

AP Studio in Art: Drawing/3-D

Walt Whitman High School 2025-26

Mr.Rickmers drickmers@shufsd.org

Syllabus and Summer Assignments

Overview

This course is a college-level fine arts course. It is intended for advanced art students who are interested in developing strong observational drawing and painting skills or sculpture skills in the case of 3-D, while also expressing their unique artistic voice and human experience. This course requires students to create a portfolio with 2 parts. They are: Selected Works(5 pieces) and Sustained Investigation(15 pieces). Please review this year's exact requirements in the link below.

This course is a rigorous exploration of varied approaches to drawing or sculpture. Students will be expected to demonstrate strong fundamentals in drawing/sculpture but are also encouraged to consider the basic nature of materials, marks, and surfaces so that they can maximize the impact of their work. Formal principles and techniques will be emphasized such as: understanding the relationship between light and form, capturing gesture, and incorporating prior knowledge of perspective and color theory in observational drawings and paintings. 3D students will work with principles like positive and negative spaces, silhouette, texture and scale. Students are held to high expectations, not just for quality, but for quantity; working outside of class for every class period we have together. A commitment to hard work and time-management are crucial for completing all College-Board requirements for portfolio submission. Students will be expected to keep written reflections pertaining to assigned reading on the world of art, past and present as well as their thoughts on their own work and process. These reflections combined with museum visits and our collective experiences as a class will help inform students as they develop their own artistic values, style and philosophy. Regular group critiques as well as one-on-one critiques will occur throughout the year.

Supplies

Suggested purchases: (not required but useful for drawing and painting at home) • Art bin or small tackle box, designated bag or other preferred storage device for personal materials

- Quality colored pencils (prismacolor)
- Heavy Body Acrylic Paints (**If you paint**) in the following colors: **White(large), Cerulean, Cyan or Cobalt Blue, Pthalo Blue, Red, Yellow, Phthalo Green, Alizarin Crimson, Burnt Umber, Burnt Sienna**
- **Matte or Glossy Acrylic medium**
- 1 Large flat brush, 1 Medium Round brush with pointed tip, 2 detail brushes (1 square and 1 round)
- Charcoal pencils in black and white, vine charcoal, chamois cloth
- Pink pearl erasers and/or magic rub, Kneaded eraser
- Graphic markers such as Copic, Ohuhu or Prismacolor

Summer Requirements- Drawing followed by 3D

Carefully read through this document as well as the official College Board Course Description and Portfolio Requirements. Here is the web address:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-art-and-design-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

AP Drawing: Prepare an initial 'Selected Works' portfolio:

- **Present 5 of your best drawings and/or paintings (flat, 2-D work) to the class at the end of our first week of school.** This may include work that you have already created in previous art classes or outside of school. This section is your general portfolio. It does not need to be unified by any particular theme. Please include at least 2 'Life-Drawings' within your 5. A life-drawing is drawn from direct observation such as a still-life drawing of objects arranged in front of you or a person sitting in front of you. A drawing from a photo or your imagination is not a life-drawing. These portfolios will be presented to the class at the beginning of the year (First week, not the first day). You will bring in the physical artwork.
- **Prepare a Google Slideshow containing images of 5 examples of professional artwork that you admire as well as your most recent artwork (this is the same work mentioned above, with the option of adding more)**
- **Write a statement of intention(attach to slideshow): Why did you choose to take this course? What are your perceived artistic strengths and weaknesses? Give me an example of a type of artwork that you would enjoy making 15 variations of. You will not be bound to this idea but I would like you to propose a collection of 15 works as an exercise.**
- **Look online at examples of student portfolios and their scores/justifications. This will help you understand how to think about creating this 'body' of artwork. Here is one address but search the web and you can find many more:**
<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-drawing/portfolio/past-exam-questions>
- **This will be your first grade of the year.**

AP 3-D NEXT PAGE

AP 3D: Follow the directions for AP Drawing but replace the five 2-D artworks with 3-D artworks.

