

IB ART/Studio Art Syllabus

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Dear friends, artists, thinkers, lions, awesome humans,
Lucky You! Here you are, ready to embark on a fabulous arty journey to better understand humanity and our shared guardianship of our culture, planet and lives! It will be hard, exciting, creative, delicious, frustrating, motivating, annoying, successful and a failure ALL AT THE SAME TIME! But what thing worth pursuing is NOT all of these things? I thought so.

Artists and learners strive to be:

Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, Reflective. (from the IB Learner Profile)

Course Description

This studio-based course emphasizes both your creative process and your final artistic product in 2-dimensional or 3-dimensional art forms. As you develop your craft you will conduct thoughtful inquiry into your own thinking and art-making processes, record this learning in written and visual formats, and respond to the process by creating objects and art with your own unique vision. **All stages of the creative process must be thoroughly documented and evidence of in-depth research into chosen areas of interest and ideas for work must be shown and explained in detail.** You will be expected to be independently motivated as you research the history and practice of a chosen art form and the “big ideas”, theses, and themes across cultures, time periods and disciplines. You will learn how to connect your research to your own work, creating art that expresses personal meaning within a cultural, historical and discipline-based context. In addition to learning how to appreciate and evaluate your own work and that of others, you will be encouraged to stretch and explore your own work and share it with others in the class, the school and the general public. Sometimes, taking risks can result in utter and complete disasters, but artists, when on the right path, can look at their failures as opportunities to grow and reflect, while creatively searching for alternative ways to express ideas and communicate through art. There is no such thing as a “bad idea” in this class, and sometimes you will create “bad art” in order to get to the good stuff.

This class is essentially four different classes: Second Year IB (Testing) Art Students, Second Year Studio Art Students, First Year IB Art Students, First Year Studio Art Students. Regardless of how you identify, you will all be treated as equals and expected to create and grow leaps and bounds as a creative person (I am here to light a fire under your tush...)



This class can be repeated for credit:

First Semester/Year: You should, over the course of the year, try out many different media, techniques, processes and styles to see what interests you, what you enjoy and what you do well. Gradually, you will identify themes in your own work and determine an area of focus. You will learn how to use multiple sources to conduct independent research and to cite sources properly. Through teacher-driven assignments, you will gain practice in taking ideas and ways of knowing, from other disciplines, as inspiration for artistic expression. Through choice projects, you will make decisions about your own art, understanding your creative process and how your work “fits” into contemporary art.



Second Semester/Year: After experiencing your first year of Studio Art, you should be able to identify and concentrate your work in one or two media and focus on developing a strong, cohesive portfolio of art that explores a “big idea”, focus area or thesis. Your work will begin to show evidence of depth and breadth of research and investigation into this focus area as well as your profound skill development. Thematic and/or conceptual series are strongly recommended, and occur naturally in most cases. Quality portfolios should show breadth and depth of work and also meaningful investigation into a variety of contextual cultures from other times and places.

Assessments:

I am not interested in “grading” your art or your sketchbooks. I am, however, VERY interested in seeing your ideas come to life and show your progress *through* your art and your sketchbooks. I no longer give letter grades or points for your art or your sketchbooks. Instead, you will prove to me, through documentation in your sketchbook, your website and conversations that we have in class, the knowledge and understanding that you are gaining because of your work in and out of this class. I will “assess” your levels of achievement on a scale of 1 (just barely starting an idea or new skill, you have some work to do. Novice artist.) to 5 (wow! you have outdone yourself by making some interesting and unique connections between you, your ideas, your work and the world! Art Super Star!) In the beginning, most work will be considered a 1 or 2. By the end of the semester, I would expect to see some 3s. By the end of your first year, 3s and maybe an occasional 4. A few of you might even see a 5 here and there. A 5 will, in all likelihood, be a rare assessment. Don’t feel badly. You have your whole life for the noble and passionate pursuit of learning and creating art. I have developed a “rubric” to use as a guide so that you know how to push yourself to the next level. It might seem ambiguous at times, but we will have wonderful and lively conversations. Some days, I might even bring treats. At some point, these “levels” will translate into “points” (see below).



