



Winthrop High School

Syllabus: Comprehensive Introduction to Art

Ms. Moore

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Course Description and Expectations

This is the basic first-year course in Fine Arts and will introduce students to fundamental two- and three-dimensional visual art knowledge, techniques, and media, with related Art History and critique. Students will be introduced to, and will be expected to use, the fundamental concepts and elements of art and design such as line, shape, color, value, form, and texture. Students will also be introduced to the tools and principles of Artistic Composition such as balance, repetition, unity, emphasis, and dominance. Assignments will be inspired by various periods, movements, and artists throughout history. Various art media (materials) and techniques (processes) will be explored including pencil, charcoal, marker, oil and chalk pastel, tempera paint, and watercolor. Other methods in printmaking, graphic design, and sculpture will be explored if time and supplies permit. The emphasis of this course will be placed on observational drawing proficiency.

A SKETCHBOOK IS REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS. (Explanation to follow.)

Art History will be an important component of this and future Fine Arts courses. Students are expected to look at, study, read about, and discuss artists' lives, work, and relating historical periods as a background for projects and to help formulate ideas and processes for their own work. 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.

Grading

Grading in the art classroom reflects many elements. Objective factors include daily attendance, full participation in class, completion of assignments in a timely manner, and skill development. Students should also realize that effort, cooperation, willingness to experiment, use of imagination, and 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. 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.

Daily Grade. A daily grade will be kept for every student. This will consist of:

Participation/ Time on task	0 – 50%
Attitude, Cooperation, Willingness to experiment	0 – 20%
Care/Use of Materials & Clean-up	0 – 10%
Extraordinary Effort & Creativity	0 – 20%

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.

If no specific rubric is used, projects will be graded using the general percentage rubric below:

Quality of work (includes time and effort spent on projects in class) 0 – 40%

Completion of work in a timely manner 0 – 10%

How well the criteria is met or problem is solved 0 – 40%

Advanced or extraordinary accomplishments (beyond expectation) 0 – 10%

Total possible project grade 0 – 100%

Exams, Quizzes, Art History Assignments, Homework

At various times throughout the course, quizzes may be given on vocabulary terms, processes, and art history components. At the end of the first semester there will be a midterm exam and at the end of the second semester there will be a comprehensive final exam.

These tests can include any combination of questions, including essay questions. There are also reading assignments about artists and/or art history periods with accompanying quiz sheets. Research projects or papers may also be assigned. All quizzes and papers have a percentage of 0 – 100%, and carry the same weight as a project grade. Exams are graded in accordance with WHS exam policies.

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.

Final Grade for the Course

Averaging the students Daily Grade, every Project Grades, Quiz and Test Grades, and the Final Exam Grade compute a students’ Final Grade.

Attendance

Since attendance is crucial to completing all assignments, it is inherently factored into the grade of the projects. 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 and need to make up. Work must then be made up on the student’s own time –at home or when time permits between other assignments. The regular school policies on attendance, suspension, and tardiness will be followed when grading.

Final Note

Students will learn to treat their art classes as they would any other serious course. Art is a subject that is taken very seriously by the Art Department, WHS, and the Massachusetts Department of Education. It is taught from a very definite and comprehensive curriculum that closely follows the standards laid out in both the Massachusetts Art Curriculum and the National Art Education Association Visual Arts Standards. Our goal is to aid in the development of skillful, perceptive, knowledgeable, and creative thinkers and future artists.

Note to the reader: This syllabus is given to the student in English and in the student’s primary language when necessary.

