

PELHAM MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL ART COURSES

The creation of and participation in the arts is an integral part of the human experience. The Art Department strongly believes that every student has the potential to develop their artistic abilities and create meaningful works of art. Participation in the arts is fundamental to a well-rounded education. The Art experience provides students with the opportunity to develop self-awareness, personal creative growth and an appreciation for the arts within our community.

Courses in the Art department include a variety of disciplines, including fine arts, computer graphics, photography, art history and many other exciting art opportunities that will give PMHS students a rich and diverse artistic experience with which to build their portfolios.

The Art Department is a place for all students, from those who take Art classes because they are enjoyable educational experiences to students whose passion for Art may lead to a college major or Art career. Students who may be interested in pursuing a college study or career in Art after high school should consult with their Art teacher as early as possible for advice on planning a sequential art program. Students who need to create a portfolio for admission to a college Art program should meet with their Art teacher in their junior year for guidance.

Courses that fulfill the New York State 1 credit arts graduation requirement for high school students:

DESIGN AND DRAWING FOR PRODUCTION (Art Focus)

1 Credit

Design and Drawing for Production is a foundation course that is prerequisite for all advanced fine art electives. This course provides opportunities for creative thinking, artistic decision-making, and self-expression in an Art/Technology atmosphere. Students will use both computer graphics and traditional art materials to learn about the elements and principles of art and design. Projects will also incorporate learning from other subjects, such as Art History, Math, and Social Studies. Each project will be printed in color and will become part of each student's portfolio. This course satisfies the NYS Art requirement necessary for graduation.

STUDIO IN ART: 2-D FOCUS

1 Credit

Studio in Art: 2-D Focus is a foundation course that is prerequisite for all advanced fine art electives. It is designed to introduce the visual fine arts to the high school student. Students will learn the purpose of a studio, various art techniques and background art history. The class will have a 2-D focus (drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and other 2-D art-making techniques), but students will also get a taste of 3-D media. From the experience of working with various materials, students can make a decision about which courses to pursue next in their high school study of Art. This course satisfies the NYS Art requirement necessary for graduation.

STUDIO IN ART: 3-D FOCUS

1 Credit

Studio in Art: 3-D Focus is a foundation course that is prerequisite for all advanced fine art electives. It is designed to introduce the visual fine arts to the high school student. Students will learn the purpose of a studio, various art techniques and background art history. The class will have a 3-D focus (ceramics, sculpture, etc.), but students will also get a taste of 2-D media. From the experience of working with various materials, students can make a decision about which courses to pursue next in their high school study of Art. This course satisfies the NYS Art requirement necessary for graduation.

Art Electives:

STUDIO IN DRAWING AND PAINTING

Prerequisite: Studio in Art or 1 Credit Design & Drawing for Production

Studio in Drawing and Painting is an advanced-level elective Art class and is recommended for a portfolio track. Students will use the knowledge and techniques they learned in Studio in Art and/or Design and Drawing for Production and further develop their individual style and creativity in drawing and painting. Through a wide variety of subjects, media and background art history, students will learn more about the advanced practices, techniques and procedures in creating and producing 2-D art. The student's goal is to begin to develop a more sophisticated portfolio that represents his/her personal style. Please know the demands and expectations for an advanced class are more challenging than an entry level art class.

ADVANCED ART/ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART

Prerequisite: Studio in Art and 1 Credit Studio in Drawing and Painting

This class may be taken as a 1 or 2 year plan of study. Advanced Placement Studio Art/Advanced Art enables the highly motivated student to perform at college level and receive college credit while still in high school. The APSA program is a portfolio based exam rather than a written exam. APSA is designed for students who are seriously interested in producing a wide variety of 2-D art. AP portfolio work can include any combination of traditional drawings, paintings, collages, mixed media, digital images and/or photography. In addition to regular class time, students will need to work extra or independently to complete their portfolio requirements. Class trips to galleries and/or museums will be planned during the school year to broaden the student's creation and connection to the arts. Assessment for the AP program is portfolio based using criteria from the AP College Board for Both Advanced Art and APSA. Students use a national standard for analyzing, evaluating and assessing their art work. Please know the demands and expectations for students are more challenging than a typical high school art class. Portfolio work must reflect first year college-level standards. It is highly recommended that students who are interested in AP Studio Art take Advanced Art (pre AP) in junior year and AP Studio Art in senior year to begin the two year portfolio process. All students must complete requirements for the AP Studio Art Portfolio.

