

Montclair High School

Course Syllabus

Department: VPA

Course: Drawing and Composition

Level: Academic/Honors*

Credits: 2.5

Course Description:

Drawing and Composition is a course designed to develop students' observational drawing skills and improve accuracy through a variety of studio projects including the still life, perspective drawing, portraiture, figure drawing, and landscapes. A wide range of drawing media will be used; students will explore visual expression through mark making, line quality, value and composition. Students will develop compositional understanding by applying the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to their work. In addition to technical drawing activities, students will learn and apply the visual vocabulary that will help them express constructive criticism of their work. A variety of artists will be studied as students discover how they are relevant to art history and to the individual students' works.

Standards:

NJCCCS 1.1 The Creative Process; 1.2 History of the Arts and Culture; 1.3 Performing;
1.4 Aesthetic Responses & Critique Methodologies

Anchor Text(s):

None

Supplementary Materials:

Artist and Art Movement videos, current art publications/artist prints and images, Internet resources

Units of Study:

- Elements of Art (Line, Shape, Form, Value, Color, Texture, Space)
- Principles of Design (Balance, Unity, Contrast, Emphasis, Pattern, Movement, Rhythm)
- Observational Drawing (Still Life)
- Perspective (One and Two Point)
- Compositional Organization
- Portraiture, Anatomy and Proportion
- Landscape Drawing

Proficiencies:

- By the end of this course, students will:
- Have gained technical skill in drawing and use it as a form of visual expression
- Accurately render observed objects
- Demonstrate accurate perspective of real life spaces
- Effectively use value and shading to imply dimension in their work
- Demonstrate correct proportion of figures and faces.
- Be able to express themselves in a variety of drawing media
- Have knowledge of the rules of composition in art and apply those rules to their own artwork.

- Refine their perceptual, intellectual, physical, and technical skills through art creation
- Have an understanding of art in a historic context and appreciation for artistic accomplishments throughout the ages
- Think, write and speak about artwork critically and fluently

Evaluation & Assessment:

Student learning incorporates a variety of methods, strategies, and skills. To accurately evaluate student achievement, various methods of alternative assessment will be employed in the evaluation and assessment of students, including:

- **Projects (40%)**– projects are assigned as both instructional tools and instruments for assessment. Projects are assessed on an individual basis and evaluated based on the following criteria: following directions, skill and development, creativity and originality, craftsmanship, and completion of project
- **Classwork (30%)** – an integral aspect of the learning process, allowing students to demonstrate their ongoing understanding of content and concepts taught. Classwork includes demonstration of a cooperative attitude and contribution to the learning process of the class, proper utilization of class time, attendance and punctuality, proper uses of materials and supplies, studio set-up and cleanup, and participation in class discussions and critiques.
- **Homework (10%)**– enables students to exercise and reinforce their knowledge and understanding of skills taught in class, as well as preparation and/or research for projects to be executed in class
- **Tests/Quizzes (20%)** – as assessment of cumulative knowledge and understanding of a unit of study/evaluation of short-term knowledge and understanding of homework assignments and class lessons

* Students may opt to contract up to an Honors Level. Specific requirements are reviewed at the beginning of the semester. A contract, which has been signed by both the student and their parent/guardian, is kept on file by the teacher for the duration of the course.