

Newcastle High School Art Syllabus

Instructor Contact Information:

I encourage open and frequent communication. Parents and guardians are welcome to address any questions, comments, or concerns to me at any time. I check my email frequently and, of course, the school can always be reached by phone.

Email: hplumlee@newcastle.k12.ok.us

Newcastle High School Phone: 405-387-4304

Students who require extra help with assignments are encouraged to speak to me during class time, or before or after school by appointment.

Class Procedures and Behavior

According to school policy, there will be no bullying or harassment within the classroom. Students are expected to behave respectfully to individuals and to the room as a whole. Property, both that belonging to the school and that belonging to other individuals, will be treated respectfully. School materials will not be used for anything other than school assignments.

Art classes are somewhat more compatible with chitchat and conversation than some other classes; Contingent upon student behavior, students may be allowed to converse quietly while working. If the conversation becomes disruptive to peers or the instructor, this privilege may be revoked, and students will be expected to work in silence.

Entering and exiting the room: Students are expected to take a seat immediately upon entering the room. The class operates in fairly close quarters, and aimless wandering will only congest it further. Similarly, students are expected to stay in their seats until the bell rings at the end of class. There will be no lining up at, or blocking, the door at any time.

Bell work: In the event that students arrive to class at the beginning of the passing period, they are expected to occupy themselves until class begins. Students may begin work on an ongoing project or, if no project is available, the sketchbook will take the place of written bell work. Doing a little bit of your weekly sketchbook assignment before each class is an excellent way to get it done for the following Monday. If students require more intensive bell work to keep the room orderly as class begins, written bell work will be provided and graded.

Violation of school or classroom policies will result in the loss of classroom privileges and/or detention. Both lunch and after school detention may be issued. In the event that after school detention cannot be completed due to transportation issues or other scheduling problems, a parent, coach, or other guardian must confirm the schedule conflict, or the detention will be completed as assigned at a later date.

Caps and Dress

Caps and hats that are otherwise acceptable according to school dress code are allowed within the classroom. However, with caps and all other garments, please be aware that art rooms can be messy. Try to be mindful of the materials you and your classmates are using. If you suspect that the day might involve messy projects, I would advise against wearing clothing that might be easily stained or otherwise damaged. I strongly recommend aprons for students who are concerned about their clothes.

Students may bring in an apron and store it in the room, but it must have the student's name written, stitched, or otherwise displayed somewhere easily visible.

Electronics

Smartphones and tablets can be powerful tools when creating art. Electronics with screens can be used to collect and view reference material, sketches, or other assignment-relevant images or text, and the appropriate use of electronic devices is allowed within the classroom. Electronics will not be used for games, social media, browsing the web, blogging, or any other nonrelevant pursuits. Students who engage in too many nonrelevant activities on their electronics may lose the privilege of using those electronics in class.

Headphones will be evaluated on a class by class basis. Classes that demonstrate attentive and respectful behavior may earn the right to utilize headphones during work time. In the event that this privilege is earned, the following policies apply: Music is acceptable with headphones during work time. However, it should not be disruptive; If I walk by you, I don't want to hear what you're listening to! Additionally, headphones must come off at the beginning of class, the end of class, and whenever the instructor is speaking. Disrespectful or disruptive use of headphones will result in the loss of the privilege.

Appropriate Use of Materials

Materials should be used appropriately and mindfully. Misusing materials, including willful waste, damaging class materials, or using any materials to damage anything else, may result in an immediate loss of access to those materials for the duration of the class. If the loss of the materials in question results in an unfinished project (for example, loss of access to oil pastels with a pastel piece half-completed) the project will be graded as-is. Supplies can be messy and accidents happen, especially in an art room, but using supplies respectfully is a must. There is a difference between dropping and breaking a pastel, and grinding a pastel to dust against the table.

Students are encouraged to be mindful of any spills, drops, or breaks that may happen while using supplies in the classroom. Especially in the case of materials that clean more easily immediately after a spill or smear, a quick and thoughtful response can make a big difference. In the event of an accident that might be better handled by the instructor, students are encouraged to request help immediately.

Assignments and Grades

A minimum of two grades will be taken per week. All students will complete a weekly "sketchbook" grade, in addition to at least one project grade. Grades will be issued according to rubrics designed to evaluate adherence to assignments.

