

# Art Foundations

## Syllabus & Expectations 2025-26

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**Course Description:** Art Foundations is a full year, 5 credit class.

This course will provide opportunities to explore a wide variety of methods, materials, and techniques commonly used in visual art making. Students will learn new ways to think about artwork and gain a greater appreciation for the visual world around us. Participating in class discussions will offer ways of understanding and sharing our thoughts and ideas. Students will learn: to think critically about artwork, find solutions for challenging visual problems, and to form a personal point of view in our class. Projects, class discussions, and critiques will provide ways of understanding responses to the visual world and ways artists have used a variety of media and materials.

***Each student has the ability to succeed in this class. Assignments are designed to help you gain skills necessary for personal growth regardless of current skill level and prior experience.***

Participate      Work Together to find the answers      Support the class and what we are trying to do

Students will gain a sense of art history and learn to use proper art vocabulary when speaking and sharing artwork with others. Subject areas that will be covered include drawing, painting, landscape, portraits, collage, sculpture, still life, printmaking and perspective. Class experiences will focus on the ways to explore the *elements of art and the principles of design*. Understanding and applying these elements and principles will have a strong influence on your personal response to the world around you.

Art Foundations is a prerequisite for any upper level art class. In order to continue with additional Art courses you will need a 70 average or better for the year.

**WRHS Core Values:** How can we work together to promote growth in the following areas through our studies in the visual arts?

**Critical Thinking/Problem Solving**

**Creativity / Innovation**

**Citizenship / Responsibility**

**Communication**

**Collaboration**

**Materials:** Most materials will be provided as we move from one unit to the next. A sketchbook is required each class for homework assignments, sketching, and class note taking. Two pencils and an eraser are needed everyday. There will be occasions when you are asked to bring in visual references or work digitally on your chromebooks. In addition to a pencil, sketchbook and chromebook...

**Suggested materials include:**

- graphite pencil (#2)
- eraser
- ruler
- colored pencils if you prefer to have your own.

**Class Experience:** There will be a variety of exercises, assignments, sketching activities, worksheets, self-assessments, and group work.

Our expectations include following all classroom and school policies. Supportive communication and interaction is always expected. Consider and reflect upon constructive criticism carefully.

If you have a preferred name or would like to specify your pronouns, please email me.

Your safety and well being is top priority and we will work together to provide a comfortable learning environment for all of you.

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**Power Standards: Goals for us to aim for this year...**

- ❑ **F.V.Cr.01** - Create artistic ideas that reflect characteristics of different artistic movements from different cultures.
  - ❑ **F.V.Cr.02** - Develop multiple plans for producing a piece of artwork prior to selecting one.
  - ❑ **F.V.Pr.06** - Describe how decisions about how an artwork is presented are connected to what the student wants to express, evoke, or communicate.
  - ❑ **F.V.Re.07** - Analyze the style of an artist, and how it manifests itself in a given artwork.
  - ❑ **F.V.Co.11** - Identify the connections between historical and cultural contexts and define stylistic elements of artistic movements.
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**Grading Considerations:**

**Projects:** There will be about 3 full-length projects per quarter in addition to worksheets, self-assessments, group exercises, class experiences, a mid-term and a final exam. Students are encouraged to use class time appropriately to finish assignments on time.

**Grading:** Each project will receive a grade based on personal work habits, skill development, motivation and willingness, support for classmates, class participation, clean up, and timely completion of projects by due date. Students are expected to participate and to use class time effectively to finish projects on time.

Assignments turned in late will lose credit. Those students who would like to take projects further or need to make up work due to an absence are certainly welcome to work on projects at home with a new due time equal to the amount of days missed. For example if you were out for 2 days... please by all means take 2 days + the weekend if needed to get caught up. Remember to label all works with student name and block / class name.

**Quality of Classwork & Homework:** Class work refers to individual art assignments, group activities, quizzes, written work, and other types of remote activities.

**Studio Habits:** A significant portion of your grade is based upon being prepared for class, consistent hard work and effort, conduct, and participation during class time. Getting in a routine helps the class move forward and be productive. In the end - we all win as we can have a more pleasurable class.

**Grading on in-class Art Assignments:** Rubric criteria will be reviewed for each specific unit or project. Assignments will be evaluated using this rubric, then assigned a numeric grade.

