

Kensington Woods HIGH SCHOOL



Scholarship · Character · Purpose

General Course Information

Course Title	Art 1
Description	<p>This course is designed as an introduction to art making and creative thinking. Students will develop the discipline of creative thinking and problem solving through regular class challenges and sketchbook activities. We will also practice art-making and composition techniques, principles, and concepts through a variety of techniques, methods and media, exposing students to a variety of artistic experiences.</p> <p>Mediums explored will include collage, drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics and more. Emphasis will also be placed on exploring contemporary and historical art and artists. Students will work towards visual literacy: making and considering art that expresses ideas and opinion through visual means.</p>
Room Number	107
Faculty Name	Ms. Brown
Contact Information	517-545-0828 rbrown@kwoods.org
Course Website	www.rbrown.kwoods.org

Introduction

Art communicates ideas through a medium.

Again, this course is designed as an introduction to art making and creative thinking.

Whether planning to pursue art beyond high school, or rather just for enjoyment, art provides us a new way of seeing and thinking about our surroundings. Making art provides us with a way to express our ideas and feelings in unique ways. Examining art and its history provides us a way to understand what happened in the world in the past and present.

In this course, you will work towards Michigan's Merit Curriculum standards in the visual arts by developing ways to think critically about art and become more creative as well as learn about techniques, principles and concepts in a variety of art media. This course also meets Kensington Woods High School and the Michigan Merit Curriculum art credit graduation requirement.

You Are Artistic.

Building skills to express your ideas takes work.

BETWEEN STIMULUS AND RESPONSE THERE IS A SPACE. IN THAT SPACE IS OUR POWER TO CHOOSE OUR RESPONSE. IN OUR RESPONSE LIES OUR GROWTH AND OUR FREEDOM.

-VIKTOR E. FRANKL

<https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/v/viktorefr160380.html>

Many students come to class on Day One of school and, within the first five minutes of class, announce that they “are not artistic.” When I ask them why, most students explain that they are not able to draw realistically, or that someone in their life (many quote a former art teacher!) told them they had no talent.

At K Woods, drawing is a tool. Skills are tools. The heart of artmaking is, as the quote above expresses so beautifully, in the spaces between response and stimulus. Great art can process how we perceive the world and help us climb in another’s shoes and see through their eyes as well. Art skills help the process of taking these internal intangibles and expressing them in a physical, “outside” way, to discuss and think about.

There’s a power and freedom in that. The better our skills become, the better our powers of expression become. Choice-based art classrooms encourage students to build those skills in pursuit of communicating their own ideas. Sometimes this process can be messy!

“Nobody tells this to people who are beginners, I wish someone told me. All of us who do creative work, we get into it because we have good taste. But there is this gap. For the first couple years you make stuff, it’s just not that good. It’s trying to be good, it has potential, but it’s not. But your taste, the thing that got you into the game, is still killer. And your taste is why your work disappoints you. A lot of people never get past this phase, they quit. Most people I know who do interesting, creative work went through years of this. We know our work doesn’t have this special thing that we want it to have. We all go through this. And if you are just starting out or you are still in this phase, you gotta know its normal and the most important thing you can do is do a lot of work. Put yourself on a deadline so that every week you will finish one story. It is only by going through a volume of work that you will close that gap, and your work will be as good as your ambitions. And I took longer to figure out how to do this than anyone I’ve ever met. It’s gonna take awhile. It’s normal to take awhile. You’ve just gotta fight your way through.”

-Jra Glass

Course Expectations

You are expected to work hard and try your best. You are also expected to be respectful and responsible students inside and outside of the art classroom (studio). This includes respectful and responsible behavior towards your class work, classmates, me and classroom.

