

Visual Arts Syllabus: 2025-2026

Course: Visual Arts

Instructor: Ms. Trudeau (Miss T)

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Office Hours: Schedule an appointment

Course Description

Welcome to Art! This course is designed as a comprehensive exploration of art-making, art history, and creative problem-solving. Students will engage with the Elements of Art and Principles of Design as a foundation for creating meaningful and technically proficient artwork. Throughout the year, we will investigate a variety of media and techniques, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and digital art. Emphasis will be placed on developing studio habits, engaging in the creative process from ideation to final critique, and connecting personal expression to broader historical and cultural contexts. This studio is a space for all artists, from beginners to advanced, to challenge themselves, take creative risks, and develop their unique artistic voice.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **Create:** Apply the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to produce original artworks.
- **Analyze:** Investigate and analyze works of art from various cultures and historical periods.
- **Interpret:** Use art-specific vocabulary to critique their own work and the work of others.
- **Experiment:** Demonstrate proficiency in a variety of art-making techniques and materials.
- **Reflect:** Document and reflect on their personal creative process in a sketchbook and through artist statements.
- **Connect:** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context.

Course Outline

This course is structured around thematic units that build upon one another. The curriculum is subject to minor changes based on student interest and project pacing.

- **Unit 1: Foundations in Art** (Elements of Art & Principles of Design)
- **Unit 2: Art Genres & Critical Analysis** (Realism, Abstraction, Critique)
- **Unit 3: Pop Art & Consumer Culture** (Warhol, Lichtenstein, Repetition)
- **Unit 4: Street Art & Social Commentary** (Stencils, Wheatpaste, Public Art)
- **Unit 5: Printmaking** (Relief & Screen Printing)
- **Unit 6: Sculptural Forms** (Artist Books & Ceramics)
- **Unit 7: Final Independent Project** (Art Show Preparation)

Required Materials

- Sketchbook (one will be provided)
 - Pencils and erasers
 - A positive attitude and a willingness to try new things!
- All other materials (paints, paper, clay, specialty tools, etc.) will be provided for in-class use.

Grading Policy

Your grade reflects your growth as an artist, including your effort, participation, and craftsmanship.

- **Studio Projects & Major Works (50%):** This includes all major assignments from our units. Projects are graded using rubrics that assess creativity, technical skill, craftsmanship, and

completion.

- **Sketchbook & Process Work (20%):** Your sketchbook is your creative brain! It will be used for brainstorming, skill-building exercises, and reflections. Assessed periodically for completion and thoughtfulness.
- **Studio Habits & Participation (20%):** This grade is based on daily engagement, responsible use of materials, collaborative participation in critiques, and adherence to studio safety and expectations.
- **Quizzes, Critiques & Reflections (10%):** Includes safety quizzes, participation in formal critiques, and written artist statements or reflections.

Studio Environment: Expectations & Agreements

Our art room is a shared creative space. To ensure it remains a safe, respectful, and productive environment for everyone, we will operate under the following framework.

1. Studio Expectations (The 3 R's):

- **Respect:** Respect yourself, your peers, the instructor, the materials, and the artwork of others. This means offering only constructive feedback, valuing diverse perspectives, and handling all property with care.
- **Responsibility:** Be responsible for your work, your materials, and your space. This includes active listening, meeting deadlines, and always participating in studio cleanup.
- **Readiness:** Come to class prepared to work. This means arriving on time with your sketchbook and a willingness to engage in the day's activities with focus and an open mind.

2. Studio Behavior Contract:

All students and a parent/guardian will be required to sign a contract at the beginning of the year. This document formally outlines the most critical aspects of our studio, including:

- **Safety Procedures:** Acknowledgment of safety rules for using specific tools (e.g., carving tools, X-Acto knives, printing press) and handling materials.
- **Material Care:** Agreement to use all materials for their intended purpose and to participate in their proper storage and maintenance.
- **Academic Integrity:** A pledge to submit original work and to properly credit any sources of inspiration.

3. Collaborative Art Agreements:

As a class, we will work together during the first week to establish a set of Collaborative Art Agreements. This is our shared promise for how we will interact and support one another. The contract tells you the rules; our agreements will define our culture. We will discuss and decide on norms for topics such as:

- *How do we give and receive feedback during critiques?*
- *How do we share limited resources or space fairly?*
- *How can we encourage each other to take creative risks?*
- *What does it look like to respectfully disagree with an idea or an artwork?*

These co-created agreements will be posted in the classroom as a reminder of the positive and collaborative community we are building together.

Policies

- **Late Work:** It is crucial to use studio time wisely. In the case of an excused absence, students are responsible for arranging a time to make up missed work. Unexcused late work will be accepted for reduced credit.
- **Absences:** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check Google Classroom and confer with a

classmate or the instructor to see what you missed.

- **Academic Integrity:** All work submitted must be your own original creation. While we will study and draw inspiration from many artists, submitting another person's work as your own is plagiarism and will result in a zero for the assignment.

Please Sign the portion below.

I, (student name) _____, and I, (parent/guardian name) _____,
have read and understood the syllabus and behavior contract for Ms. Trudeau's Visual Arts class.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____