

# **AP STUDIO ART: 2D Design, Photography Concentration**

## **COURSE OVERVIEW FROM MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL COURSE BOOK**

AP Photo is a year-long course and is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art-making and promotes the sustained investigation of portfolio development. The core of the course consists of intensive, guided exploration of media, demonstrations, reference gathering, inspirational lectures and presentations, weekly group or individual critiques, reflections, and frequent sketch booking. The work from fall semester is structured and varied, and will make up the majority of the Breadth of the AP exam, and the bulk of the college portfolio if applicable. The fall semester is comprised of teacher-initiated assignments. Students will have time to experiment with media and concepts. The spring semester will be devoted to developing a body of work for the Concentration section of the AP exam, and for the solo exhibit at the district wide Arts Extravaganza. Students are expected to work more independently in the spring: mastering their media and engaging deeply with the themes and content of the concentration. In building the portfolio, students experience a variety of concepts, techniques and approaches designed to help them demonstrate their abilities as well as their versatility with techniques, problem solving, and conceptualization.

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**AP Studio Art: 2D Design, Photography Concentration**  
**Montgomery High School – Ms. Palecek**

### **Course Description**

The AP Studio Art Portfolio course is a year-long course that is equivalent to a first year college art course and is designed for students who are seriously interested and invested in the practical experience of art and wish to develop mastery in the concept, composition and execution of 2D design. During class the student will learn a variety of concepts and approaches to 2D-Design, enabling them to demonstrate knowledge and versatility in technique, problem-solving and ideation as well as pursue an in-depth exploration of a specific idea to create a cohesive concentration. The AP Studio Art experience is centered on the sustained investigation and resulting creation of a portfolio that is successful in all three aspects of development: quality, concentration and breadth - as outlined by the College Board. In the creation of this portfolio, students will develop a body of work investigating various concepts, techniques and approaches, as well as a concentrated investigation into an underlying visual idea found to be of personal relevance to the individual as an artist.

### **Course Goals**

1. To encourage creative and systematic investigation of formal and conceptual issues.
2. To emphasize making art as an ongoing process that involves the student in informed and critical decision making, while helping students develop technical skills and familiarize them with the functions of the visual elements.
3. To encourage students to become independent thinkers who will contribute inventively and critically to their culture through the making of art.
4. To assist every AP Student in the completion and submission of the AP Studio Art: 2-D Design, Photography Concentration Portfolio consisting of 29 works of art in the main categories of Quality, Concentration and Breadth.

## **The AP Studio Art Portfolio**

### **Important Dates and Fees**

Dates to sign up for the AP Studio Art Test are TBD. Fee will apply.

Your AP Portfolio will be due by the end of April and will be submitted on the testing date in May which is TBD.

### **Portfolio Requirements and Information**

The AP Studio Art course consistently addresses the three major areas of concern in reference to the AP Portfolio – Quality, Breadth and Concentration. Students are striving to set a constant standard of quality in their work, while experiencing a range of concepts, techniques and media, as they work towards an intensive investigation of a visual idea or problem. AP Portfolios in Studio Art 2D Design - Photography require students to produce a minimum of 24 works of art centered on 2D design issues that range from traditional to experimental in nature.

#### **Section 1: *Quality section of Portfolio* (5 works of art)**

The Quality section of the portfolio requires students to produce and include five works that demonstrate your mastery of design and are excellent in the concept, composition and execution of two-dimensional design. These works of art will be printed, matted neutrally and archivally and submitted via mail on the AP Studio Art Portfolio testing date.

#### **Section 2: *Concentration section of Portfolio* (12 works of art)**

The Concentration section of the portfolio requires students to conduct a systematic investigation of a single idea/concept that is of personal relevance to the individual; developed through selected techniques, processes and resource exploration and culminating in a series of twelve works. Artwork is to be accompanied by a written reflection of the process and the evolution of the Concentration as a whole. The concentration section of the AP Portfolio as well as the written portion will be submitted electronically.

