

Course Description/Expectations/General Syllabus

This is the 2nd-year course in Fine Arts and builds upon the previous foundation of fundamental two- and three-dimensional visual art knowledge, techniques, and media acquired in the Comprehensive Introduction to Art course.

The main objectives of this course are to review, further develop, and strengthen direct observational rendering skills using in-depth explorations and practice with various media and techniques as well as to develop and use compositional techniques with purposeful discretion.

Students will continue to explore the artistic process and will be expected to use the fundamental concepts and elements of art and design such as line, shape, color, value, form, and texture as well as the tools and principles of artistic composition such as balance, repetition, unity, emphasis, and dominance.

Essential questions will continue to explore “What is Art?” as well as “What makes a quality piece of work?” and “How can I best use a medium to interpret subject matter?”

The course will mainly utilize 2-dimensional media including charcoal, pencil, pastels, watercolor, acrylics and marker, but may also include collage, printmaking, and some 3-D materials.

Art History is an important component of this and future Fine Arts courses. Students are expected to look at, study, read about, and often discuss artists’ work, and relating historical periods as a background for projects and to help formulate ideas and processes for their own work. Assignments are often inspired by various periods, movements, and artists throughout history.

In addition

Most importantly, students will learn to develop their aesthetic sense of perception and critical thinking skills in addition to the physical act of creating their own unique works of art.

Units and lessons

Units and projects will include, but are not limited to:

Still life (in various traditional media)

Landscape, seascape

Portraiture – Self-Portraiture

Abstraction and stylization of subject matter and works from the imagination

Technique exploration, development & practice in various traditional media

Point of View and Perspective

Sketchbooks, Notebooks

All art students are required to purchase or construct a personal sketchbook. Students will also often be asked to keep notes on vocabulary, process directions, artists and other information.

These notes can be kept in the sketchbook or in a separate notebook.

Grading

Grading in the art classroom reflects many elements. Objective factors include full participation in class, successful solutions to the problems and criteria laid out for each assignment, completion of assignments in a timely manner, and skill development. Students should also realize that daily attendance and attentiveness, effort, cooperation, willingness to experiment, use of imagination, and goals of personal improvement are valued as much as the actual artwork produced. Final grades will reflect a combination of their hard work and enthusiasm along with the quality of the finished product. As part of the growth experience the teacher and student will discuss and evaluate the students’ work together during the process of its creation. Class critiques often take place either at the end or during the process of many assignments. Suggestions may be made for improvement and enhancement of the work (I always encourage students to strive for the best work they can possibly produce.). Students will be encouraged to work on self-evaluation and will be asked to participate as much as possible in group evaluations and critiques.

Project Grades

Every project assigned will include a “problem” to be solved or a specific number of criteria to be met. There is always room for creativity and individual expression and that is expected, but the criteria must always be met or expanded upon.

Whenever possible Rubrics will be used to define specific points assigned to specific criteria.

Completion of Work

Students must be on task in the art room and are expected to keep up with the daily work and assignments.

Students who need more time on work beyond the project deadlines must make time after school or at home to finish required work.

Homework

Occasionally homework may be assigned. This could mean sketchbook or other drawing assignments, gathering materials or supplies for in-class projects, research on artists, or the completion of in-class projects that are “behind” or late.

Exams, Quizzes, Reflective Writing, Art History Assignments

Midterm and Final Exams will be given in all Art classes. Exams are a requirement of WHS. They are graded and weighted in accordance with the WHS policy for exams and grading.

The content of the exams will include questions and reflections on vocabulary, processes, techniques, related art history and personal art making.

Throughout the terms **Reflective Writing** will be given to complete the artistic process.

The process of making Art encompasses many things including learning about materials, learning techniques & processes, acquiring skills, developing critical thinking and finding ways of creative self-expression. Students should be able to reflect upon, understand and describe the many factors of the art-making process.

Additionally, an occasional **quiz** may be given to help prepare for exams.

All assigned writing and quizzes may receive a grade in weight and percentage equal to project grades.

Final Grade for the Course

Students’ Daily Grades, Project Grades, Quizzes, Writing and Exam grades factor into the students’ Final Grade for the course.

Attendance

As in any high school course, attendance is crucial to completing all assignments. There are “introduction/demonstration” days where background information, related art history, and samples are introduced – as well as steps, rules, safety guides, and techniques are demonstrated.

Students will not be excused from assignments because of absence (other than for extenuating circumstances). **It is always the student’s responsibility to consult with the teacher to see what work they have missed during an absence and need to make up.** Work must then be made up in class if possible, or on the student’s own time –at home or when time permits between other assignments. The regular school policies apply in the art courses to attendance, suspension, and tardiness.

Final Note

Students must treat their art classes seriously - as they would any other course. The Arts are considered Core courses by the Massachusetts Department of Education and are weighted the same as other academic subjects. Visual Art is taught from a comprehensive curriculum that closely follows both the state and national standards for Art Education.

The ultimate goal of the WHS Art Dept. is to aid in the development of skillful, perceptive, knowledgeable, creative and critical thinkers and/or future artists for life in today’s world.