IB Visual Art Syllabus

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**Introduction**

IB Visual Arts Higher Level is a two-year portfolio development course for juniors and seniors. Both years must be taken in order to fulfill the IB Group 6 diploma requirement.

The IB Visual Arts curriculum “encourages student to challenge their own creative and cultural expectations and boundaries. It is a thought-provoking course in which students develop analytical skills in problem-solving and divergent thinking, while working towards technical proficiency and confidence as art makers. In addition to exploring and comparing visual arts from different perspectives and different contexts, students are expected to engage in, experiment with and critically reflect upon a wide range of contemporary practices and media. The course is designed for students who want to go on to study visual arts in college as well as those who are seeking lifelong enrichment through visual arts.” (IB Visual Arts Guide for 2016, 6)

**IB Visual Arts Objectives**

***Artwork Objectives***

Students will demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of the arts and culture through research and studio work.
2. Abilities with a variety of media and techniques to produce observational works of quality.
3. Understanding of the importance of scale, point of view, color, media, and technique make in the  reading of a work of art.
4. An ability to select subject matter that is reflects their unique perspective and cultural experience.
5. Evidence of experimentation and growth through the studio process.
6. An ability to select and present work appropriately.
7. An ability to express their individual thoughts on their own work and the work of their peers through  critique and reflective writing.

***Process Portfolio & Comparative Study Objectives***

Students will demonstrate clearly in verbal and graphic terms:

1. An understanding of historical, cultural, and social context of techniques and media.
2. An exploration of a wide variety of art movements and trends: cultural, historical, and contemporary  that encourages informed, individual experimentation in new directions.
3. Connections between art, science, math, music, religion, society, and culture.
4. How personal research has led to an understanding of concepts and ideas, and how it has driven their  own personal expression.
5. Researching and analyzing the relationship between art and art and other subject areas. Additional information regarding the assessments & research methods will be provided.

**Recommended Pre-requisites**

Art 1, Drawing & Painting are recommended prior to taking IB Visual Arts. In addition, students taking this course must be organized, self-disciplined and possess a strong work ethic, along with considerable time management skills.

**Course Breakdown**

***Artwork (creating and exhibiting artwork)***

Class time will be comprised of demonstrations, art history lectures, focused problem-solving, individual critiques, and group discussions. The majority of artwork produced for the course will be completed outside of class. While some class time will be allotted for work on projects and assignments it must be understood that quality work will require students to invest time outside of class.

In year one, students will organize small group exhibitions. In year two, students will organize solo exhibitions. Group and solo exhibits will require students to have written artist’s statement, along with matting, labeling, and hanging their own work. Students will also create an advertisement for the show and host the opening reception for their final show that will be the culmination of their two year investment.

***Art Process (visual journal and process portfolio)***

Methodical documentation in student’s visual journals will highlight the student’s creative process through media experimentation, sketching, reflective writings, readings, and research. Students are strongly encouraged to reflect on their personal identity and interests as they explore the relationship between art and life.

***Art Inspirations (comparative study)***

Exposure to a variety of contemporary and historical artists and is essential in creating informed, meaningful art. Students will be asked to focus on a variety or artist and art styles throughout the course as well as compare and contrast works of art as it relates to their own work.

Critique (written and verbal) of contemporary, historical, and peer art will occur on a weekly basis.

It is encouraged that students independently travel to local portfolio days, galleries, and museums. Every visit and experience over the course of two years must be documented in their visual journals.

Students are not permitted to work directly from published photographs or other copyrighted work. Reference images NOT taken by the student may only be used for inspiration.

**Materials**

1 hardcover spiral-bound sketchbook, 1 pencil set of various grades: HB, 2H, 6B and others erasers and a hand-held sharpener,  1 portfolio case with handle, at least 22 x 30” (avoid anything color or zippers) and a memory stick for documenting artwork.

**Grading Policy**

Due dates will be posted. Artwork, art journal assignments, and comparative studies must be completed on time in order to facilitate productive dialogue and growth. 2 points per day will be taken off the grade earned for all assignments for lateness.

It is expected that students reflect carefully on the comments made during the critique and use that feedback to improve their work. Student may have 1 week to resubmit work originally handed in on time for a higher grade.

***Quarter Grade:***

*40% Artwork: Expect 4-5 projects per quarter and at least 1 exhibition per semester.*

*40% Art Process: Expect 5-10 visual journal pages due weekly.*

*20% Art Inspirations: Expect to have written comparisons of 2-3 artists per project.*

**Semester Grade:**

45% 1st quarter + 45% 2nd quarter+ 10 % semester exam = semester grade

(Same for second semester)

**Final Assessment for Senior Year**

This is a portfolio-based course. This means that students consistently make artwork and methodically document the creative process throughout the entire two years of the course, including the summer following Junior year. In March of the second year, students document their culminating art exhibitions, upload the Process Portfolio PDFs and submit their Comparative Studies. The full two years are graded holistically. The classroom teacher is responsible for grading the exhibition portion of the assessment.

***To receive an IB Visual Arts HL certificate, candidates will submit the following in March of their second year:***

40% Culminating Art Exhibition: 11 artworks with exhibition text & a 700 word curatorial statement

40% Process Portfolio: A 25 page PDF document that illustrates the student’s creative process

20% Comparative Study: A 15 page PDF that compares and analyzes three works of art.