#### **Section 3: *Breadth section of Portfolio* (12 works of art)**

The Breadth section of the portfolio requires students to experiment and experience with an array of ideation, techniques and problem solving practices to demonstrate a range of ability and flexibility within their working style to produce at least twelve diverse works. Students are expected to demonstrate exploration, creative problem solving and higher level thinking modes throughout the development of their body of work. The Breadth section of the AP Portfolio will be submitted electronically.

Please continually refer to the College Board website as well as the AP Studio Art poster in the classroom. [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

### **AP Studio Art Portfolio Scoring**

Each section of the portfolio will be graded on a 6 point scale (see the scoring guide paper presented to you). Your scores from the three sections will be equated into a total portfolio score of 1-5.

You can view the AP Studio Art Scoring Guidelines both in the classroom and online on the College Board. [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

The score you receive on your AP Studio Art Portfolio may reward you with college credits or waiver of a college course requirement. Check with the institution you will be applying for or attending.

## **Plagiarism on class projects & the AP Studio Art Portfolio**

Students will understand and apply the concept of artistic integrity, as well as understanding what constitutes plagiarism (see definitions below). Students will understand and be required to move beyond duplication when producing work that utilizes photographs, published imagery and/or other artists' work in any form.

**Plagiarism will not be tolerated in my classroom.** If a student is found to be plagiarizing they are fully responsible for all repercussions taken by the College Board, their teacher and their school. Please see the Montgomery High School Student Handbook for information regarding discipline for plagiarism.

### Definitions

**Artistic Integrity:** The overarching ethical compass in regard to the making of art that empowers students to create, develop and communicate their own personal ideas and emotions through their designs, compositions and expressive works without infringing on another's rights or copying another's work.

**Plagiarism:** Creating work in any medium derived from non-original images, including images found on the internet. Referencing images for inspiration does not constitute plagiarism as long as students move beyond the duplication of such images and create works that demonstrate their own, unique personal imagery and point of view.

## **What you can expect during your year in AP Studio Art – Class Activities**

### Summer Assignments

Students will be expected to complete FIVE of the following ten assignment options. Summer Assignments are to be submitted the first Friday of the school year ready to display in powerpoint, saved on a flashdrive for a Community Critique.

### **Examples of Typical Summer Assignments**

**Narrative** - Develop a series exploring the documentation of one developed concept

**Symbolism** - Develop images exploring non-literal means of Visual Communication

**Scale** - Develop imagery focusing on Monumental Objects (Making small things look larger than life, visa versa)

**Perspective** - Develop images using perspective as a method of visual communication

**Alter Egos** - Develop imagery documenting the duplicity of human nature through Portraiture

**Unexplored/Forgotten Places** - Develop a series exploring a non-traditional location

**Abstraction** - Develop images exploring means of Visual Abstraction through various techniques

**Visual Elements** - Develop a series exploring the Elements of Art in existing visual situations (Line, Shape, Form, Color, Value, Texture, Space, Pattern)

**Visual Principles** - Develop a series exploring the Principles of Design in existing visual situations (Balance, Visual Movement, Emphasis, Unity, Rhythm, Harmony, Pattern, Variety, Proportion/Scale)

**Lighting** – Develop images that explore the use of traditional and non-traditional light sources and light modifiers as a means of visual communication and imagery

### **Sketchbook Assignments**

**Researching a Contemporary Artist**

**Comparing and Contrasting Artists**

**Conceptualizing for future projects** – Using Think Sheets

### Homework

In the same way as college course expectations are designed, students are expected to spend considerable amounts of personal time outside the class working to complete assignments. In the field of photography it is essential that students are consistently striving to experience as wide a range of daily experiences as possible and documenting them through the lens of the camera. It is expected that students keep cameras available at all times, documenting ideas and capturing visual information, experimenting with composition and technique. All class projects will be shot at home and worked on in class. It is expected that you are to keep your sketchbook with you at all times to draw and write ideas in on a regular basis as they come to mind.

### Sketchbooks

Students will be required to maintain sketchbooks as a form of visual journaling. Sketchbooks will be used for planning works of art and brainstorming exercises and are to contain a variety of materials including but not limited to: visual imagery (both found and created), organizational references to works in progress, text related to both personal and cultural connections, resources materials, resources related to contemporary art exhibits, lists of inspirational artists, and any other personal references necessary to the development of the student as an artist.

