

Visual Arts

WESTERN CIVILIZATION: HISTORY OF THE ARTS (Full-Year Course)

A required course that is taken in the sophomore year, Western Civilization: History of the Arts is an interdisciplinary program designed to help students arrive at an understanding of the elements of the visual arts and music in their historical context. Taught by an interdisciplinary team of teachers representing the visual arts, the performing arts, and history, the course surveys cultural developments in Western Europe and America from the High Middle Ages to the contemporary period.

At the heart of the program is the development of reading, writing, viewing, and listening skills which will enable students to analyze and interrelate the characteristics of the arts in their historical context. In addition to textbooks and audio-visual materials, the course draws on the resources of the Bay Area—such as concerts, galleries, and the like.

Open to: 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: none

ART HISTORY AP (Full-Year Course)

Since the beginnings of human consciousness, people have been making art. They have been painting on surfaces, making objects, and building spaces to inhabit. This material culture is the product of our needs, desires, and expressions. We can read the history of ideas and values through the study of art. But we can also experience art, whether from 20,000 years ago or from last year, as a present and persisting event. Through a survey of the history of Western art and art from the broader global tradition, we will study and question the role of aesthetics, societal values, and personal expression in the making of painting, sculpture, and architecture. This class is a broader and more in-depth study of work and periods familiar to students from Western Civilization.

Class work is based on discussion. Homework consists of reading of the primary textbook as well as supplementary readings, and papers that are either based on library research or “field” research of Bay Area arts institutions. This class also serves as preparation for the A.P. exam.

Open to: 11, 12
Prerequisite: Western Civilization: History of the Arts

DRAWING I (Single-Semester Course)

This is an introductory course in drawing and studio practice. Students learn to incorporate basic drawing principles and elements through hands-on work. The majority of the class time is spent actually drawing in a mellow, relaxed atmosphere. Students will use charcoal, graphite, and ink in a variety of exercises that are energetic and engaging. All of the projects are foundational, building skills and language that can be later used in all the other studio art courses. Students participate in class critiques as well as learn studio practice. In addition, sketchbook work is regularly reviewed. The sketchbook functions as a drawing journal. Slide presentations, videos, and museum/gallery fieldtrips are introduced to expand individual creativity and visual literacy.

Primary Methods of Learning: drawing practice, demonstration, slide lecture, and one-on-one guidance.

Homework: Sketchbook.

No Experience required, simply a willingness to engage in new ways of working and thinking.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: none

DRAWING II (Single-Semester Course)

This course enables students to challenge themselves further in drawing through an expanded vocabulary of skills and media. Students enrolled in this course are expected to have previously mastered basic drawing techniques and to have a firm grasp of the elements and principles of design. Assignments are more complex than in Drawing I and require students to challenge themselves with each project. Students will be introduced to problems dealing with the concepts of proportion and the figure as well as explorations in mark-making and more conceptual drawing. These works will be executed using a variety of traditional materials such as pen and ink, graphite, and charcoal as well as mixed and alternative media like Xerox transfer and silkscreen. In class critiques, working sketchbook, and a final drawing project are some of the required elements of the class.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: Drawing I or permission of the instructor; may be repeated for credit

PAINTING I: ACRYLIC (Single-Semester Course)

In this beginning studio course, students will be introduced to painting in acrylic through the study of the elements and principles of design, composition, color theory, and form. Students will begin with a foundation in basic painting skills; classroom exercises include working from photographs and from life, and with a variety of subjects such as the still-life, figure, landscape, and abstraction. Students will be encouraged to experiment and take risks, and they will learn about studio practices and proper clean up. In addition, they will keep a sketchbook in which to practice drawing from life, composition, and mixed media, which will be collected approximately every two weeks. Midpoint and final critiques take place throughout the semester.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: none

PAINTING II: OIL PAINTING (Single-Semester Course)

