

Visual Art Syllabus

Instructor: Jeff Haltom

Course Description

This Visual Art course is considered an entry-level course. It is intended to offer the student an introduction to a variety of art techniques, styles, and media. In addition to art production, the student will be introduced to a wide range of art history, beginning with prehistoric art and ending with modern architecture and other artworks. The artwork we will be viewing will include works from classical Greek and Renaissance artists who often depicted the human form in its natural state. Some of the history will be incorporated into studio art and some of the studio art will be incorporated into a lesson or unit focusing on a historical concept. Again, this course is designed for the student wanting a diverse art experience at a beginning competency level.

Students enrolled in the Visual Art course will be expected to work diligently in class to complete all assignments. Unless you have an excused absence, late work will heavily penalized. Emphasis is placed on drawing from observation, the application of color and design principles as they relate to the visual arts and the entertainment media, understanding the fundamentals of three-dimensional design, and an introduction to the history of art and its role in the development of visual ideas, and application of the critique process in written (and possibly oral) form.

Throughout the school year, you will also be required to keep a sketchbook. This will be used to develop ideas and do initial studies for finished pieces. Do not limit your sketchbook to drawing. You can paint in them, paste papers and other things in them, use colored pencils and pastels, and take notes in them. Students are encouraged to draw on a daily basis. You will be required to fill at least 10 pages per 9 weeks (not including assigned tasks).

I will give bonus points to students who exhibit positive attitudes. Points may also be lost for poor attendance to class, breaking school rules, inappropriate behavior in class, and failing to clean up after yourself. Extra credit is just that – extra. If you fail to do the required work, then extra credit is not an option. The points earned can influence a nine weeks grade if there is a borderline status.

Please contact me via email (jeff.haltom@chestercountyschools.org) or in room E8 during my planning period if you need to communicate with me. My planning time is seventh period or you can find me before or after school. Please do not interrupt any of my other classes throughout the school day.

Sketchbook Assignments Visual Art

2022 – 2023 School Year

You are required to keep a sketchbook, which should become a visual and written class diary. You will be expected to make frequent entries (drawings, notes, etc.) and tape the class syllabus, handouts, etc. into it. It should become a work of art in itself. Design each page as you would any composition. Make pages relate to each other. It will be collected occasionally during the semester and will be graded each nine weeks. You may be given open sketchbook quizzes periodically.

What to include in your sketchbook:

- Notes on lectures with names of artists mentioned
- At least 10 “on your own” drawings each 6 weeks
- In class sketches for assignments
- “Visual Stimuli” (stamps, photos, labels, etc.)
- Vocabulary
- Syllabus
- Include written reactions or comments about a work of art or artist discussed. I want to know what you are thinking.

Sketchbook drawings are not expected to be finished works of art. They should be “visual notes”, drawing ideas, done casually and quickly, that might reveal a way of thinking, seeing, or handling materials that you may not initially be aware of. They might indicate tendencies in composition and handling that are very different from how you currently think and work.

Your sketchbook should reflect your skills as a designer. Think about the composition of each page as you would an illustration or advertisement.

Work on both sides of the page. Create a visual flow or rhythm by how you design the page. Establish visual connections on each page to draw the viewer along.

Avoid using the same compositional ideas (i.e. symmetry) over and over again.

Use the paragraphs and sentences of your writing as shapes in the composition of each page.

Think of your writing as line. It should be visually interesting. Vary its visual character (thin, thick, dark, light, rough, smooth, color, etc.) the way you would any line used to depict an object.