**Late Assignments:** Handing in assignments late will result in a lower grade.

**Absences:** Students are expected to make up time and work missed during absences from class. Students can email about classwork missed or refer to our google classroom page.

**Academic Integrity:** Please refer to the Student Handbook for Wachusett's academic integrity guidelines.



### Course Expectations:

- **Effort: You get what you put into it.** Put your utmost effort into your artwork. Avoid distractions. Become a critical thinker.
- **Class Participation:** Making appropriate comments in class discussions and completing class assignments (including any missed work). Included in class participation is following school and class rules.
  - **Be on time:** Points will be deducted for excessive tardiness.
  - **Speak appropriately:** Raise your hand, one speaker at a time, stay on topic and no disrespectful language. Speak in a low voice while working on artwork.
  - **No food or drinks permitted in class** - Other than snack time. Only bottled water is permitted. Please keep top on and on the floor to avoid spills. Please be aware of nut allergies.
  - **Clean up:** Leave the room in appropriate condition for the following class to get started on time. Clean any art materials, throw away any trash, clear all desks, and return work to student bins. If you use it, YOU are responsible for cleaning it! Work together with students at your table to keep a neat classroom. This is our room – working together is key. We will review clean up procedures and ways to safely manage our workspace under the current protocol guidelines.
  - **Label all artwork:** To ensure credit for an assignment, be sure to write your name and block on all of your work...always.
  - **Limit bathroom breaks:** Please use your bathroom privileges responsibly. The art room comes with a bit of freedom in a group studio setting. Leaving the room can get in the way of making artwork if requests are too frequent. Please avoid daily requests. All students need a signed green pass to leave the room.
  - **Be attentive and courteous:** When classmates are speaking or a lesson is being given it is important to participate, answer questions to the best of your ability, to offer personal opinions about artwork, to share visual responses, etc.

### Procedures:

- Students will use school issued Chromebooks often in class when appropriate and given permission to do so.
- PHONE FREE ZONE - SEE ATTACHED CELL PHONE POLICY
- We will however be able to use cell phones when appropriate under my direction - only to take photos of your artwork, send pictures to your drive on your chromebook, or upload images to your google classroom etc.



- Classroom procedures and school conduct policy - Please refer to the student handbook for school policy and procedures. We will work together to use imagery from online responsibility to inspire our own original artwork.

### **VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All students' academic work must reflect their own honest efforts. Cheating and plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to copying homework, papers, lab reports, quiz or test answers; acquiring or disseminating quizzes or tests before they are administered; or using information from the Internet or other outside sources without proper attribution.

Any student known to have cheated will be subjected to penalties, up to receiving "0" for the work. Possible penalties will be made known to each class by the teacher and will be included in the course syllabus.

Students who collaborate with others in cheating by allowing their papers to be copied or by other means will be subjected to penalties commensurate with their involvement, which may include the student receiving "0" for the work or suffering significant grade reduction.

In all cases, the principal or the class administrator along with the department head and teacher will be informed about both the incident and the penalty imposed, and the parent/guardian will be notified. The administration reserves the right to impose other penalties up to and including removal from the course, removal from honor societies, and loss of eligibility for scholarships with "honor" as criteria.

- Clean up expectations - specific needs for each unit.

#### **How to do well:**

- Come to class prepared and on time
- Supportive interaction and respect for others in the class
- Complete the necessary assignments
- Continue to develop visual and thinking skills
- Clean materials and work area each day at the end of class
- Give maximum effort
- Work for the entire class period
- Remain seated until you are dismissed

#### **Please avoid:**

- Line up near the door at the end of class
- Write on or deface the desks or artwork of others
- Talk continuously while working
- Leave without cleaning supplies and work area
- Waste paper and other art materials
- Use negative or disrespectful comments to describe your work or the work of someone else
- Remember: It is ok to be critical and talk about ways of making artwork stronger - try to be encouraging
- Say... "I'm done". Ask for suggestions. Work together!!! Thank You!

#### **Skill Development:**

- Strive for personal growth
- Keep pushing... try new creative ideas
- Think of possibilities
- What contributions can you make to the class?
- Challenge yourself
- Effort + good work habits + personal investment = Stronger class experience
- Allow me to offer help... learning new approaches and techniques requires some time working together as a group.