### Class-Time

Class time in the AP Studio Art course will be spent in intensive, guided exploration of media, demonstrations, reference gathering, inspirational lectures and presentations, weekly group or individual critiques, reflections, and frequent sketch booking as well as photographing, use of class materials, processing images, matting work and exhibitions. During class you can expect to be processing the work you created at home. You may work digitally or in the darkroom and are expected to be working diligently and using class time wisely.

### Portfolio Development

Quality, Concentration and Breadth sections of your portfolio will be maintained and expanded on a daily basis through class work, homework and your own personal experiences and artwork. Work is to be stored and protected in your personal portfolio (digitally and hard-copy) and is to be available at all times for critique purposes as well as display opportunities.

### Exhibitions/Competitions

Students are strongly encouraged to present their work in various venues throughout the year, to build the exhibition and critical dialogue skills necessary to continually grow and improve as artists.

#### Exhibitions:

Throughout the school year, students will be exhibiting their work in display areas within Montgomery High School. Students are awarded Solo Exhibitions at the district-wide "Arts Extravaganza" Show during the spring semester. In all aspects of exhibition, students will provide artist statements and act as curators responsible for assembling, presenting and hanging individual works.

#### Competitions:

Students are strongly encouraged to research and submit work to competitions throughout the year.

### Critiques

This course includes large and small group critiques as well as individual teacher critiques and personal reflections on a regular basis of works in progress as well as finished artwork.

#### Community (Group) Critiques:

Students will participate in ongoing Community Critiques providing students with both peer and teacher initiated feedback. It is understood that Community Critiques are considered a forum for respectful, constructive, proactive feedback. Works will be considered with respect to their concept, composition and execution of technique and materials. All students are expected to represent their opinions and questions, with the intentions of aiding in the artists' growth and development as individuals and as members of a working artistic community.

#### Individual Critiques & Personal Reflections:

Students will participate in individual critiques of their own work on a regular basis. Each student will fill out a personal reflection sheet at the conclusion of each project as well as a culminating activity after submitting the AP Studio Art Portfolio. Students are encouraged to be honest with themselves to aide in their personal growth as artists. Personal Reflection Sheets will be turned into your teacher and will be discussed in a private consultation.

### **Course Assignments**

The core of the course consists of intensive, guided exploration of media, demonstrations, reference gathering, inspirational lectures and presentations, weekly group or individual critiques, reflections, and frequent sketch booking. The work from fall semester is structured and varied, and will make up the majority of the Breadth of the AP exam, and the bulk of the college portfolio if applicable. The fall semester is comprised of teacher-initiated assignments. Students will have time to experiment with media and concepts. The spring semester will be devoted to developing a body of work for the Concentration section of the AP exam, and for the solo exhibit at the district wide Arts Extravaganza. Students are expected to work more independently in the spring: mastering their media and engaging deeply with the themes and content of the concentration.

### **Examples of Typical Assignments**

Architectural Photography & The concept of "home".

Street Photography & The concept of "time".

Intimate Portraiture in Photography & The concept of "representation".

Narratives & Concentration in Photography.

Metaphors in Photography.

Photographic Installations & Exhibitions in Photography.

Independent Explorations in Photography.

Formal Portfolios in Photography.

### **Course Evaluation & Rubric**

Student work is assessed based on the AP Studio Art Scoring Guidelines using extensive guidelines that assess technique, quality, concept and breadth. Students submitting work below the "Good" range of standards are encouraged to resubmit re-worked pieces for Community Critiques and adjusted credit.

Please see the course rubric located in the classroom as well as in your folder.

## **Class Materials & Supplies**

### Necessary Materials:

- A flashdrive with at least 32GB of storage space.
- A folder to hold course paperwork
- A sketchbook (will be created in class)
- A Camera

### Misc. Information about cameras and classroom equipment:

- If a student wishes to shoot 35mm film, a camera may be rented from the photography department. Film and darkroom materials will be provided unless student wishes to use specialty materials.
- If a student wishes to shoot digitally a camera is necessary for the course. A DSLR Camera is recommended. If necessary, a point and shoot digital camera may be rented from the photography department. Student must supply their own memory cards for photographing digitally.