STUDIO IN CERAMICS

Prerequisite: None

1/2 Credit

Studio in Ceramics is an elective class designed for students who are interested and enjoy working with clay. Students will experiment with a variety of hand building techniques (pinching, coiling and slab building) while creating a wide variety of theme related vessels, reliefs and free-standing sculpture. Students will learn the properties of handling and recycling clay as well as glazing and firing techniques. The course will cover as many approaches to the use of clay as possible, always allowing time for the student to explore methods of the greatest interest and value to him/her.

INTRODUCTION TO JEWELRY AND METALSMITHING

Prerequisite: None

1/2 Credit

Grades 10-12

In this exciting course students will use hammers, saws, power drills, metal files and other specialized jeweler's tools to create unique designs in metal. Techniques, such as beading, wire-wrapping, joining, piercing, and riveting will be explored. The class will gain inspiration for their designs by looking at examples from the history of wearable art. Students will create original works of art that they can either wear or just present as mini-sculptures!

THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Prerequisite: None

1/2 Credit

Grades 10-12

This introductory course is designed to encourage students to use the camera creatively and to consider

photography as a communication tool. Emphasis is placed on both technical and aesthetic concerns. In this course students will learn to operate a 35mm Digital SLR camera. They are introduced to the creative controls of the camera such as, aperture, shutter speed, and ISO to create compelling images. Aside from technical aspects of photography, students will study the work of famous photographers to better understand the historical impact of the medium, as well as gain insight into their own work. Students will learn to process their images in a digital format. Students work toward the completion of a portfolio of ten matted prints, due at the end of the semester. Students are highly recommended to use their own Digital SLR camera, however, if they do not have one, one may be provided to them based on availability.

ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Prerequisite: The Art of Photography

1/2 Credit

Grades:10-12

Advanced Digital Photography follows “The Art of Photography” course. Students work to obtain mastery of the creative controls of the camera. They continue to hone their skills in composition, lighting, photo-editing, and processing their work in a digital format. Students work toward the completion of a portfolio of ten matted prints, due at the end of the semester. Students are highly recommended to use their own Digital SLR camera, however, if they do not have one, one may be provided to them based on availability.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ART HISTORY

Prerequisite: (see honors standards)

1 Credit

Grades 10-12

Advanced Placement Art History is a college level course in the history of art. Students study art from a variety of cultures that span from pre-history to present day. All forms of artistic media (painting, sculpture, architecture, etc.) are explored within their historical and cultural context. Students learn to look at works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to articulate what they see or experience. No prior exposure to art history is required. However, students who have done well in other courses in the humanities, such as history and literature, or in any of the studio arts are especially encouraged to enroll. All students will take the College Board Advanced Placement Art History exam in May.

YEARBOOK PRODUCTION AND PRINT

Prerequisite: None

1 Credit

The Pelican Yearbook has received national recognition in creative concept, layout and design, photography and overall yearbook production from CSPA (Columbia Scholastic Press Association) and NSPA (National Scholastic Press Association). This course teaches students 21st century real world life skills in desktop publishing. Students work closely together as a yearbook team and perform all the skills and processes necessary to publish the Pelican Yearbook, the largest single publication created by students in our school district. Students will learn and demonstrate the skills involved in the publishing industry which includes layout design, interviewing, writing and editing skills, technology skills, digital photography skills, business management and team building. In addition, students will attend Yearbook workshops at Pace University, Columbia University and an optional summer program at Gettysburg College.

COMPUTER GRAPHIC ART

Prerequisite: None

1/2 Credit

This course will introduce students to Adobe Illustrator, a design-industry standard. Students will learn concepts, features and tools while they begin to understand graphic design. They will learn to create precise drawings and graphics and will understand the tools and commands in Adobe Illustrator. Each project will be printed in color and will become part of the student's portfolio.

ADVANCED COMPUTER GRAPHIC ART

Prerequisite: Computer Graphic Art

1/2 Credit

This course follows the Computer Graphic Art course. Students will keep using Adobe Illustrator, a design-industry standard. Students will continue learning to create precise drawings and graphics and will add to their understanding of the tools and commands in Adobe Illustrator. Emphasis will be placed on aesthetics and advanced design techniques. Each project will be printed in color and will become part of the student's portfolio.

3D DRAWING

Prerequisite: None

1/2 Credit

Students will learn the important fundamental concepts, features and tools while they begin to master drawing, seeing and thinking in 3D. Students will work on lettering and drawing in 3D as well as perspective drawing. These projects reinforce basic design and drawing concepts. Each project will be printed in color and will become part of the student's portfolio.

ANIMATION

Prerequisite: None

1/2 Credit

Students will learn to use Adobe PhotoShop to design and create animation shorts. Assignments will focus on using tools and commands in Adobe PhotoShop to move objects across the animation frame. Each project will become part of the student's portfolio.