Building upon what is taught in Painting I, students will learn more advanced techniques in oil painting and will expand upon and refine their own personal style. Students will be introduced to more critical thinking and investigations around the artistic process. This class will also introduce students to more advanced studio practices such as stretching and priming canvas, and safety, storage, and disposal of solvents. Assignments are designed to encourage more in-depth explorations in subjects such as self-portraiture, abstraction, and master studies, as well as those of the student's choice. In addition to class work, students are expected to keep a sketchbook for skills practice and creative development; these are collected approximately every two weeks. Midpoint and final critiques take place throughout the semester.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: Painting I or permission from the instructor; may be repeated for credit



DRAWING AND PAINTING III: ADVANCED PRACTICE (Full-Year Course)

In this advanced level course, individual expression and experimentation are combined with skill to produce a cohesive body of work (8-10 pieces in any 2D media) in which students explore a single theme. In addition, throughout the year, students will be responsible for supplemental artworks which demonstrate conceptual thinking. This is a studio class for serious artists willing to take risks and make mistakes on their journey to creative and visual literacy. Students will work to craft an artist's statement which clearly describes their series, and their artistic intentions. Students are also responsible for a sketchbook which is graded approximately every two weeks. Class time will be used for serious studio work with additional independent work encouraged. Midpoint and final critiques will take place throughout the year and will focus on technical skill, critical assessment of the work, and conceptual progress. Contemporary art will serve as a significant point of reference for discussion, slide shows, and field trips.

This course assumes a thorough understanding of and proficiency in the elements and principles of design, composition, perspective, and drawing from life. The student should also possess an existing body of work that demonstrates an ability to manipulate a variety of drawing and/or painting media such as pencil, charcoal, colored pencil, ink, acrylic, oil, watercolor, and/or mixed media.

Open to: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Drawing II or Painting II, and permission of the instructor

CERAMICS I (Single-Semester Course)

In this studio course, students will be introduced to sculpture, design, and pottery. Students will carve, build, mold, and otherwise shape clay through a variety of sculpting techniques. While learning the technical skills required in ceramics, students will learn to envision and discuss principles of three-dimensional design and art.

Assignments are designed to hone craftsmanship, creativity, and a rapid understanding of the ceramic process. Students are exposed to historic and contemporary ceramics through slide presentations and videos. Students learn to participate in group critiques and how to work in a studio environment. This course energetically helps students build the confidence to think and work independently and creatively problem solve.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

CERAMICS II (Single-Semester Course)

This course assumes an understanding of, and facility with, the basic elements taught in Ceramics I. This includes knowing the basic technical language of a ceramic studio as well as the process. What most differentiates Ceramics II from Ceramics I is the amount of studio time devoted to each assignment. Allowing for greater artistic exploration and attention to detail, we spend more time on fewer projects. Wider in scope and personal interpretation, projects investigate self-expression and conceptual work. Concepts of art, craft, and sculpture will be introduced through slides, readings, videos and discussions. We will discuss artistic strategies to hone individual vision. At least one field trip is required.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Ceramics I or portfolio and permission from the instructor

CERAMICS III (Full-Year Course)

This is a full year course that assumes a level of seriousness and discipline with studio art. To broaden creativity in the 3D realm, each student will explore Industrial Design by developing and manufacturing a product that answers a design question. The class will look at many contemporary designs that will challenge and define utilitarianism. This project is complimented with the introduction of the following industrial techniques: casting, slip-casting, mold-making, and commercial decals. The following projects are structured around each student's portfolio direction and individual themes. This is an exciting class that will focus on the conceptual development of each student in preparation for continued advancement with Senior Projects, Studio Art AP, or College level programs. In addition, new materials will be introduced throughout the year, tentatively, stone carving, welding, and wood fabrication. In-progress critiques will take place throughout the year; final critiques are held at the completion of each project. Critiques will be focused on three specific areas: technical skill (craft), critical assessment, and conceptual progress. The juxtaposition of contemporary art and design will serve as a significant point of reference for discussions, slide shows, and field trips.

