**Portfolio Art**

Linda Blasdel, instructor  
Syllabus 2010-11  
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Course Description:  
   
              Portfolio art is offered to students by portfolio review.  A student who has been selected should be serious about art making as a part of her life and highly motivated to learn methods and techniques for creating imagery.  Portfolio class is followed by AP art where students are required to submit portfolios for review by the College Board.  
               The focus of the Portfolio class will be on a breadth of experiences where works will demonstrate a variety of concepts, media, techniques and approaches in two-dimensional design. Following the Portfolio class, students will be prepared to select a concentration area where they will investigate a strong underlying visual idea while enrolled in AP art.  Portfolio students are expected to create 12 high quality works of art in a variety of media for the "Breadth" section of the AP portfolio.   
              In addition to art production, students will be exposed to art history as well as contemporary art through videos, the internet, PowerPoint, books and magazines.  
   
Course objectives: Upon completion of Portfolio Art students will be able to:  
   
    •    Demonstrate visual skills in composition using the elements and principles of design.  
   
    •    Create the illusion of depth on a 2-D surface using overlap, placement, size, color, linear perspective and detail.  
   
    •    Display creative critical thinking skills in creating visual concepts based on perceptions, knowledge and feelings.  
   
    •    Visually represent imagery in terms of symbolism, realism, and abstraction.  
   
    •    Explore art making as a form of visual communication in a variety of media and methods displaying breadth of technical and conceptual skills.  
   
    •    Exhibit reflective thinking and integration of influences in art making.  
   
    •    Identify at least 5 historical periods or movements in visual art in terms of subject matter and style.  
   
    •    Write a critical analysis of 3 works of art including description, analysis, interpretation and judgement.  
   
    •    Compare and contrast verbal and visual expression in terms of communication, metaphor and ambiguity.  
   
Assignments:  
              All assignments will be given verbally or demonstrated and may be written.  Due dates will be given for each assignment or parts of each assignment.  Due dates will be posted in the room and on Mrs. Blasdel's website, www.ndsion.com/faculty/blasdel.   
.              Demonstrations in methods and techniques for using media will precede each assignment.  Creative concept development methods will include:  
• Cluster writing  
• Thumbnail sketches  
• Cut and torn paper assemblage of composition  
• Words or phrases as stimulus for imagery  
• Extrapolation from a section of a reference picture  
In addition to the above methods, students will be asked to use their sketchbooks for observational drawings, concepts, ideation, and documentation.  
   
Critiques  
              All students will participate in critiques after major assignments have been turned in.  Each student will be expected to discuss her work in terms of intent and elements and principles of design.  This is an opportunity for students to learn from one another and verbalize about process, discoveries, and growth as well as problem areas in process and product.  Critiques will be opportunities for the artist to hear others perceptions and responses to her artwork.  Students will be expected to respond to others images in terms of what works and what doesn't.  Grades will be given for participating in critiques.  If a student is absent, she will write short critiques regarding two pieces in addition to her own.  All students will write a short one paragraph "artist's statement" to be displayed with each art piece.  Students will be asked to respond to at least three art pieces by writing a critical analysis using  
1. Description  2. Analysis of elements and principles  3. Evaluation 4. Judgement.  
   
Grading:  Breadth assignments' rubrics will be provided and will be specific regarding meeting the requirements, craftspersonship, and aesthetics.  All breadth assignments have specific requirements yet give the student freedom to develop personal interests and ideas in the process of expressing and developing her own artistic voice.   
   
Late work: Late work will receive a 10% penalty for each day late.  If a student is absent the day an assignment is due, it will be due the day of her return. Please do not be late! You will drop one letter grade for each day your work is late.  Meeting due dates is essential in college work and any job involving art and design.  
   
Integrity and Plagiarism  
Students will be guided to create their own original art and will have an understanding of artistic integrity and what constitutes visual and conceptual plagiarism. Using photographs, published or not published as references will be permitted as long as the image has been altered in the service of the student's own voice and expression.  Copying someone's visual artwork is unethical and considered plagiarism just as copying someone's writing. Copyrighted materials may not be reproduced or copied as this violates copyright law and constitutes plagiarism.