“The more you learn, the more you learn that you need to learn more.” – Jeannelle, 2009

Because you, your parents, our school and our society expects to see a letter grade on your transcript, your semester class grade will be determined based on your assignment and project completion, your engagement in the creative process, growth as an artist, your ability to take risks and reassess when things don’t work out, your growth as a thinker, your understanding of contemporary and historical artists and how their work influences and functions in our world, your skill growth and development in your chosen media/mediums, and your all-around passions and connections of art to your interests and opportunities as a human. It is all very individualized. One thing for sure, if you miss any projects, assignment or sketchbook deadlines, you will, in all likelihood, NOT deserve an A in Studio Art. Because this type of

grading is not black and white, **YOU MUST DOCUMENT EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO IN YOUR SKETCHBOOK!** Without this documentation, you can prove nothing, and thus, your grade will suffer. We will have many discussions. I may be tough on you, but I will always be fair.

Approximately, you can expect the following breakdown to determine that semester grade:

Projects & Portfolio Development	40%	(These percentages mimic the IB exam score breakdown)
Sketchbook Inquiry & Design	40%	
Academic Assignments & Class Participation	20%	

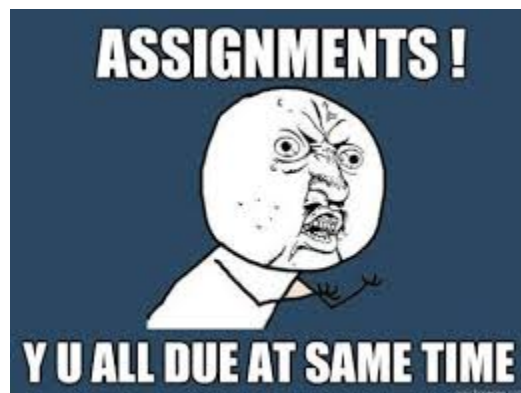
All point values that appear in the IC gradebook will be based on a 10 pt assessment: 10 (Nailed it, beyond what I expected), 9 (Excellent), 8 (Good), 7 (Acceptable), 6 (You have some work to do), 5 (Yikes, something went seriously wrong). Larger projects will get a multiplier in the gradebook (2-3x).

Requirements for success:

- **Respect** – for each other and our work, and for tools, materials, this classroom, and the time we share.
- **Use every minute of class time.** I cannot emphasize this enough. If you get behind, spend extra time in the studio. Meet the deadlines. You cannot cram at the last minute for art.
- **Pay attention.** Pull your head out of your phone and watch, listen, learn. It will make your life way easier.
- **If you need help, ask for it.** Keep on asking until you get it. There is only one of me. I get distr...oh look! A kitten!
- **Do the homework/sketchbook assignments.** It will make you awesome.
- **Persevere** – If you ask for guidance when needed and keep on trying, you WILL get better at thinking AND making.
- **Play Nice** – we all benefit. Be an active part of our learning community. This means sharing your thoughts and work, working together, not disrupting others, and being responsible for the cleanliness, safety, care and maintenance of our class environment, tools and equipment.
- **“Everyone needs deadlines”** – Walt Disney

ALL PROJECTS, ASSIGNMENTS & SKETCHBOOK DUE DATES ARE FINAL & NON-NEGOTIABLE!

If your work is not complete on a Due Date, you will receive a “0” on the project or assignment and will not be allowed to make up the project. If you have an excused absence on a Due Date, you need to either have a friend turn in your work on your behalf, or email me the assignment or a picture showing clearly that the assignment or project is complete. You will be expected to turn the project in and complete the Reflection Sheet by the next class day when you return to school. If you have any legitimate concerns, talk to me when they arise, not on the due date.



Time Management:

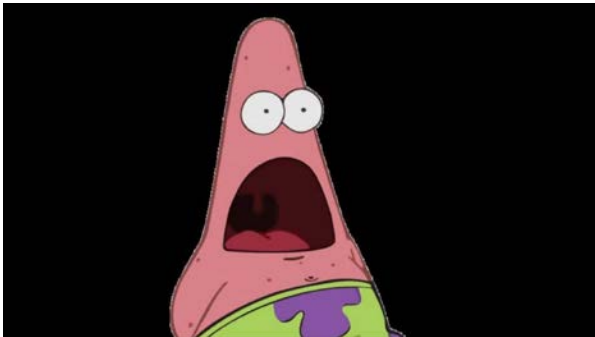
- Bathroom breaks: Let me know when you need to leave the room. This privilege will be lost if abused, and/or will negatively affect your grade. Failure to tell me where you are going, excessive time (more than 10 minutes) out of class or disappearing off my radar will count as an unexcused absence.
- You must be in my classroom working on your projects, assignments or sketchbook. No working in other classrooms or “the library” unless given specific permission for specific reasons. I cannot give you feedback, ask important questions or get to know you if you are not within my classroom walls.
- Absences: You are responsible for finding out what assignments, etc. you missed – check online, check with friends, check with me.
- This is a working art studio, it’s for learning art, mostly through the **ongoing process of making art**. There’s no such thing as “I’m all done”, “not enough time”, or study-hall for other classes’ homework. Cleaning up early and