Open to: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Ceramics II and permission of the instructor

PHOTOGRAPHY I (Single-Semester Course)

This course introduces students to the technical, aesthetic, and conceptual elements of B&W photography. Assignments concentrate on camera functions and how they contribute to aesthetics and meaning within the photograph. Students are taught basic darkroom skills such as film processing, printing, and presentation. Emphasis is on traditional fine printing and visual literacy. Slide discussions are used to introduce classic B&W photographers. Cameras will be available for use from the Arts Department.

Open to 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

PHOTOGRAPHY II (Single-Semester Course)

This course assumes a fundamental understanding of camera controls, darkroom techniques, photographic aesthetics, and ideas. It introduces students to advanced exposure methods and allows for an exploration in portraiture, lighting, staged vs. candid, narrative series, and alternative processes. Assignments concentrate on self-expression. Slide discussions are used to introduce contemporary issues in photography and to begin a critical reading of images. Cameras will be available for use from the Arts Department.

Open to 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Photography I or portfolio and permission of the instructor



PHOTOGRAPHY III: ADVANCED PRACTICE (Full-Year Course)

This course provides an in-depth exploration of a student's creative vision in relation to current technological and cultural practices of image making. Students will combine skills learned in Photo I, II, and III to create a comprehensive body of work. Assignments will allow for traditional wet darkroom work; however, the concentration is on digital photography, introduction of Photoshop, and use of mixed media and 3-dimensions in photography. Digital cameras will be available for use from the Arts Department.

Open to 11, 12

Prerequisite: Photography II or portfolio and permission of the instructor

FILM I (Single-Semester Course)

Dive headlong into the filmmaking process. Film I will combine technical training and screenings of feature-length and short films to move you down the path of cinematic enlightenment. Primarily a hands-on class, students will work with digital video cameras and editing equipment, learning basic cinematography, sound recording, lighting, and editing techniques. These skills will be honed in a rigorous intellectual climate that encourages students to thoughtfully develop and implement their own cinematic ideas. A steady diet of films and clips dipping into the independent, underground, and Hollywood film canons will serve to inspire. Students will complete two short films, 3-5 minutes in length, culminating with a public screening of final projects.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

FILM II (Single-Semester Course)

Entering this course with a basic understanding of the primary elements of filmmaking, students will delve deeper into both the technical and creative aspects of filmmaking. On the technical front, students will explore more complex uses of art direction, post-production sound techniques, and sound recording. From a content perspective, the first half of Film II will focus on the social critique. Students will see a variety of films with keen social and political perspectives. We won't see all of the following films, but race relations (*Do The Right Thing, Baadassss!, Hairspray*), war (*Dr. Strangelove, The Battle of Algiers*), consumer culture (*The Target Shoots First, Koyaanisqatsi*), suburban malaise (*Safe, The Ice Storm*), Pranksetrism (*The Yes Men, Culture Jam*), and rock 'n' roll bloat (*Dig!, Hedwig & The Angry Inch*) are just some of the topics that will go under the cinematic scalpel. Over the second half of the semester, students will further define their own interests and directions as filmmakers, culminating in their final project. Students will complete two short films, 3-5 minutes in length, culminating with a public screening of final projects.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Film I or permission from the instructor; may be repeated for credit

FILM III: ADVANCED PROJECTS (Single-Semester Course)

Film III is a course designed for the serious film student who has passed through Film I & II at UHS or has the equivalent experience from other film programs. Film III features four main components. From a production perspective, students will be introduced to and complete a short film utilizing the animation program, After Effects. Additionally, students will shoot a short group project on super 8 film. Finally, students will complete one video that is more ambitious in scope than anything they produced in Film I or II. The films that we view in class will serve as an overview of film history. We'll explore early-cinema and the silent film era, the pre-code era in film, the golden age of Hollywood, the foreign film boom of the 60's, and the grit of 70s American cinema.

