

TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Larkspur, California

Course of Study

ART EXPLORATIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

A. GENERAL PURPOSE

Art Explorations is the first course in the sequential 4-year visual arts program offered at all Tamalpais District schools. Its purpose is to lay a foundation in the vocabulary and techniques of basic design, to enable art students to expand their experience in and develop their knowledge of two and three dimensional visual arts, to develop some understanding of the common heritage and diverse cultural traditions, and to learn skills in the use of materials.

B. TAM 21ST CENTURY GOALS AND DISTRICT OUTCOMES

Outcome 1: Communicate articulately, effectively, and persuasively when speaking and writing
Outcome 11: Interpret, experience, create, and/or perform artistic work

C. ARTICULATION WITH DEPARTMENT AND SCHOOL

Art Explorations is a prerequisite for all other visual arts courses, i.e. Ceramics, Drawing and Painting, Artist's Voice, Graphic Design, Photography, and Sculpture. It is also a prerequisite for the interdisciplinary course, Architectural Design 1.

D. COURSE GOALS

This course will introduce the concept that art serves numerous functions for individuals, for example, personal enjoyment and expression, heightened aesthetic sensibility, historical and political applications, college electives and majors, hobbies and career opportunities. Students will explore the role of the visual arts in culture and human history. Students will use critical thinking, creative problem solving, and informed decision making in a variety of projects. Students will enjoy the unique expression of their own creativity and spirit through personal successes, perseverance, collaboration with other students and the instructor, and responsible participation in a working studio are integral to this class.

This course is designed to assist students in achieving the Proficient level content standards in Visual Arts. The foundation developed in this one semester course will be refined and expanded in the next visual arts course.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

A. OUTCOMES (State Content Standard)

1. *(1.0 Artistic Perception):*

Students will complete a portfolio which exhibits a working knowledge (the developed perceptual skills, understanding of the vocabulary) of the elements of art (line, shape, color, form, texture) and the principles of design (balance, contrast, direction or movement, emphasis, harmony, repetition, rhythm, scale, proportion,) including nine projects from the following categories:

- 3 drawings in at least 2 media
- 2 color theory studies
- 2 design projects
- 1 Three dimensional piece

2. *(2.0 Creative Expression):*

Create one culminating piece of art which goes beyond a skills assignment, is student generated, and shows an assimilation of ideas and elements, communicating meaning and intent.

3. *(3.0 Historical and Cultural Context):*

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the diverse cultural traditions of art and an appreciation of our common heritage through the creation of projects such as a painting inspired by the study of a master artist, or the building of a mask.

4. *(4.0 Aesthetic Valuing):*

Students will use the verbal critique process to interpret their own and others' artistic work.

5. *(5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications)*

Students will learn about careers which are related to the visual arts and how art is an aspect of other subject areas; and how skills that they develop in management of time and materials in the art room contribute to lifelong skills. Students will exhibit respect for the studio as a community of workers through responsible clean up and cooperative working methods and responsible use and care of materials and tools.

B. MEANS OF ASSESSMENT

Each instructor will develop his/her own grading system and communicate it to students at the beginning of the course, preferably in writing.

The following factors will be included:

1. Prompt and regular class attendance
2. Demonstration of an understanding of the principles and elements of art
3. Respect for the studio environment
4. Successful completion of assignments

5. Completion of a portfolio of their work, consisting of the following:
 - 3 drawings in at least 2 media:
 1. Value/shading/form
 2. Line
 3. Other, to be determined by instructor
 - 2 Color studies
 1. Color theory study
 2. Color mixing with paint
 - 2 design projects
 1. Black and white
 2. Texture/pattern
 - 1 Three dimensional piece
 - 1 Culminating piece of art which goes beyond a skills assignment, is student generated, and shows an assimilation of ideas and elements

C. COURSE ASSESSMENT

This class will be assessed by students, administrators and staff of the Tamalpais High School District through observations and surveys.

III. METHODS AND MATERIALS

A. METHODS

The specific format for this course will vary in order to utilize the unique talents of teachers and the community to respond to the diverse range of students who elect the course. However, each class will provide the following:

1. Direct experiences involving a variety of media
2. Lecture, demonstrations and critiques by instructor
3. Visual resources such as video tapes, CD's, DVD's, slides, LCD and computer projected images, readings, original artwork
4. Opportunities for recognition through participation in class and school exhibition
5. The opportunity to learn about each of the sequential visual arts courses. Each school shall establish a system for doing this which may include 1)visiting studios for all disciplines, 2) having teachers come and describe their programs to the Art Ex classes, 3) a department PowerPoint or slide show illustrating the different options. **This should be done prior to spring course scheduling.**

B. MATERIALS

Students may use a variety of materials, such as pen & ink, pencils, pastels, papers, paints, clay and other sculptural materials, printmaking blocks and ink.

There is no textbook for this course. Teachers will draw upon a wide range of resource materials including books, websites, video materials, and authentic artwork.

C. TECHNOLOGY

This course may utilize all or some of the following: traditional slides viewed via a slide projector; images of original artwork viewed on a computer or an LCD projector; computers and the internet to access art links and arts related online resources; videos viewed via a television; DVD's viewed via a DVD player; and sound recordings via a tape, or CD player, digital photography

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION

This is a one-semester, 5 unit, entry level visual arts course open to all students, grades 9-12. It is a prerequisite for all other visual arts courses in the district. It is designed to provide the foundation skills and concepts represented in the Visual Arts Content Standards, Proficient level, which are further developed in the subsequent course(s) which focus on sculpture, drawing/painting, ceramics, photography, graphic design, or architectural design.

A. PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

B. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Successful completion of the course earns five units and fulfills one half of the District's 10 unit fine arts graduation requirement. Because this course is a prerequisite for all other visual arts courses, it is recommended that students take it as early as possible in order that they may take advantage of the range of advanced classes offered by the fine arts department.

C. UC AND CSU REQUIREMENTS

Art Explorations, coupled with a semester course in visual arts (Drawing and Painting 1, Ceramics 1, Photo 1, Sculpture 1, Graphic Arts 1) or the interdisciplinary Architectural Design 1 course, meets the UC "F" requirement and the CSU requirement for one year of visual arts.

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