

## **Exploratory Art**

### **Course Overview:**

Philosophy: *The creation of art is enhanced by an appreciation of the art that has come before.*

Students will be introduced to the principles of design through an exploration of significant historical art and art movements. The student will experiment with different media in creating art projects.

### **Course Description:**

Exploratory Art investigates art--historically and personally--in its many aspects. Each unit will begin with the introduction of a particular artist or group of artists. The class will be given a brief biography, and an historical overview of the importance of the artwork. The student will then be given assignments that will reflect concepts, considerations, limitations, and/or points of view of the art and artists that were introduced. One critical aspect of the assignments will be to use a variety of materials in order to gain an understanding of the different expressive qualities of those materials. The concept that art is driven by aesthetic considerations, expressive intentions and the “magic” that the creative use of materials can bring is one key element in the class.

The class will explore the earliest art through the art of the 21st Century: from the cave paintings in Spain and France to Post-Modern movements such as Minimalism and Pop-Art. In each section, art from different periods will be introduced to provide the understanding that artists have been faced with the same problems and have been applying similar principles to address those problems.

As the students become more comfortable with one another and as they become more familiar with the vocabulary of art, the concept of critique will be introduced. Initially, the historically significant pieces will be evaluated. Eventually the same critical principles will be applied to the student’s own work and to the work of classmates.

The initial assignments will be based on specific historical movements or periods or will be responses to a specific artist’s work. Each early assignment will use a specific medium. As the class progresses, one or two of the later assignments will be about personal expression. The student will be asked to draw or paint an idea or an object of personal importance. The student will be allowed to use the medium of their choice.

Throughout the course, observational drawing skills will be applied and criticized. However, the emphasis in all assignments will be experimentation. The development of facility will be important but secondary to the development of the confidence required to take risks.

The last week will include a summation of the continuing discussion of the value of art and its connection to society and the individual: art as it anticipates, reflects, and responds to trends in society; art as a mode of personal expression.

### **Course Goals and Objectives**

**1. Goal:** To cultivate a working knowledge and understanding of the principles of design— from the earliest art to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Objective:** Develop an historical visual arts vocabulary.

**Objective:** Describe the principles of design used in historically significant works of art, the student's own work and the work of classmates.

**Objective:** Present reasoned arguments about the artistic value of artworks and respond to arguments put forward by others in classroom critiques.

**Objective:** Respond to, analyze, and make judgments about works in the visual arts.

**2. Goal:** To solve visual arts problems by effectively using the elements and principles of design.

**Objective:** Apply the rules of one- and two-point perspective in creating a work of art.

**Objective:** Learn and apply the principles of texture, tonality, balance, dominance, abstraction, line, etc.

**3. Goal:** To refine the student's observational drawing skills.

**Objective:** Draw and/or paint from still life with increasing observational skills and facility.

**Objective:** Draw portraits with increasing observational skills and facility.

**Objective:** Paint landscapes with increasing observational skill and facility.

**4. Goal:** To explore and develop increasing skill in a variety of media.

**Objective:** Create artwork applying the principles of design.

**Objective:** Use pencil, charcoal, watercolor, India ink, gesso, artist's pastels, crayon, assemblage and gouache with increasing facility.

**Objective:** Learn to understand and make use of the inherent qualities of different media to maximum effect.

**Objective:** Gain an understanding of the effects and appropriateness of different media for different assignments.

**Course Materials:**

1. There will be no required textbooks for “Exploratory Art.”
2. Each student needs:
  - a. A sketchbook
  - b. Drawing pencils
  - c. Crayons
  - d. A set of watercolors
  - e. Watercolor brushes.
  - f. Soft pastels—**not** oil pastels.
  - g. A cigar box. (Suggestion: A cigar store may give one for free. Michael’s has boxes for sale, too.)
  - h. Kneaded eraser.
3. Additional materials will be provided by the SAEP.

**Grading:**

**Homework, Classwork and Test Policy**

Every student will be expected to take notes during lecture. Students can expect approximately 2 hours of homework per week.

There will be one quiz on lecture material worth 20% of the total grade.

The majority of assignments will be in-class assignments with some homework time allotted to complete them.

<b><u>Artwork Flow/Participation</u></b>	<b>70%</b>
(includes: Coursework, Participation, Following Directions	

<b><u>Homework</u></b>	<b>10%</b>
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<b><u>Quiz</u></b>	<b>20%</b>
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**Academic Integrity:**

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism: “1. the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work.”

(“Plagiarism.” Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1). Random House, Inc. 20 Feb. 2009.

<Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Plagiarism>>.)

Access to technology makes it easier to copy the work of others. The students will learn what constitutes plagiarism and how to steer clear of it. As a rule, if there are three words in a row that someone else can claim, cite it. Plagiarism is stealing and cheating and will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism is against the law.

The first time a student is caught plagiarizing, there will be a teacher/student conference, a phone call home, no credit given for the assignment, and notification given to the SAEP office.

Copying from a fellow classmate is also unacceptable on homework assignments and individual assessments. The consequences are the same as above.

### **Cheating**

Cheating is a reprehensible act subject to a **zero tolerance policy**. For those in doubt about what is considered cheating, here are a few examples:

1. Glancing at another's quiz or test.
2. Talking (in ANY language).
3. Using notes, opening a textbook and/or notebook.
4. Copying (or orally receiving answers) from a fellow classmate (or anyone else) is also unacceptable on homework assignments.

**ANY STUDENT SUSPECTED OF CHEATING IN ANY WAY WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC "ZERO" ON THAT QUIZ OR TEST. A SECOND TIME WILL RESULT IN BEING AUTOMATICALLY DROPPED FROM THE COURSE.**

### **Teacherease.com:**

Parents and students can access grades and attendance through a web-based grade program [teacherease.com](http://teacherease.com). By the end of the first week, parents will be emailed the password to access the program. If you do not receive your password via email, please contact the office staff at [saep@csun.edu](mailto:saep@csun.edu) and request the password to be re-sent. It is beneficial for you to refer often to the website to check your child's progress and attendance in class. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

### **Classroom Behavior:**

The student is expected to demonstrate mature, polite behavior and extend courtesy to everyone at all times:

1. Respect is to be shown for all CSUN property, including respect for all art materials.
2. No food or beverages will be permitted in the classroom. Snacks must be eaten outside between the designated breaks.
3. Warnings for behavior / discipline problems will be given once. Any further problems will result in a phone call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and possible dismissal from the program.

### **SAEP Electronics Policy:**

**Cell phones, music players and headphones are not permitted to be used during class hours.**

- a. Please put your cell phone on silent (NOT vibrate).
- b. No texting is allowed during class.

You will be given one verbal warning if the above is not followed. Should a second warning be necessary, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held by the teacher until after class. If a third time occurs, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held in the SAEP office, room ED1125, and **MUST BE PICKED UP BY A PARENT.**

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After reading through the syllabus, please sign and date and have your student return it to class. The signature constitutes your commitment to the class as we partner to make the next five weeks a life-long, educational experience for your student.

**Student/ Parent Agreement:**

Please bring this signed and dated **Exploratory Art** syllabus agreement to class tomorrow.

If you do not understand any portion of this syllabus, or if you have any questions regarding this class, please do not hesitate to email the teacher.

**We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.**

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_