

Visual Arts

Whitman has an extensive offering of Visual Arts courses available to high school students who may want to pursue a visual arts degree program in college, dabble in the arts or simply complete their Art graduation requirement. Courses are offered in Studio Art, Ceramics, Commercial Art, Photography, Digital Art and Art History. Although it takes a little planning, any student who really wants to be in art all four years can make it work and meet all requirements. The art program has traditionally attracted many of the top academic students in the school who have been accepted into prestigious colleges. The most typical conflict is with Health and Tech Ed requirements. Many students take Health during the summer or online in order to free up time during the school year for art classes.

- All courses are typically taken in sequence; however, based on a teacher recommendation, students can skip one or more levels.
- Rising 9th graders can get teacher recommendation from a Pyle Art teacher (or any 8th grade Art teacher) in order to skip Foundations of Art A&B.
- Highly motivated Art students can take a Single Period or Double Period AP Studio Art, which prepares them for the AP Studio Art exam submission in May. It is a good idea to thoroughly understand the AP exam requirements at the beginning of the year so that students pace themselves throughout the year in order to be ready in time for the exam. Having a time crunch at the end of year does not work well when producing Art!
- (AP) Art History is offered provided there is enough enrollment. It is not a good idea to wait until the Senior year as it may not be offered every year.
- Students in the Art Department participate in various competitions, including the Black History Month Poster competition and the Annual Congressional Art Competition. They also have opportunities to submit their designs for Whitman events. At the end of the year all students participate in the Festival of the Arts, a two-day Art exhibition/auction.
- Whitman hosts the Art School Forum on an evening in late November/early December. This is a great opportunity for students to have their portfolios reviewed and to ask questions to representatives from colleges of Art and Design.
- Photography students are required to provide their own 35mm SLR camera or manual/automatic combination camera.

For details on Visual Arts courses, refer to the Whitman Course Bulletin. Contact Marjorie Scott (Marjorie_F_Scott@mcpsmd.org) for additional information.

Comprehensive lists of electives as well as detailed course descriptions can be found in the Whitman Course Bulletin. Students should consult with their counselors when making course scheduling decisions.

VISUAL ART COURSES

Foundations of Art A/B

The Foundations of Art course is designed to develop basic skills in drawing, painting, design, sculpture, printmaking, and visual communication. Students will explore a variety of materials and methods to create art as well as to develop an appreciation and understanding of the visual arts as a fundamental aspect of history and human experience. These studies are linked with information about historically significant artists or periods of art. Career information is provided.

Studio Art I

Students will continue to study the principles of design and use the elements of art in drawing, painting, printmaking, and/or sculpture. Art masterpieces and work by contemporary artists will be referenced. Students will have the opportunity to exhibit their work. Ninth grade students may enroll in Studio Art 1 with a teacher's recommendation.

Studio Art 2

Prerequisite: Attainment of the outcomes of Studio Art 1 A/B.

Students concentrate on building a portfolio of work and a collection of sketches using a preferred medium and showing details of composition. Realistic, abstract, and nonobjective styles are studied.

Studio Art 3

Prerequisite: Attainment of the outcomes of Studio 2 A/B.

Students may concentrate on a medium and art form of their choice, using both assigned and self-selected subject matter. Students participate in group critiques and present their work in a portfolio. Students focus on the preparation and presentation of their artwork in a one-person show. Students participate in group discussions in which significant works of art and art history are analyzed. Museum field trips and talks with visiting artists and teachers may be arranged.

Ceramics & Sculpture 1 A/B

This course concentrates on basic hand-building and glazing techniques in clay. Students examine the compositional elements of 3-D design in historically significant pottery and sculptural forms. The course also focuses on the creation of sculptural art using a variety of other materials and techniques. An introduction to the potter's wheel will be presented in the second semester along with related health and safety issues.

Ceramics & Sculpture 2 A/B

Prerequisite: Attainment of the outcomes of Ceramics/Sculpture 1A/B.

Students learn about natural and historically significant forms as the basis for pottery and sculptural designs. The firing characteristics of basic glazes are studied along with additional techniques for throwing on the potter's wheel. Kiln theory and studio safety are explored as students learn to stack and monitor the kiln. A variety of surface treatments are examined as students begin to develop a sense of their own personal style.

