do in class leads up to four graded projects. These class assignments include exercises, sketches, journal entries, etc. Class time will be devoted to preliminary work for, and some work on, the 4 required projects. You will need to use out-of-class time on each of the projects.

Topics and Techniques:
Reacting to natural surroundings
The importance of color and value.
Building strong compositions.
Washes, glazes, textures, line: basic watercolor techniques.

Studio Etiquette
Studios and common supplies are for course work only. Students are not permitted to use the facilities or supplies for extra-curricular organizations. Students are expected to maintain their work and storage areas. Common areas are to be kept clean. Shared class materials must be returned to their storage locations. Abuse of the space or materials will result in your course grade being lowered a full grade.

Critiques, Participation
Critique means discussion of artwork using specialized language. You’ll critique your own works and the works of other students. Your participation in this analysis, both verbal and written, is built into your grade in the required projects.

Attendance
Students are expected to attend all classes. You are allowed two “missed” days; this means you may have two excused absences. After this, your grade will be lowered 2 pts. per absence, unless you can submit verifiable proof of illness or emergency circumstances. Sporting events are excused if your coach notifies faculty. Practices are not excused. Do not email me to ask about missed work; email me to make an appointment to discuss making it up in person.

Readiness
On the first day of class, you must appear with materials, ready to work.

Grading
There are no bonus points or extra credit work in this class. Your grade is your grade.
4 Projects. Each 25% of grade
Each project includes varying preliminary work including: studies, sketches, ideas, written critiques. Some of these are journal entries leading up to projects. You will receive a project sheet detailing the preliminary work required to consider each project complete.

GRADE RANGE
A 100-93%, A- 92-90%, B+ 89-87%, B 86-83%, B- 82-80 %, C+ 79-77%, C 76-73%, C-72-70%, D+ 69-67%, D 66-63%, D- 62-60%, F 59%

A to A- Clear and complete understanding of the concepts introduced through the assignment. Exceptionally creative thinking and production with unique applications of concepts in solving problems. Sensitive use of materials and tools. Excellent craftsmanship. Extensive participation in class discussions. Excellent work habits.
B+ to B- Good understanding of specific concepts introduced through the assignment. Creative application of these concepts in solving problems. Good use or materials, (good craftsmanship). Shows some improvement, but most areas could all be improved with more effort or paying closer attention to instructions. Strong participation in class discussions and critiques. Good work habits.
C+ to C- Average understanding of the concepts. Acceptable application of these concepts in solving problems. Some understanding of materials and tools. Repeating design or technical errors that have been pointed out in general or individually. Frequent or repeated use of clichés after they have been pointed. Little personal/aesthetic growth. Average craftsmanship with obvious flaws. Content with “good enough”. Limited participation in class discussions and critiques. Quality of contribution is low and or inappropriate.
D+ to D- Incomplete work, incorrect methods per assignment, or little understanding (or lack of interest in learning or improving), concepts in problems. Unimaginative and poor application of these concepts in solving problems. Standard and sloppy use of materials and tools. Little or no class participation. Continual use of clichés in work and discussions. No personal or aesthetic growth.

Assessment:
Each project handout lists the requirements of that assignment. After you complete each project, I will return a grade sheet with comments on each of those requirements.

Your grade will be lowered if:
1. You turn in work late. Expect one full letter grade drop for each day the project is late. (No grade reduction only if you have a verifiable excuse).
2. You copy someone’s ideas or work. This is PLAGIARISM. As it does in all disciplines, plagiarism results in a failing grade for the project.
3. You ask someone else to do your work. Any work not completed by your hand, alone, results in a failing project grade and a report to the Dean of Students.
4. You try to turn in work done for other courses. Work done for other courses will not be accepted.
Accessibility
Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities, who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers, should contact the Director of Disability Resources, located in 209 Thompson-Clark. phone: 724-946-7192

*Students are responsible for maintaining their supplies. If you run low, expect to purchase replacements at local Art supply stores. Westminster College is not responsible for lost or damaged items.*

This course meets Intellectual Perspective/VP requirement

**Daily Class activities are subject to change**

**AUGUST**
T 28-Review syllabus. Start on first pattern based still life painting/watercolor techniques-part of Project 1. Assignment for TH: Look up artist given to your group and be prepared to briefly describe artist’s work to class.

**TH 30**
How do some contemporary artists interact with nature? Finish first small painting. **Project 1**
Start more formal practice paint-along—start mixing color.

**SEPTEMBER**
T4  Work on paint-along. Mixing color.
TH 6 **Nature Morte/Mini Powerpoint.** Finish paint-along/practice rounded/ 3 dimensional objects in journal

T 11 Keep working on journal sketches. You bring two options for Project, plus a small journal sketch of each.
TH 13 To-size sketch of your project. Work on project 1

T 18 work on Project 1
TH 20 work on Project 1

T25 **PROJECT 1 due at end of class/collect journals**
T27 **Critique** of Project 1. Onward-The shape of nature. Starting landscape.

**OCTOBER**
T 2 **Start Project 2.** Mini Powerpoint.
TH 4  Ink sketch landscapes/rice paper

T 9 2 Rice paper/ Landscape options-bring small sketches. Remember your choice has to be from campus and immediate area. Start sketch-to-size for your choice-wash in color.
TH 11 Work on 2

T 16 Work on 2
TH18 work on 2

T23 Project 2 due end of class/collect journals.
TH25 Critique of 2—you critique your own work/smiling selfie, if time.

OCTOBER 27-30 MIDBREAK

NOVEMBER
T 1 Unplugged—the figure in context
TH 3-Finish unplugged. Measure/draw yourself-ink sketch of figure from unplugged/smiling selfie

T 6 Finish smiling selfie
TH 8 Bring idea/reference for Project 3 / do to-size sketch

T 13 Work on 3
TH 15 Work on 3

T 20 Work on / Hand in Project 3/Collect journal
NOVEMBER 21-25 THANKSGIVING BREAK

T26 Critique Project 3/ interview for written critique.
TH 28 work on 4

DECEMBER
T 4 Work on 4
TH 6 Work on 4

CLASSES END
FINALS DEC 10-13