

Kensington Woods High School

AP Studio Art

Art communicates ideas through a visual medium.

Course Overview:

AP 2D Website: apcentral.collegeboard.org/studio2D

AP Drawing Website: apcentral.collegeboard.org/studiodrawing

AP 3D Website: apcentral.collegeboard.com/studio3D

Welcome to AP Studio Art. Art provides us a new way of seeing and thinking about our surroundings. Making art provides us with a way to express our ideas and feelings in unique ways. Examining art and its history provides us a way to understand what happened in the world in the past and present. In this class, we will explore all of these aspects of art in ways that allow us to become more successful artists.

This course, being an AP course, will hold students up to standards and expectations equivalent to a first-year college art course. This course will focus on the ongoing process of making art in a way that develops the student's technical, conceptual and aesthetic skills as well as problem solving and critical thinking skills. Students will be expected to continually work towards mastery in their artwork, through their investigation into technical, conceptual and aesthetic development, in both their primary medium and other mediums.

In this course, you will work towards Michigan's Merit Curriculum standards and AP standards in the visual arts by developing ways to think critically about art and become more creative as well as learn about techniques, principles and concepts in art through two-dimensional methods. This course also meets the Michigan Merit Curriculum's art credit graduation requirement.

In this course, you will continually investigate your craft and ideas; creatively and analytically delve into the challenges that art creates for us as artists (conceptual, aesthetic and technical issues). In this course you will develop a 2-D design or drawing portfolio for submission for the AP Studio Art Portfolio Review. If you score a 3 or above (on a scale of 1-5) you may be able to earn college credit. The portfolio you develop in this class will focus on 3 key areas: Quality, Concentration and Breadth.

"A 2-D Design Portfolio is intended to address two-dimensional (2-D) design issues. Design involves purposeful decision making about how to use the elements and principles of art in an integrative way... Effective design is possible whether one uses representational or abstract approaches to art. For this portfolio, students are asked to demonstrate mastery of 2-D design through any two-dimensional medium or process, including, but not limited to, graphic design, digital imaging, photography, collage, fabric design, weaving, illustration, painting, and printmaking. Video clips, DVDs, CDs, and three-dimensional works may not be submitted."

"The Drawing Portfolio is intended to address a very broad interpretation of drawing issues and media. Line quality, light and shade, rendering of form, composition, surface manipulation, the

illusion of depth and mark-making are drawing issues that can be addressed through a variety of means, which could include painting, printmaking, mixed media, etc. Abstract, observational, and invented works may demonstrate drawing competence. The range of marks used to make drawings, arrangement of those marks, and the materials used to make the marks are endless. Any work submitted in the Drawing Portfolio that incorporates digital or photographic processes must address drawing issues such as those listed previously. There is no preferred (or unacceptable) style or content.

Quality:

The Quality section of the portfolio will include 5 actual works (possibly selected from the Concentration and Breadth) sections that exhibit quality in design and the medium they are executed in. The work themselves will be sent to AP for review. "Quality refers to the mastery of design principles that should be apparent in the composition, concept, and execution of the works, whether they are simple or complex. There is no preferred (or unacceptable) style or content." (From the AP Studio Art: 2-D Design Course Description)

Concentration/Sustained Investigation:

The Concentration section of your portfolio will contain a submission of 12 images of your work (some may be details of works). "A concentration is a body of related works describing an in-depth exploration of a particular artistic concern. It should reflect a process of investigation of a specific visual idea." (From the AP Studio Art: 2-D Design Course Description) This concentration section can be created in a 2-D medium of your choice but all of the works should be related.

Your concentration will demonstrate a development of a visual and conceptual idea, from the beginning to the end of the creative process. It should reflect an in-depth investigation of your topic, viewing it from multiple perspectives. We will establish your theme in the late fall based on your interest and past works.

Breadth:

The Breadth section of your final portfolio will include 12 images of 12 different works. "The student's work in this section should demonstrate understanding of the principles of design...The work in this section should show evidence of conceptual, perceptual, expressive, and technical range." (From the AP Studio Art: 2-D Design Course Description)

In this section of your portfolio, you will explore a variety of concepts, themes and methods to demonstrate your technical, conceptual and aesthetic ideas and abilities. This course will provide you opportunities to express your conceptual and visual ideas through a variety of media and approaches to solving problems. You will continually be challenging yourself through answering questions in new ways using preexisting and new information and demonstrating those answers through your choices in your artworks.

Portfolio Preparation

To develop a high-quality portfolio, you need to select from many works. We will be choosing the best quality works you have created for your portfolio, so you will be creating more works than you will submit. You may include works in your final AP portfolio that you have done outside of this class.

For more information about the AP Studio Art requirements and to see examples of previous years' portfolios and how they were scored, visit the sites listed at the top of the syllabus.

Course Content

Throughout the course we will cover a variety of topics focused on having you work as, think like and become an artist through exploring a theme or question.

Because of the unique set up of the class, with multiple classes of advanced students meeting at the same time, the entire class will often be working on similar themes and working through the artistic project as a group, through your individual mediums. This is an exciting opportunity for you to receive unique input and view your work with fresh eyes, as well as providing the same to others. It also provides us great opportunities for collaboration and personal and artistic growth. You will also be assigned individual projects to be worked on at your own pace.