Students have the ability to work with both analog and digital photography as well as a mix of both mediums throughout the course and are encouraged to do so. The photography studio is equipped with two scanners, a 35mm film scanner, a fully operational darkroom and a fully operational digital lab with the Adobe Creative Suite Software as well as Adobe Lightroom. Students are encouraged to fully explore their classroom resources while creating work during this course.

## **Class Resources**

### AP Studio Art Resources:

The AP Studio Art Poster in the classroom, The College Board Webpage [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
Feel free to speak with Mrs. Ritson, the AP Coordinator at MHS.

### Books to Review:

Georges, Gregory. Digital Photography: 100 Simplified Tips and Tricks. Wiley Publishing, 2005.  
Kent, Lynette. Adobe Photoshop CS3: 100 Simplified Tips and Tricks. Wiley Publishing, 2007.  
Peterson, Brian. Learning to See Creatively: Design, Color & Composition in Photography. Amphoto Books, 2003.  
Szarkowski, John. Looking at Photographs. 1973.  
Szarkowski, John; Friedlander, Lee; Evans, Walker; Klein, William; Strand, Paul. The Photographer's Eye. Museum of Modern Art, 2007.

### Blogs and Webpages to Bookmark and Follow:

[www.fstoppers.com](http://www.fstoppers.com), <http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com>, [www.strobist.blogspot.com](http://www.strobist.blogspot.com),  
[www.createLIVE.com](http://www.createLIVE.com), [www.picturecorrect.com](http://www.picturecorrect.com), [www.froknowsphoto.com](http://www.froknowsphoto.com),  
[www.diyphotography.net](http://www.diyphotography.net), [www.scottkelby.com](http://www.scottkelby.com), <http://blog.chasejarvis.com/blog>, [www.pixiq.com](http://www.pixiq.com),  
[www.popphoto.com](http://www.popphoto.com), [www.photojojo.com](http://www.photojojo.com), [www.gettotallyrad.com](http://www.gettotallyrad.com), [www.lightenupandshoot.com](http://www.lightenupandshoot.com),  
[www.lightstalking.com](http://www.lightstalking.com), [www.500px.com](http://www.500px.com), [www.lomography.com](http://www.lomography.com)

**General Rules & Expectations:**

1. Respect yourself.  
Be on time, be prepared and be positive!  
\*Remember that being late more than three times without a valid pass will result in a teacher detention & more than six will result in an office referral.
2. Respect your community.  
Participate, communicate and educate!  
\*Extreme behavioral disruptions will result in removal from our class and office referrals.
3. Respect your environment.  
Survey, maintain and succeed!

**Grading Policy:**

A student's grade is comprised of the following

1. Completion/Evaluation of projects 50%
2. Community Critiques 25% \*Includes Preparation & Participation in Critiques
3. Class Work & Homework 25% \*Includes all non-photographic work completed as well as points for deadlines.

**General Course Outline:**September

Make sketchbook, Summer Work Critique, Learning about & Understanding the AP Portfolio, Creating the Breadth section of your AP Portfolio with work from Photo III and the summer, Begin conceptualizing your concentration for the AP Portfolio. Finish your think sheets. Begin teacher assigned projects.

October – December

Continue working on teacher assigned projects. Your concentration must be decided on by no later than Thanksgiving break. You will be turning in a written draft of your concept by this deadline.

January – April

Work on the concentration section of your AP Portfolio.

Payment to take the AP Portfolio is due in January.

Sign up for your online portfolio in February and begin uploading work.

Art Extravaganza will be in April.

May

AP Portfolio Due.

May – June

Complete your last assignment of the school year.

Dear Student,

Please sign below acknowledging that you have read the AP Studio Art: 2D Design, Photography Syllabus and understand what is expected of you throughout this course.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent,

Please sign below acknowledging that you have read the AP Studio Art: 2D Design, Photography Syllabus and understand what is expected of your student throughout this course.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_