Ceramics & Sculpture 3/Advanced Ceramics

Prerequisite: Attainment of the outcomes of Ceramics/Sculpture 2 A/B

Students study the works of contemporary potters and sculptors in terms of form, finish and conceptual statement. Students combine hand-built forms, thrown forms and found objects to create pottery or sculpture that make a personal statement. Students participate in group

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critiques. In the second semester, students create a series of forms that reflect a common source or theme. Techniques for displaying work are demonstrated in student exhibits.

Commercial Art 1 A/B

Commercial Art 1A/B is a course designed for students with special interest in color and design techniques using the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. Students develop basic skills required for the design and production of advertising and promotional art. They create posters and receive lessons in illustration. Students may be able to study other graphic processes, including digital art, if time, equipment, and facilities allow.

Commercial Art 2 A/B

Prerequisite: Commercial Art 1 A/B, Foundations of Art, Studio Art, or by teacher recommendation.

Students enrolled in Commercial Art 2 A/B continue to develop skills in the Elements of Art and Principles of Design by producing poster designs for WWHS events and focusing on product and environmental designs. Students use professional drawing tools to produce finished artwork. Students may be able to study other graphic processes, including digital art, if time, equipment, and facilities allow.

Advanced Studio/Commercial Art

Prerequisite: Commercial Art 2 A/B, Studio Art 2, or by teacher recommendation.

Students enrolled in Advanced Studio Commercial Art concentrate on building a portfolio of work including promotional art, poster designs and a collection of product and environmental designs.

Digital Art

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art or Commercial Art or by teacher recommendation.

Students use the computer as a tool to produce artwork that simulates classic media as well as to create a variety of new techniques. Digital art, software, and computer processes are used. Emphasis will be placed on student projects incorporating the Elements of Design and Principles of Composition. Students discuss ethical and safety issues in the use of computers as an instructional tool. Students work to develop criteria for judgment of digital artwork. A portfolio of digital art is produced.

Photography 1A/B

This course requires students to provide their own 35mm SLR manual or manual/automatic combination camera. Students will learn how to use the camera, process black-and-white film and prints. Projects are assigned through which students demonstrate their sensitivity to subject matter, lighting, form, and composition. The chemistry of photography and the operation of a darkroom with reference to health and safety are learned.

Photography 2A/B

Prerequisite: Attainment of the outcomes of Photography 1 A/B or by teacher recommendation.

Advanced camera and darkroom techniques are demonstrated and discussed. Students continue studies in the history of photography, photographers, and technical developments. Composition and aesthetic criteria are stressed. Field trips to museums and to different area locations and opportunities for students to develop sophisticated photo-essays suitable for publication are provided.

Advanced Studio / Photography

Prerequisite: Attainment of the outcomes of Photography 2 A/B, or by teacher recommendation.

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Students enrolled in Advanced Studio Photography concentrate on building a portfolio of work including bound publications and slides.

Advanced Placement, Studio Art

Prerequisite: 2 credits in Visual Art, including Studio Art I A/B.

The AP Studio Art courses are designed for the highly motivated and able students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. The AP Studio Art program follows national standards for performance in the visual arts. The course consists of three main units.

The **drawing unit** is designed to address a very broad interpretation of drawing issues and materials. Light and shade, line quality, rendering of form, composition, surface manipulation, and illusion of depth are drawing issues that can be addressed through a variety of drawing and painting materials.

The **two-dimensional design unit** addresses a very broad interpretation of two-dimensional design and visual communication issues. This type of design involves purposeful decision-making about how to use the elements and principles of art in an interpretive way. These could include, but are not limited to, graphic design, typography, digital imaging, photography, collage, fabric design, fashion design, illustration, painting, and printmaking. A variety of approaches to representation, abstraction, and expression may be addressed.

The **three-dimensional unit** addresses a broad interpretation of sculptural issues in depth and space. These may include mass, volume, form, plane, light, and texture. Such elements may be articulated through additive, subtractive, and/or fabrication processes. A variety of approaches to representation, abstraction, and expression may be part of the student's portfolio. These might include traditional sculpture, architectural models, apparel, ceramics, three-dimensional fiber arts or metal work, among others. In the spring, students focus on one unit as they prepare a portfolio for assessment by AP evaluators.