Students are expected to keep up with projects and assignments that will be worked on daily in class as well as with work that may be needed to be done outside of class. Class work will be consisted of daily activities and longer-term projects where students will learn about and practice concepts and techniques required of them. Class time will also consist of class discussions about artwork (students' and working artists) as well as discussions about art and contemporary issues. Students are expected to be active participants in all discussions and will be held responsible accordingly. At times, work may need to be completed or worked on outside of class, and students will be expected to complete the work as necessary. Students will also be assigned sketchbook assignments that will be due at regular intervals of the semester that should be completed at home or in class when finished with other projects.

To be successful with this class, you must work continually. It is very easy to leave larger projects until the last minute, but art making is a process. It takes time to evolve ideas and techniques and by working continually on your projects and sketchbooks, you will find yourself a much more successful artist.

Studio Environment

I expect you to challenge yourself with your ideas and not be afraid to take risks. It's ok if an artwork doesn't work the first time. Things can be revised, modified and improved through reflection and effort and the artwork can become successful. I feel the most important part of making an artwork is not the end result but the process of making the work. The studio should be a safe place for all artists, so you are expected to be respectful and constructive with your comments about others' work. Everybody enters this classroom with different experiences and ability levels and it is the goal of this class to improve you to the best of your ability. Everybody can learn how to do the things we will do in this classroom and be successful as long as they put forth their ideas, a positive attitude and effort. Although art is a visual medium, your ideas are equally important to your technique.

Technology in the Classroom

In this class we will use various types of technology to help us research, share ideas and reflect. This includes, but is not limited to: internet use, email, Google programs and video. When technology based assignments are given, students will be expected to complete them on time and make plans accordingly if internet access is not available at home. Students will be provided with access to any technology needed to complete the requirements of this course through Kensington Woods High School.

Prerequisite knowledge/skills for success in this course

Students do not need to have any prior experience in art to find success in this course. Instead, students are expected to work thoughtfully and purposefully, developing their technical, conceptual and aesthetic skills throughout the year.

Students will also work on developing the following skills that will help them find success in this course.

Mastery Level	Work habits: Students will be able to work effectively independently and in groups. Students will be able to work thoughtfully and with purpose. Academic integrity: Students will act honestly and ethically in their work. Study skills: Students will adhere to assignment deadlines. Reflection: Students will be able to reflect about their own and others work in and thoughtful and purposeful manner. Technology (both manual and computer based): Students will develop a deep understanding of technologies used in class
Familiarity Level	Research: Students will develop research skills (computer and book based) to research artists and artwork Technology (both manual and computer based): Students will develop familiarity with technologies used in class Art History and Context: Student will develop skills in analyzing art and placing art in context

Grading

At the beginning of each unit, students will be given an outline of standards-based mastery objectives to be gained throughout the project. Objectives will be divided into two categories: essential, and above-and-beyond. Students who meet the baseline objectives will pass the class, and those who put forward the effort to demonstrate the full list of objectives will earn an A.

KWHS follows the following grading scale:

- A= 95-100 (4.0)
- A- = 90-94 (3.7)
- B+ = 87-89 (3.3)
- B = 83-86 (3.0)
- B- = 80-82 (2.7)
- C+ = 77-79 (2.3)
- C = 73-76 (2.0)
- C- = 70-72 (1.6)
- F = below 70 (0.0)

Your grade will consist of assessment of the following:

80% Summative Assessments (summative means assessments that sum up your learning)

Includes major projects and reflections

20% Summative Final Project/reflection

End of semester project/reflection

You and your parents can check your progress at any time using MISTAR, our online grading and record keeping program. For more information about MISTAR, visit the school's website, www.kwoods.org.

Late Work

Students who do not submit work by the project deadline waive their right to the two-week revision window and will receive a zero on their project.

However, if you are struggling with a project, or need more time, please talk to me in advance of the due date. If you are working and putting in your best effort, the due date can be extended for you. However, know that the class will move on and you will be expected to come in and work on the project outside of class (before school, after school, lunch). I am often available during all of those times with advance notice.

