

# Visual Arts Department Course Descriptions

## Level 1 Classes

### Visual Arts Foundation

This course will prepare you for further study in all visual art courses. This course introduces you to the language of art, and to the fundamentals of the elements and principles of design and composition. You will explore the ways artists have used these building blocks to create art. Students in this introductory course experience a variety of two and three-dimensional activities that cover basic art and design skills.

- Projects may include, but are not limited to: drawing, water-color/acrylic painting, textiles, ceramics, printmaking, metal embossing, and wire forming.
- In addition to gaining confidence and proficiency working with a variety of mediums, you will learn about art history and art criticism.

### Drawing 1

Students will learn the fundamentals of drawing theory. The class will focus on improving dexterity and sensitivity with drawing materials. Students will learn methods of observational drawing while deepening their understanding of light, form, and three dimensional space.

**Life Drawing 1:** Students will learn to draw the human figure from a live subject. Students learn a variety a methods of drawing the human form including gesture, how to construct the figure out 3 dimension volumes, basic proportions, mechanics of the body, light logic and a tonal approach to drawing.

**Painting 1:** This class will provide students with a foundation in painting art history, application of paint, color theory, creating and organizing composition, observational painting, building painting supports and to discover, develop and progress each student's individual creative voice with thought of meaning and content.

**Mixed Media:** This Mixed Media class will provide students with a foundation, for beginning students in painting/mixed media contemporary art, application of paint acrylic mediums and various other mediums such as beeswax, oil pastels, collage, oil paint, papermaking, screen printing, linoleum block printing and bookmaking. There will be development, progression and expansion of knowledge in color theory, creating and organizing composition and building painting supports Along with students studying these techniques and mediums, they will discover and further develop their own artist voice along with deeper understanding and representation of content in their ideas and work.

**Photo 1:** This visual arts course is an introduction to 35mm., darkroom photography. You will be learning how to shoot, develop, and process silver gelatin prints. We will explore many different ways the camera can be used to create a variety of effects and how to use this skill in creating captivating black and white images. We will also study a few experimental processes involving cyanotypes and pinhole cameras. Through critiques and history you will also learn how to correctly discuss yours and others artwork. This class is occasionally held outside and it can get a little dirty so dress accordingly and show up to explore and work. You will be finding your personal style and expression through your gaining knowledge of the photographic process.

**Digital Photo 1:** This visual arts course is the study of Digital Photography and how to use Photoshop and other software to edit and correct images. We will be exploring fashion shoots, make up/costume design, installations, long exposures, light painting, and many other styles and expressions. Through critiques and history you will also learn how to correctly discuss yours and others artwork. This class is occasionally held outside and it can get a little dirty so dress accordingly and show up to explore and work. You will be finding your personal style and expression through your gaining knowledge of the photographic process.

**Digital Mixed Media 1:** This visual arts course is an introduction to the digital arts, where the students will be using the computer as their main tool in creating original pieces of artwork. Students will become proficient in Photoshop CS5, while also utilizing other equipment such as scanners and digital cameras. Principles of design, digital imaging, digital editing, layering, image compositing, conceptual brainstorming and many other skills will be learned and utilized throughout the year.

**Ceramics 1:** In conjunction with the assigned projects we will have frequent slide shows of ceramic styles and techniques from around the world through history, and many demonstrations of forming and decoration techniques. We will use the four major clay-forming methods, pinch, coil, slab, and wheel, in a variety of vessel and sculptural projects. We will explore a variety of surface-decoration methods and materials. Some will involve impression into the clay or carving away the surface of the clay, others will involve adding clay to the surface. We can also decorate the damp unfired surface with liquid colored clay mixtures known as engobes.

**Fashion 1:** The visual arts course will consist of the functions of the sewing machine, using patterns, and design a collection.

**Sculpture 1:** An immersive exploration of 3 dimensional art forms, this class will introduce a variety of materials both traditional and non-traditional. Plaster, wood, various metals, rubber, acrylic, various plastics, fabric, and found objects will all be explored, as well as various techniques of altering and shaping the above materials. Issues of craftsmanship, use of domestic crafts, aesthetics, objective relationships to the human body and psychology, context, process, and site will be topics of discussion and writing. The very concept of sculpture will be explored from the standpoint of its history and its utility in the modern world. Outside showing of work will be sought and encouraged by all members of our artmaking community.

**Jewelry/Metalsmithing:** In this course you will be introduced to the fundamental techniques used to make jewelry and small-scale art with copper, brass, and nickel silver (provided) and silver at a cost to students. Skills covered will include wirework, enameling, etching, soldering, forming, fabrication, annealing, sawing, sanding, filing and various patinas. You will be learning how to use various tools such as, torches, jewelry saw, various hammers, drills, pliers and polishing tools and other jewelry making tools.

You will also learn:

- Studio safety, cleanliness, and good work habits.
- How to use metals to create jewelry and other small pieces of art that express your individual ideas and style.
- About other jewelers, jewelry in other cultures, and the history of jewelry.
- Critical thinking and considerations that go into the making of well-designed jewelry
- To use the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design to describe, analyze, interpret, and evaluate works of jewelry in an articulate manner.
- Projects may include, but are not limited to Metal: rings, bracelets, pendants, earrings, small metal artwork, lockets, and key rings

## Level 2-3 Classes

**Drawing 2:** This class focuses heavily on composition through the canon of European realism. Students will learn to analyze classical art and break down the function of its design into pieces. Through this understanding students will learn develop their own compositions and implement into finished works.

**Drawing 3:** Students will develop independently their own body of work with the intention of deepening their understanding of drawing through the study of drawing history and theory. They will further explore the creative process while implementing the following in their drawings: sense of space, organizing and developing stronger composition, expand value and contrast, apply color theory and explore expression and content.

**Life Drawing 2:** Students will expand upon theory from Life drawing 1 with an emphasis on anatomy. In addition Student's will have projects that focus on implementing narrative into a finished work of art

**Painting 2,3:** Students will build off the foundation of the previous Painting classes as they progress and grow in these areas while creating their own body of work. The advanced students will also be creating work for public art exhibits, murals and for their portfolios for college.

**Mixed Media 2,3:** Students will build off the foundation of the previous Mixed Media classes as they progress and grow in these areas while creating their own body of work. The advanced students will also be creating work for public art exhibits and for their portfolios for college.

**Photo 2/3:** This visual arts course is a continuation of 35mm., darkroom photography. You will be learning how to shoot, develop, and process silver gelatin prints. We will explore many different ways the camera can be used to create a variety of effects and how to use this skill in creating captivating black and white images. We will also study many experimental processes like; cyanotypes, van dykes, ortho-litho and color printing, and how these processes can be incorporated into mixed media art. Through critiques and history you will also learn how to correctly discuss yours and others artwork. This class is occasionally held outside and it can get a little dirty so dress accordingly and show up to explore and work. You will be finding your personal style and expression through your gaining knowledge of the photographic process.

**Digital Mixed Media 2/3:** This visual arts course is a continuation of the digital arts, where the students will be using the computer as their main tool in creating original pieces of artwork. Students will become proficient in Photoshop CS5, while also utilizing other equipment such as scanners and digital cameras. Principles of design, digital imaging, digital editing, layering, image compositing, conceptual brainstorming and many other skills will be learned and utilized throughout the year.

**Fashion 2,3:** This class will consist of visual displays in the gallery, coordinating the fashion show, and designing a collection.