sitting around, or standing by the door for the last five minutes of class, is not acceptable. Wasting class time is the surest way to limit your learning.

- If your friends visit you during class, they will be expected to work on art also – it's a studio after all. You will have to teach them something. Ask yourself if you REALLY have time for that. If they distract you from your work, I will ask them to leave and you will not be allowed to have visitors for the rest of the semester.
- Wasting time on your phone etc. is asking for some tough love. Researching on your phone can and should happen. Wasting time and legit research on your phone look very different from far away. Don't push it.

Cheating will be dealt with according to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) and/or the [Student Code of Conduct](#). This includes (but is not limited to):

1. Plagiarizing sketchbook/assignments. Cutting and pasting research directly from an online source. Even if you change the order of the words or embellish the adjectives. Also document all sources and make sure they are legit.
2. Turning in work that is not your own, taken from someone else or done by someone else for you. Helping is encouraged, but this can be accomplished without doing a significant amount of work on someone else's project.
3. Looking at Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube, Tumblr, or any other social media source and copying a project without reason or giving proper credit to the idea. It's ok to try a technique or something that you see, but trying to pass it off as your own original idea, or getting it to fit into your larger body of work, is not ok. No melted crayon art, please. Ever.
4. Faking a gallery or museum visit; copying responses from someone else's visit; going with someone else and choosing the same artwork to talk about and collaborating on responses, otherwise helping someone fake the assignment, or trying to make it seem like you turned it in on time when you did not.
5. Lying about why an assignment is not complete. **Remember: DUE DATES ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE**



Opt Out Policy:

Studying art involves the exploration of potentially controversial subject matter including, but not limited to, race, gender, politics, religion, sexuality and culture. Parents or students may request optional assignments if the planned curriculum offends their core beliefs. Students also have the option to excuse themselves from class discussions or presentations that offend their core beliefs. If the student chooses not to participate, the student must remain in an adjacent art classroom for the duration of the discussion or lesson. For more information, please refer to the LPS [District Policy Parent's Rights](#)

What you can expect from me:

- I will be in class on time, ready to instruct.
- I will treat you with respect, listen to your concerns, be fair, and help all I can.
- Sometimes, encouragement looks and feels like harassment. Trust me. Trust the process.
- I am by nature a good-humored person. My mom thinks I am "cool". Derp.
- I will provide you with tea. You should bring (or make) a special mug for this. I also have PBJ ingredients. Make a sandwich, clean up your mess, then make some art. Then clean up your art mess.
- I have no tolerance for wasting time, throwing things, unsafe or bullying behavior, stealing, vandalism, leaving the materials strewn around the room, not cleaning up, and disrespecting the Artist's Code of Honor. If this cramps your style, deal with it.

Required Fees & Materials:

- **A required \$20 class fee** covers everything (sketchbook, materials and field trips) and is due within the first three weeks of the semester. Please make checks payable to Littleton High School or pay online. If you have trouble paying the class fee, please see your counselor to apply for a grant to cover this fee.

Website & Google Classroom: Throughout the semester, I will be trying my hardest to remember to add interesting and helpful information to the IB Art/Studio Art website. Check it! <http://jjeannell8.wix.com/jjeannelleteacher>. Assignments, links and general arty things will be posted through Google Classroom.

Feeling overwhelmed with all of this info? That is natural and it is okay. You have chosen an educational path that most students could not dream of succeeding in. You should be proud! Look in the mirror and tell yourself, yes, this is going to be a lot of work, but the experience will be more rewarding than you can even know right now. You will graduate high school with a level of understanding of the world around you and more importantly yourself that will set you on an exciting path for your future. You should be excited!! AND in the mean time....

THIS IS ART CLASS!



CREATE STUFF!