Please keep in mind that you must talk to me BEFORE the due date to be granted an extension.

Revision

I expect you to put in your best effort on your work and master the content. If you do not master the content of a unit/project by receiving at least a 70% on the work, I expect that you will revise the project until you get at least a 70%. We will work on that process on a one-on-one basis if necessary.

If you receive a 70% or above but are still not happy with your grade, you are more than welcome to revise your projects within two weeks of receiving written project feedback and submit them, along with a revision form, for a revised grade.

Reminder: if a student neglects to turn in a project on a deadline, they waive their right to revision.

How Will Students Be Graded?

GRADE BREAKDOWN

10%	20%	40%	10%
SOCRATIC DISCUSSION	SKETCHBOOK	PROJECTS	REFLECTION
Exploring a diverse variety of topics with open-ended questions.	Artist and technique investigations - exploring art through inquiry.	The bulk of class studio time will be spent in making projects, which pull from all other aspects of the class.	Both oral and written analysis and discussion will be required to wrap up each unit.

ANCHOR STANDARDS

Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Observe and analyze and interpret artistic work.

NATIONAL VISUAL ARTS STANDARDS

Synthesize and relate personal experience and knowledge about the world to make art.

Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Organize and develop a creative process.

Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Develop and refine work for presentation, communicating meaning in artist-audience dialogue.

SEMESTER EXAMS - 20%

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS USED:

21st century skills
Studio Habits of Mind
Cross-curricular standards

Classroom expectations

ATTENDANCE

Students are required to contact me at rbrown@connect.kwoods.org to discuss what class content was missed the day of the absence. The day a student returns to school, they need to be updated and prepared to catch up on lost studio time or work.

Resources will be available on my teacher's website, so students should be up-to-date upon their return to the classroom.

CLASSWORK AND GRADING

Large projects will be graded in a sit-down student-teacher conference during "Grading/Choice Project" weeks. Student will receive a grade on whatever they have completed at the time. Revisions will be accepted during a two week window that begins the day the grades are entered on MiStar.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN CLASSROOM

We operate off three main rules:

1. Respect yourself
2. Respect others.
3. Respect our common workspace.

All specific classroom rules will stem back to these three. Students will receive a reminder if their actions are compromising the safety and productivity of themselves, their peers, or their workspace. If they persist to the point of disrupting the learning environment, they will receive a Connecting Room referral and be asked to visit the office to reflect on their behavior. The student's parent will receive an email that day, explaining the situation. Three Connecting Room referrals will result in a suspension, per school handbook policy.

GREEN CARD - DISCUSSION RULES

Throughout the year, we will have lots of discussions, forming opinions and challenging preconceptions. Although students will often form different conclusions and find themselves in disagreement, we will hold to the following rules of discussion. Each student will keep a copy of these rules (their green card) in their folders to reference should need arise.

STUDENT RIGHTS

1. You have the right to make a contribution to an attentive, responsive audience.
2. You have the right to ask questions.
3. You have the right to be treated civilly.
4. You have the right to have your ideas discussed, not you.

STUDENT OBLIGATIONS

1. You are obligated to speak loudly enough for others to hear you.
2. You are obligated to listen for understanding.
3. You are obligated to treat others civilly.
4. You are obligated to engage and reflect on the discussion and support your opinion.

TOOLS AND SAFETY

Students learn to use a wide variety of tools in the art room. As they mature, tools are introduced that require “Standard Operating Procedures” to enforce safety during use. Responsible and safe operation of tools and materials is consistent with National Visual Arts Standards, and foster maturity and responsibility within our student community.

However: students will NOT be required to use tools with which they feel uncomfortable, and may ask for teacher assistance at any time. Our art room should be a challenging, but safe space for everybody.

Additionally, students who demonstrate carelessness or a lack of maturity will lose specialized tool privileges for the safety of themselves, their peers, and the tools/workspace.