Carefully read through this document as well as the official College Board Course Description and Portfolio Requirements. Here is the web address:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-art-and-design-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

Prepare an initial 'Selected Works' portfolio of:

- **A Google Slideshow presentation containing images of 5 examples of your most recent 3-D artwork and 5 examples of professional 3-D artwork that you admire. This work does not have to be from direct life-observation as I asked of the drawing students. However, it certainly could be. Please feel free to add additional work beyond these 5 pieces to your slideshow. I would enjoy seeing your drawings and paintings as well.**
- **Write a statement of intention(attach to slideshow): Why did you choose to take this course? What are your perceived artistic strengths and weaknesses? Give me an example of a type of artwork that you would enjoy making 15 variations of. You will not be bound to this idea but I would like you to propose a collection of 15 works as an exercise.**
- **Look online at examples of student portfolios and their scores/justifications. This will help you understand how to think about creating this 'body' of artwork. Here is one address but search the web and you can find many more:**
<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-3d-art-and-design/sample-portfolios-by-year>
- **This will be your first grade of the year.**

***It is up to you how many original pieces you create this summer and how many existing pieces you include but be advised that, not only will you be graded on these 5 pieces, but the stronger they are as a group, the less time you will need to devote to your 'Selected Works' section during the year and the more time you will have to devote to your 'Sustained Investigation' section.**

Issues of Integrity and Plagiarism

Students will be instructed not to copy or incorporate the reproduced images of other artist's art works in their own work. The use of published photographs and duplication of other artist's work constitutes plagiarism. Students will be informed of their responsibility to preserve their artistic integrity by using source material in an ethical way. Occasionally, famous works of art and photographs may be used but only if the original is changed and presented in such a way that the new piece could not be confused with the original. Students may, however, use art historical images for the purpose of research and technical study.

Student Responsibilities

- Students are expected to put the time in, outside of class to complete assignments by their deadlines.
- Students must try to identify which aspects of an objective they are struggling with and ask for help with that specific problem before a deadline is reached.

- Concentration: Students are responsible for writing and submitting their topic of concentration(sustained investigation) in a manner consistent with College Board requirements in a timely fashion.
- Any student enrolled in **AP Studio Art: Drawing or 3D** must submit a completed portfolio in order to receive the benefit of a weighted grade point average as well as the AP designation on their transcript. Failure to complete this objective will remove those designations from your transcript and the course will count only as a standard weight art class.

Grading Rubric for AP

100%- Student artwork is truly exceptional in a way that is uncommon for high school. All work is highly finished, well considered and impactful. Impeccable effort and attention to class expectations for writing, productive work habits and time management. No place for deductions.

95-99- Student artwork demonstrates fluency with materials and techniques. All artwork is highly finished. The student is responsible and punctual and completes all work in a timely fashion. Some minor deductions for merit and/or participation.

90-95- Student artwork is generally strong but there have been some meaningful deductions that could relate to merit or participation (**see deductions**)

80-90- Student artwork demonstrates some strong skills but there is an important deficiency that is generating deductions in the areas of merit and/or participation. This could be missing or incomplete projects or cutting for example.

Below 80- Any grade below 80 in AP:Drawing is due to some basic non-compliance with class expectations. Work of low quality reflects a lack of effort and organization. Perhaps a student has not been completing their work on schedule and/or has been cutting classes.

Deductions

Artistic Merit deductions- some examples would be problems with proportions, understanding light and shadow, linear perspective, color, composition, etc. Students in this class typically have strong foundational skills and these deductions are minimal assuming the work is highly finished. However, work can usually be stronger so some merit-deduction is not unusual.

Participation deductions- some examples of participation deductions include poor use of class time, inconsistent effort, procrastination, incomplete or missing projects

Cutting and Lateness- I will deduct points from a student's quarter grade for cuts/ unexcused absences. Cuts and latenesses reflect poor participation and will generate deductions based on frequency.