All work should be completed to assignment specifications, including size, process, and material when applicable. Failure to complete assignments according to directions may result in a lower grade. Additionally, all projects should be school-appropriate. No obscene, hateful, or otherwise inappropriate projects will be accepted for grading. Students will be offered the opportunity to redo any projects with hateful content, which will then be graded as if they had been handed in at least one week late.

The majority of your grades for this class will reflect your performance on completed projects and exercises. Occasionally, you may be expected to complete small writing assignments or other projects that will be explained as they arise, but our primary goal will always be making art. Students in Art 1 and 2 will engage in a number of instructor-directed projects across a diverse range of media, designed to encourage a deeper understanding of the visual arts. Students in Art 3 and 4 will complete semester-long portfolios according to customized project proposals, with instructor approval and guidance. These portfolio projects will be explained in greater detail in a following assignment outline.

Late work: Work should be completed on time whenever possible. I understand that sometimes things come up, and sometimes your schedule is uncommonly busy. In the event of a late project, please speak with me about it. I'll allow one project per semester to be handed in up to a week late without penalty; Afterwards, every week past the due date will result in the deduction of one letter grade from your final score for that assignment.

Extra credit: Students will be offered opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester. These opportunities will be explained as they arise, but will consist of extra sketchbook assignments (described in greater detail under the sketchbook heading of the syllabus), small writing assignments, and/or optional participation in class discussions and critiques of student work.

Supplies

Supplies will be furnished and available to you in the classroom when possible. Occasionally, additional supplies may be required or suggested; Students may also see opportunities to incorporate additional outside supplies in their projects. Keeping and utilizing personal supplies according to individual preference is encouraged. In the case of mandatory supplies, I understand that it can sometimes be difficult to bring in supplies for a number of reasons. In the event that you cannot furnish a requested supply for a project (for example, a sketchbook), have a parent or guardian contact me via email or note, and we'll work out a solution.

In the event that you do bring in personal supplies, you are responsible for storing them when not in use. The room has limited storage in the form of cubbies, but they do not close or lock. I strongly suggest that students label all personal supplies with their first and last name. Students may not use the personal supplies of other students without permission.

All students will be required to have a sketchbook or acceptable substitute. More information can be found under the sketchbook heading below.

As far as general room supplies, I would be grateful if students would bring in boxes of tissues and hand sanitizer for general classroom use, to facilitate a cleaner and more comfortable environment.

Sketchbooks

All students will be expected to furnish and keep a sketchbook for weekly grades. A bound sketchbook of some kind is ideal; In a pinch, any unlined paper kept in a folder or binder in an organized fashion will do. No notebook paper, and no loose papers stacked or paper clipped together, please! You'll be working in this sketchbook for the duration of class so it should be relatively sturdy. The pages should be 5x7" or larger. I strongly recommend going larger if you can; you will not be expected to do more work if your pages are bigger, but it will give you the opportunity to draw larger if you'd like. If cost is a concern, Dollar Tree often has one dollar sketchbooks of an acceptable size.

Sketchbook grades will be taken every Monday. These assignments will be your opportunity to pursue whatever sort of drawing you'd like- As long as you have a fresh page that demonstrates some time and consideration at the time of grading, the subject, process, and materials are entirely up to you. I would suggest that you use these assignments as a way to experiment and explore the sort of drawing you're most interested in, whether that is cartoons, portraits, landscapes, abstracts, comics, or something else entirely. The work doesn't need to be polished or perfectly completed, but it should be a standalone piece of work. Unrefined sketches are fine; Smiley faces are not (unless you want to fill the page from edge to edge entirely with smiley faces- the idea is to take a little bit of time on it)

The sketchbook is an idea way to spend any extra class time you may have if you complete a project early, forget materials, run out of materials, etc. Furthermore, Thursdays will be "choice" days- if you need that class time to continue work on a project, you can use your class time for that purpose. If you would prefer to use Thursday classes to complete your sketchbook grade for the following Monday, that is also acceptable.

Spending more time drawing in your sketchbook is never a bad idea. Sketchbooks can be powerful tools for practice and exploration. Please don't feel restricted to drawing only on one page weekly, only in class, or drawing only what you intend to show for a grade.