This format, with the focus on themes, allow us to work as a cohesive group, while allowing each individual medium to focus on the skills and knowledge needed to be developed for their particular course.

Because I run a classroom that contains both rigor and relevance and one that is continually engaged in pushing students and myself, the themes that we will cover will depend on student interest, teacher interest, current events, contemporary and historical art inspirations and other influences. When we begin each project, we will discuss the theme in relation to contemporary and historical artists. Each theme will also include new technical skills that we will review and explore for your particular medium (and somewhat you may be not as experienced with).

Course Materials:

There will be special space dedicated in my room for you to store your supplies that is only for AP use.

- **Portfolio** (minimum size of 18x24)
- **Sketchbook** (minimum size of 8x10) If you like working in a smaller sketchbook, you may also have a smaller sketchbook. However, any work that you would like to submit to your AP portfolio that you may complete in your sketchbook must be done on a minimum size of 8x10). You must always have open sketchbook space, so get one with enough pages that will last you the summer and beyond or just plan on buying new ones as you go on.
- **Flash Drive** (2 GB+ recommended for computer based mediums). You will also have access to your Google Drive. Back up your work on your Flash drive or Google Drive.
- **Paint Brushes and Palette** (Optional) If you plan on doing painting, it is not a bad idea to have your own set of brushes and a palette or two that you keep clean and in good condition for yourself. Make sure you get a brush bag as well. I recommend Taklon brushes, they work really well for a variety of media and last well.
- **Drawing Pencils** (Optional) It is not a bad idea to get yourself your own set of drawing pencils as well. Get a variety of soft/hardnesses (Ebony, 4B, 2B, H, 2H, 4H is a good variety). Consider getting charcoal pencils and regular pencils. Also consider colors if you like.
- **Digital SLR Camera:** If you have a Digital SLR, please feel free to use it in class! Otherwise, I will have some that everyone can share.

- **Memory Card:** (SDHC, 4GB+) If you plan on using the school's cameras a lot you may want to have your own memory card.
- **Other Supplies:** If you find yourself using something a lot this summer, consider getting your own supply!

Where to get materials: Michaels is a great local place for art supplies, make sure you always have a coupon with you (you can get coupons emailed to you by signing up online). If you are in the Detroit area one day, Utrecht in downtown Detroit by the DIA and Dick Blick in Royal Oak are both great art supply stores to go visit. For the tech stuff, keep your eye on sale ads, especially before school starts. Stuff can get really cheap!

Course Expectations:

- **Work hard.** Expect to have to work outside of class on work for this class, this includes over the summer. Most studio classes in college expect you to work outside of class for a minimum of the same amount of time you were in class. We will have set times for open studio during the summer and the school year (see summer assignments below) for you to work in the Art Studio with my assistance outside of the school day. You are also more than welcome to check out materials and use them at home.
- **Be here and on time.** You are expected to be in regular attendance and on time for this class. If you are in danger losing credit in this class due to attendance and/or tardies (even if you make up the absences), we will meet to discuss whether you are really ready for the AP experience.

Sketchbooks:

You will be asked to maintain a sketchbook for this class. You should be working in it throughout the summer and the school year. This sketchbook will be the place that you investigate concepts, generate ideas and develop your skills. You may work in this sketchbook however you would like and it can take any form that you would like. Drawing, painting, collage, writing and collecting are all acceptable methods to be working in your sketchbook. However, I request that you work in more than one method. Do not confine yourself to one method or medium in your sketchbook. Your sketchbook is a place for exploration and risk taking.

Your sketchbook will count as a significant portion of your grade. You are expected to take it seriously as an integral portion of your development as an artist.

Assessment:

Assessing your work for this course can be a complicated thing, do to the subjective nature of art. However, we will be using rubrics based off of the AP scoring guides to regularly assess your work. The rubrics will include assessment of your process, technical skill, aesthetic choices, conceptual choices and your growth as an artist. You will also be assessed on the evidence of thought, care and effort demonstrated in your work.

Your work will be assessed by me using these rubrics but will also regularly be assessed by you and your classmates. You should continually keep these rubrics in mind when you are creating your work;

they indicate different levels of quality and you should always be striving towards the highest level. The 1516 Rubric is attached, although some changes may be made for 2016-2017.

Critiquing:

As usual, critiquing will be a significant portion of my class. The purpose of a critique is to provide valuable feedback to the artist as to how they can further develop their work. It is also an opportunity to develop our critical thinking and analytical skills, which are continually necessary as artists.

We will have regular, scheduled whole class critiques. These critiques will be looking at in process and complete works. We will also have impromptu small group and one on one critiques throughout the marking period as needed. I will expect to meet with you one on one at least once a week to provide feedback to you and to keep track of where you are in your portfolio development.

In critiques you will be expected to present your work by talking about your process and technical, conceptual and aesthetic choices. You will also be expected to respond to your classmates work with respectful and constructive comments.

Copyright/Appropriation:

As a working artist, you are expected to develop your own ideas. We are often inspired by other artists, but you must demonstrate your own visual choices in your work. If you appropriate another artist's work, you must show "substantial and significant development" past the original work. The work should be obvious that it came from you, not another. We will discuss this concept further as the year develops.