

Syllabus: Art and Design Foundations

Instructor: Mike Easton

School: Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Email: touchstudios@verizon.net

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Art and Design Foundations is a one semester visual arts course that serves as one alternate choice for non-visual arts students to satisfy their DCPS art requirement. It is a foundational study of art content integrating the areas of artistic perception, structure and function of design, American/world art historical and cultural context, art criticism, and connections to other disciplines as well as the artist's role in society. This course will help the student to understand the structural (elements) and (principles) that support artistic development. The student will learn to appreciate the skills and knowledge necessary to produce good art. This standards-based course will also provide the student with a understanding of historical and cultural perspectives with regard to art. The student will be required to complete a series of practical studio assignments in a variety of media in the development of a classroom portfolio as well as a series of written assignments that will allow the student to apply the principles of aesthetics and art criticism to various works viewed in and outside of the classroom. Through this course the student will be able to formulate a lifelong appreciation of the visual arts and will acquire the basis for further artistic (visual) literacy.

COURSE OUTLINE (GOALS):

By the end of the course of study, students will be able to:

- (a) Perceive and understand the components of visual language: the elements art and the principles of design
- (b) Apply artistic processes and skills in a variety of media to communicate meaning and intent in original works of art.
- (c) Investigate and understand history and cultural dimensions of the visual arts and to construct meaning in the diverse ways in which human experience is expressed across time and place.
- (d) Respond to, describe, analyze, and make judgments about works in the visual arts.
- (e) Connect and apply what is learned in the visual arts to other art forms, content areas, visual culture and communication, and careers.
- (f) Develop oral and written communication skills using specific art vocabulary.

CONTENT STANDARDS:

Strand 1: Artistic Perception: Perceive and understand the components of visual language Develop perceptual skills, analyze elements of art and principles of design.

HSP 1.1 – Distinguish between types and expressive qualities of line

HSP 1.2 – Compare and contrast the concept of visual field in relation to shape and form

HSP 1.5 – Describe and analyze the way the elements of art are used to convey an intended concept based on works of art found in the classroom, in art reproductions, student generated works, and gallery examples.

HSP 1.6 – Write a critique of art that demonstrates use of the elements and principles of design in establishing a point of view, a sense of space and mood.

HSP 1.7 – Analyze the principles of design as used in works of art.

HSP 1.8 – Analyze and describe how the composition of a work of art is affected by the use of a particular principle or principles of design (e.g. –balance, unity, contrast, emphasis, proportion, pattern, movement, rhythm, harmony, variety).

Strand 2: Production and Creative Expression: Apply artistic processes and skills in a variety of media to communicate meaning and intent in original works of art.

HSP 2.7 – Prepare a portfolio of original two-dimensional works of art that reflect refined craftsmanship and technical skills, shows knowledge of unique characteristics of particular media, materials and tools, employing the elements of art as well as the principles of design. These projects will explore the ideas of how balance, unity, contrast, emphasis, proportion, pattern, movement, rhythm, harmony and variety are combined with color, line, texture, shape, space, value, and form to create art.

Strand 3: Historical and Cultural Context: Investigate and understand history and cultural dimensions of the visual arts.

HSP 3.3 – Discuss the similarities and differences between several comparable works of art from the same cultural domain across time.

Strand 4: Aesthetics, Valuing and Perspectives of Art. Respond to, describe, analyze, and make judgments about works in the visual arts.

HSP 4.1 – Derive Meaning – Employ the conventions of art criticism in writing and speaking about works of art:

Description – Visual Analysis – Interpretation – Judgment

TEXTS:

The following text resources shall be used in this course:

(1) ARTTALK, Rosalind Ragans, Ph.D. Glencoe/McGraw-Hill Copyright 2001

(2) Exploring Visual Design – The Elements and Principles
Davis Publications, Inc. Copyright 2001

ASSIGNMENTS:

Completion of all class projects (on time)

Class work and class participation (weekly)

Project presentations (on time)

Classroom/Portfolio maintenance

- (The above represents 65% of the student's evaluated grade)

Tests and quizzes, midterm exam and final exam (on time)

Classroom critiques, oral presentations

- (The above represents 35% of the student's evaluated grade)

- Prompt and regular attendance (see student handbook regarding student

RESOURCES/SUPPLY LIST:

It is suggested that each student have his/her:

(a) pair of scissors

(b) two black sharpies

(c) one circle (compass)

(d) small protractor