FRIDAYS: ROOM UPKEEP AND CLASS MEETINGS

Each class will meet every other Friday. Each Friday they meet, assignments for room upkeep will be passed out and students will work together to maintain their community studio space.

After weekly upkeep assignments are completed, students will meet to self-evaluate their progress from the week and discuss any housekeeping issues we’ve encountered that week as a class, and monitor our studio culture. Through these Fridays, I hope to foster the discipline of self-evaluation and adjustment essential to a healthy Growth Mindset.

AFTER SCHOOL OPEN STUDIO AND EXTRA HELP

Students are welcome to work in the art room after school to make up time lost on sick days, put in extra time to complete projects, or even try something extra outside class time.

NOTE TO STUDENTS:

Please make sure to request after-school time the day before, so I can plan accordingly.

If you feel like you are falling behind or feel confused or lost, don’t hesitate to let me know!

I’m here to make you have the resources you need to work towards success.



Additional Classroom Expectations

Cell Phones/Mp3 players

Cell phones and mp3 players/music players are not allowed out during class without teacher permission. At times you may use them for music or research with teacher permission, but never during whole class or group activities. Both headphones should be out of the ear during whole class or group activities.

Being out of Class

Students are expected to be responsible about being out of class. Students may not leave class the first 15 minutes while the class is getting started. Students are asked to alert the teacher when they need to use the restroom but are asked not to leave class when whole class or group activities are in progress. Only one student is allowed to be out of the class at a time to use the restroom. If a student is out of class more than 15 minutes (unless they are with another teacher), it will result in an absence.

Computer Labs

There is absolutely no food or drink in the computer labs. While in class and in the labs, you are expected to follow all rules of the computer labs and your Computer Use Agreement.

File Storage

You will be able to store your project files on your Google Drive. We will review the options in class. You also have the option of using a USB drive, but forgetting your drive is not an excuse for not having your work.

Schedule

This is an overview of the year to give you an idea of what topics we will be covering. Please note that some things may change!

Most units contain multiple projects. All Units and majority of projects will include a critique and reflection. Critiques Reflections are completed using a variety of methods (including, but not limited to: writing, presentation, small group discussion, peer review, video, blogging)

All units will cover the following major skills and concepts:

- Creative Process
- Development of technical skills
- Reflection (oral, written)
- Analyzing and critiquing work
- Justification of opinion
- Discussion
- Art History
- Art Context
- Learning about/from artists
- Communication of ideas
- Problem solving

Unit 1 – What is Art?

Media: Mixed

Skills Focus: Collaboration, Methods of Creative Development, Analysis/Synthesis

Unit 2 – Power of Creativity

Media: Collage, 3D Mixed Media

Skills Focus: 3D Craftsmanship, Composition, Visual Analysis, Deconstruction

Unit 3 – What is Reality?

Media: Drawing, Painting

Focus: Observation, Interpretation, Applying Criteria, Rendering Skills

Semester 1 Final Project and Reflection

Unit 3 – Identity

Media: Drawing, Painting, Mixed Media

Focus: Symbolism, Visual Storytelling, Synthesis, Figure/Gesture Drawing

Unit 4 – Abstraction

Media: Jewelry Making, 3D Printing

Focus: Cold fabrication Metalwork Techniques, Casting, Deconstruction, Abstraction

Unit 6 – Making a difference

Media: Ceramics

Focus: Social Justice, Construction/Fabrication, Form/Function

Unit 8 – Environment

Media: Furniture Design - 3D Design

Skills Focus: Construction/Fabrication, Design Thinking, Client-Based Design

Semester 2 Final Project and Reflection

I have read and reviewed the attached syllabus and agree to abide by it. I understand any questions may be directed via email to rbrown@kwoods.org.

Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Preferred Guardian Email: _____

- I would like to receive classroom updates and newsletters (through MailChimp), as well as regular updates on my student's work (through Google Classroom).