Art History A/B (AP Art History A/B)

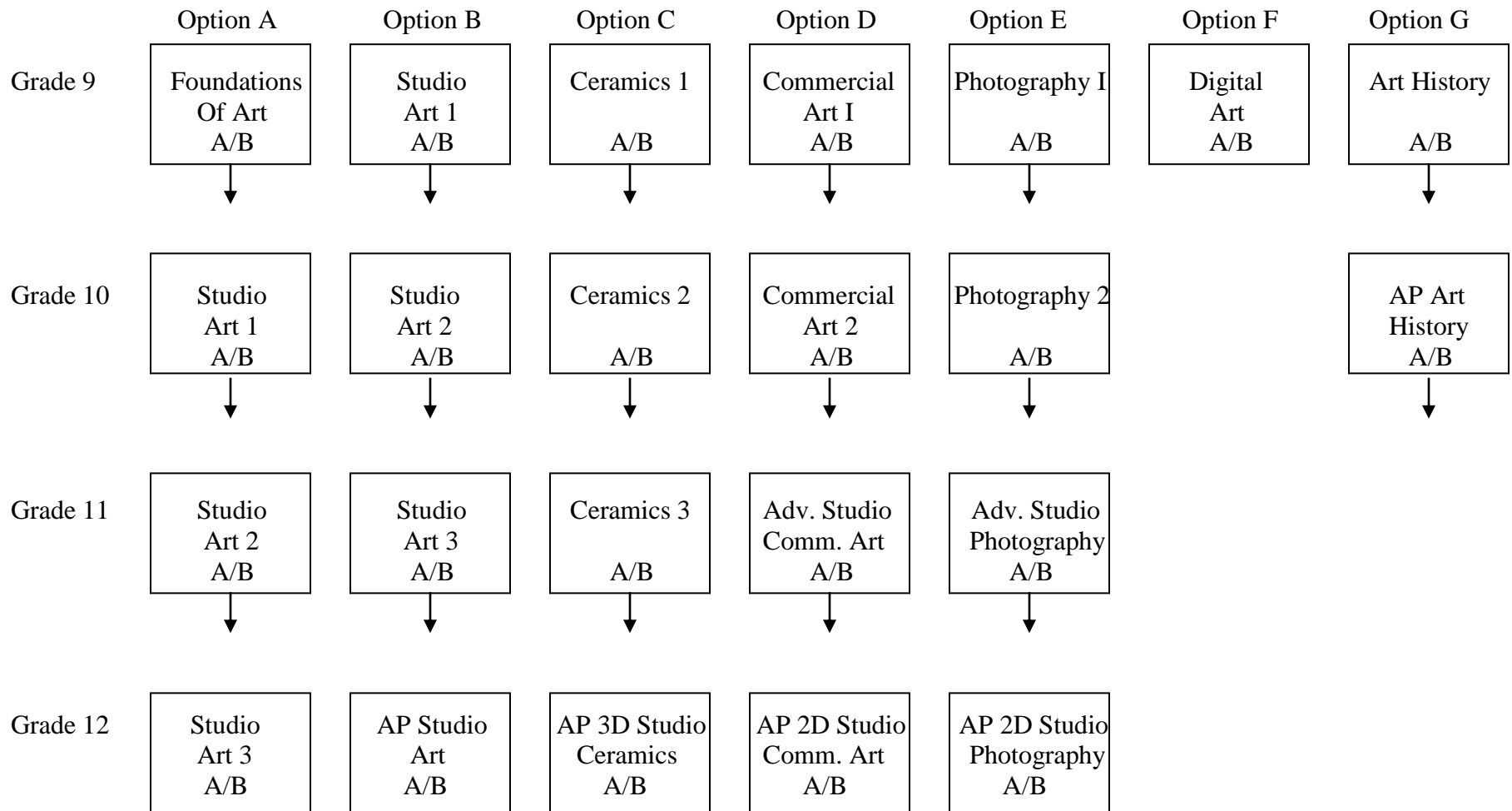
Students conduct a chronological overview of the major periods of world art with an emphasis on culture. They develop a timeline to associate major periods of art with significant historical events, crafts, and/or architectural achievements of various cultures. In the second semester, students compare major works of art in terms of a central theme or image. The role of the artist in society and the effect of political or technological influences are discussed.

(Advanced Placement credit for this course is available if students choose to take the AP test in May.)

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VISUAL ART COURSE OPTIONS

(Any combination of options is possible)



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