Prerequisites: Film I & II or permission from instructor

STORYTELLING BEYOND THE PAGE (Single-Semester Course)

For Writers, Artists, Filmmakers, Journalists, Musicians, and Techies who want to hone their storytelling skills, this interdisciplinary class will explore numerous ways to tell stories both fictional and non-fictional, personal and global. Over the course of the semester, students will explore and create blogs, podcasts, cartoons, digital photographs, poems, and short stories to tell original stories based on material culled from their own lives and the world at large. In addition, the class will investigate outsider art movements, looking at the history of zine making, underground comix, graffiti, pirate radio, poetry chapbooks, and more.

Open to 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

STUDIO ART AP (Full-Year Course)

Advanced Placement Studio Art is a college level course in which students create a portfolio of artwork to submit for Advanced Placement credit. This portfolio is an extensive body of work that must conform to the Advanced Placement requirements, although there is latitude within those requirements to accommodate all media. For the AP portfolio, students will be expected to produce approximately 40 works of art in their area of skill (work from previous art classes is allowed). All work must be original. Students will learn how to develop a body of work, as well as an artist's statement. They will be expected to work independently in school and at home throughout the school year. Students are also expected to keep a graded sketchbook as evidence of creative practice. Nearly all work must be digitally photographed for submission to the Advanced Placement committee, and students will learn how to document and label their artwork. All work must be completed by early May. Students must acquire permission of the instructor in the spring of their junior year (through the process of a portfolio review) before gaining entry into this class.

Open to: 12 only

Prerequisite: Through level III of studio art courses (or the equivalent) in various media and permission of the instructor



Performing Arts

MUSIC THEORY AP

(Single-Semester Course)

This is an advanced level course for students who can read music and who want to reach the proficiency in understanding the elements of music which a second year college music student would have attained after courses in beginning harmony and musicianship. Reading treble, bass and C Clefs, learning the scales of the basic diatonic system, 19th century voice-leading as gleaned from the study of Bach chorales, intervals, chords, instrument transpositions, music notation, score analysis, arranging, composition, and a brief introduction to musical style periods have been covered in past classes.

Although students receive basic musicianship training in performance ensembles at UHS, this course is designed for students who wish to augment and improve their understanding of these elements with a view towards arranging and composing for small and large vocal and instrumental ensembles. Students enrolled in this class are expected to take the AP Music Theory Exam in the Spring.

Open to: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor

CHORUS

(Single-Semester Course)

Chorus is a vocal ensemble for all students who enjoy (or would like to enjoy) singing. The Chorus sings repertoire in many styles, including classical, folk, popular, and international. It performs at the Fall Concert, Winter and Spring Arts Festivals, Commencement, and other school functions. Chorus may also sing with Camerata and Chamber Orchestra in the performance of larger choral works. Instruction includes music-reading skills, part-singing, tone production, vocal technique, diction, music notation, and basic music theory. Students may also have the opportunity to perform for their classmates as soloists on designated "Performance Fridays." There is no prerequisite, though students must be able to match pitch accurately and sing a simple melodic line. All students who wish to audition for Camerata must demonstrate proficiency in Chorus and spend at least one semester as a Chorus member. Students with advanced skills and experience may be given leadership roles such as section leaders, tutors, or teaching assistants.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none; may be repeated for credit

CAMERATA

(Full-Year Course)

Camerata is a chamber choir for advanced and experienced singers which focuses on the development of individual vocal technique, ensemble singing, and advanced musical proficiency. Students must demonstrate competency in reading melodies, intervals, and fundamental rhythmic patterns; they must also demonstrate the ability to learn parts independently. Camerata performs partsongs from all historical periods, major choral works, and selections from the folk, jazz, and international repertoires. In addition, students study diction through the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), sight-singing, and the basic vocabulary of music theory; students may also be required to compile a portfolio of recorded solo and ensemble performances, original arrangements or compositions, and written reviews. Camerata represents UHS by performing at civic events throughout the year and combines with the Chorus in the performance of choral works with the Chamber Orchestra.

Open to: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in UHS Chorus or comparable ensemble, audition; may be repeated for credit.

BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

(Full-Year Course)

Beginning Instrumental Ensemble is for beginners and advanced beginners who are learning to play an instrument. Students will learn the fundamentals of playing an instrument, reading music, and performing ensemble and solo literature. They will attain, in this full year course, the musical proficiency equivalent to that of a third year instrumentalist. Many students who take this course advance to one or more of our fine performing ensembles: Jazz Combo, Chamber Orchestra, and Jazz Ensemble. We encourage students to take this course early in their tenure at UHS so that they may participate in other performing groups before graduation.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

JAZZ COMBO

(Single-Semester Course)

This class is designed to accommodate instrumentalists at the intermediate level who wish to perform jazz but have not had training in jazz styles. The class will necessarily be designed around the instrumentation available, and will include the study and performance of intermediate level combo and jazz band literature. Some of the styles studied and performed include: Swing, Bebop, Blues, Gospel, Latin jazz, Afro-Cuban jazz, Fusion and Progressive jazz. In addition to performance at school concerts, instruction in basic improvisational skills, music theory, and jazz history will be provided.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: One year of playing experience and audition; may be repeated for credit.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

(Full-Year Course)

The study and performance of big band jazz at the advanced level is the focus of this course. Some of the styles studied and performed include: Swing, Bebop, Blues, Gospel, Latin jazz, Afro-Cuban jazz, Fusion, and Progressive jazz. Along with performance requirements, instruction in basic improvisational skills, music theory, and jazz history will be provided.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Audition; may be repeated for credit.



CHAMBER ORCHESTRA:**THE SINFONIA***(Full-Year Course)*

The Chamber Orchestra is a select performing group of advanced string and woodwind players. Admission is by audition during the spring semester of the previous year. The Orchestra will perform at school concerts as well as at other school and community events throughout the year. Class activities will also include study of historical styles, sight-reading, musicianship, critical listening, and conducting. Students may also perform in smaller chamber music ensembles and receive coaching from professional guest artists. Since such an ensemble is dependent on the contribution of each player, private lessons are strongly encouraged.

*Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12**Prerequisite: Audition; may be repeated for credit.***ELECTRONIC MUSIC STUDIO****WORKSHOP***(Single-Semester Course)*

In this course, students will learn how to use and program a variety of synthesizers and to control them with MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) computer programs. We will also be exploring Apple's loop-based program "Garage Band." Students will create two musical pieces: The first will be an arrangement or "remixing" of a preexisting piece, while the second could be a second arrangement or a completely original piece of the student's devising. All styles of music are possible, including Hip-Hop, Orchestral, Eurotrance, and more. Join us to create original soundscapes and gain an insight into modern music recording and producing!

*Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12**Prerequisites: Some computer and/or musical keyboard experience is recommended***ACTING I***(Single-Semester Course)*

In a workshop setting, students will learn the basic concepts and skills of acting. Through games, improvisations, and exercises, students will learn the skills and techniques of concentration, developing given circumstances, sense memory, emotion portrayal, physical agility, vocal control, and character development. Students will also develop skills in critique and will contemplate issues and factors regarding the art of acting. As a final exercise, each student will develop an original character and perform that character in a scene with other actors.

*Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12**Prerequisite: none***ACTING II***(Single-Semester Course)*

This course enables students who have developed a solid foundation in acting an opportunity to develop their craft in greater depth. Through work with monologues and short scripts, they will develop skills in word, line, scene, and play analysis as well as focus on increasing their range of physical, vocal, and emotional expressions. The four major assignments will be: a modern monologue, a classical monologue, a short scene, and a one-act play. Each piece will be analyzed, memorized, rehearsed, critiqued, and finally performed before an audience. Actors will be exposed to a variety of acting concepts and exercises and will be encouraged to push the boundaries of their range of expressions and character portrayals.

*Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12**Prerequisite: Acting I or permission of the instructor***THEATER PRODUCTION I:****FALL PLAY***(Single-Semester Course)*

The Fall Play will be a mainstage production of a significant dramatic work. Auditions for the play will occur during the first week of school, and rehearsals will begin immediately thereafter. The course involves an intensive after school rehearsal schedule culminating in two performances in the fall.

*Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12**Prerequisite: Audition; may be repeated for credit***THEATER PRODUCTION I:****WINTER PLAY***(Single-Semester Course)*

The Winter Theater Production will be a mainstage production of a significant dramatic work. Auditions for the show will take place during the first week of school, and rehearsals will begin in October. Two performances will be held at the end of January.

*Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12**Prerequisite: Audition; may be repeated for credit*

**THEATER PRODUCTION I:
SPRING MUSICAL**
(Single-Semester Course)

The Spring Musical has become a UHS tradition that is enjoyed by the entire community. It is a collaborative work that involves: Visual Arts, Music, Dance, and Drama. Performances, held at the end of April, culminate an intensive rehearsal schedule that begins in February. Auditions for the Spring Musical are held at the end of the Fall Semester.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Audition; may be repeated for credit

**THEATER PRODUCTION II:
ADVANCED PROJECTS IN
THEATER (A)**
(Single-Semester Course)

“Projects” is a course designed for the serious theater student who has had practical experiences in UHS mainstage productions and/or training in the acting classes. There are four components to the course:

1. Advanced acting training through the Friday afternoon workshops.
2. Practical training through involvement in a UHS mainstage or Bay Area theater production.
3. Critical analysis training through a process of viewing and critiquing plays produced by Bay Area theater companies.
4. Development and completion of a theater project focused on acting, directing, playwriting, choreography, or production management.

Students must indicate adequate preparation for this course and have a project proposal in mind when applying for this course. The proposal should include a clear statement of goals, list of resources, description of the project’s process, and schedule for work. In addition, admission to this course does not affect UHS production casting decisions which are based solely on the audition process.

Open to: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Theatre Production I and/or Acting II & Permission of the Instructor; may be repeated for credit

**THEATER PRODUCTION II:
ADVANCED PROJECTS IN
THEATER (B)**
(Single-Semester Course)

The second semester of “Projects” is an extension of the fall semester and is thus only open to those who were enrolled in “Projects A”. “Projects B” involves the following:

1. Training in directing and acting through the Friday afternoon workshops.
2. Production of the Spring Student Drama Series, which will be a show case for the theater pieces written during the fall semester and/or pieces selected by the class for the series.
3. Practical training in acting, directing, choreography, and/or management through involvement in the Spring Student Drama Series, the UHS Spring Musical, or a Bay Area theater production.
4. Continued training in critical analysis through a process of viewing and critiquing plays produced by Bay Area companies and possibly by companies beyond the Bay Area.
5. Development and completion of a theater project focused on acting, directing, playwriting, choreography, or production management. The project proposal should include a clear statement of goals, list of resources, description of the project’s process, and schedule for work.

Open to: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Advanced Projects in Theater (A) & permission of instructor; may be repeated for credit

**TECHNICAL THEATER I:
STAGE CREW**
(Single-Semester Course)

The mission of this class is to provide all of the technical theater elements for all UHS productions. The class will meet two days a week, after school, from 3:30pm until 6:00pm. Some Saturday meetings as well as various evening commitments need to be considered by the student. This course offers the student exposure to and experience in all aspects of stage design, including lighting, scenery, and sound. Students study carpentry, painting, and basic electronics as they relate to the theater. Students are encouraged to repeat the course as many times as they like. By doing so, they gain increased proficiency in tech and are better equipped to take on more advanced design assignments in the future.

Open to: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none; may be repeated for credit

**TECHNICAL THEATER II:
ADVANCED PRODUCTION**
(Single-Semester Course)

This course is designed for the serious student of technical theater who has previously expressed an interest in becoming proficient in one area of theatrical production. Students enrolled in this course will be asked to choose a specific area of concentration that they will explore in-depth through work on a fully mounted play or musical. For their concentration, students may choose from: lighting design, set design, technical direction, construction, or stage management.

Open to: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Two semesters of Technical Theater I and permission of instructor; may be repeated for credit

