

AP® Studio Art: Drawing Syllabus

Course Overview

The AP® Studio Art Portfolio course is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art and wish to develop mastery in the concept, composition, and execution of their ideas. The course teaches students how to develop their own work so that it moves beyond duplication. Plagiarism, the copy of published photographs or artwork, is not tolerated in this course. Artistic integrity and original compositions are emphasized and discussed. Your work should be based on your personal expression and own artistic vision and voice. In this course, students will focus on making through inquiry, investigation, practice, experimentation, revision, communication and reflection.

Students begin the course by working through guided projects. This will introduce students to materials and topics that they can investigate, practice, and experiment with. This beginning portion helps guide students to the sustained investigation of their portfolio, where they will investigate materials and a topic of their choosing. In the portfolio students are expected to show their mastery in concept, composition, and execution of ideas. To help students understand my expectations, they are shown examples of past AP portfolios for ideas and inspiration. I start with structured assignments first, the first assignment being observational value drawings, and students then move on to individual preferences in media and topics such as mixed media, scratchboard, printmaking, as well as using assigned materials to explore topics of their choice.

Students are also given homework assignments due every week. These homework assignments will focus on the inquiry, investigation, communication, and reflection portions of their artwork. In addition, they will prepare for larger projects with sketches, materials exploration, and honing their ideas for their final piece. Class discussion of homework assignments, as well as class critiques, are held at least once a week. Critiques are a required part of class participation. Students are expected to discuss their own work, the work of their peers, and the work of master artists in written and verbal form. During these class critiques the vocabulary of art will be used to form decisions about the work being discussed. These verbal discussions will help students develop the language needed to explain their work in written form.

Once students understand the process of inquiry, investigation, practice, experimentation, revision, communication, and reflection through their guided projects, students will develop and choose an idea to explore in depth for their sustained investigation. In the sustained investigation section, students are expected to develop a body of work that is an investigation of a theme, idea, and inquiry. It should be well planned and investigate an idea that is of personal interest to the student. 15 works of art will be submitted to the AP board, this can include process images of their work.

From both the guided projects and sustained investigation assignments, we submit five selected works as examples of excellence to be sent to the College Board to be evaluated. Students understand that making art is an ongoing process that uses informed and critical decision making as these selections are made for their portfolio submission.

In terms of grading, students are expected to produce approximately two works of art every month in class of AP quality. In addition to the finished works of art they must also have written inquiries, sketches, at least three process photographs, and a final digital photograph of the works of art. For each project a student is short at the end of the grading period, one grade is dropped. We stress that this is the student's personal portfolio, and that outside work and work from other courses can also be included.

AP Drawing Portfolio Requirements

SELECTED WORKS:

Requirements and Prompts:

- Submit five works that demonstrate: Drawing design skills
- Synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas
- For each work, state the following in writing:
 - Idea(s) visually evident (100 characters maximum, including spaces)
 - Materials used (100 characters maximum, including spaces)
 - Processes used (100 characters maximum, including spaces)

Scoring Criteria:

- Skill 2.D: Make works of art and design that demonstrate drawing skills.
- Skill 2.C: Make works of art and design that demonstrate synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas.
- Skill 3.C: Identify, in writing, materials, processes, and ideas used to make works of art and design.

Successful portfolio submissions will demonstrate:

- Visual evidence of advanced drawing skills
- Visual evidence of synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas
- Visual evidence of the written idea in all five works of art

SUSTAINED INVESTIGATION:

Requirements and Prompts:

- Submit 15 images that demonstrate:
 - Sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision
 - Sustained investigation of materials, processes, and ideas
 - Synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas
 - Drawing design skills
- State the following in writing:
 - Identify the questions that guided your sustained investigation
 - Describe how your sustained investigation shows evidence of practice, experimentation, and revision guided by your questions (1200 characters maximum, including spaces, for response to both prompts)
- Identify the following for each image:
 - Materials used (100 characters maximum, including spaces)
 - Processes used (100 characters maximum, including spaces)
 - Size (height × width × depth) in inches

Content of Class

The course includes the following three components:

- A. Study of artists and trends. In addition to class work, students are expected to visit galleries and the local art museums on their own. An understanding of contemporary artwork and trends can help inspire and guide students in their own work.
- B. A sketchbook to be composed of visual ideas, notes, photos, doodles, plans, short assignments, quick drawings, and practice of various techniques.
- C. Development of the student's submitted portfolio for AP Drawing, which has two parts: selected works and sustained investigation totaling at least 15 pieces (this can include process images).

Supplies

Students are required to bring in the following supplies

- Portfolio submission fee
- Notebook and sketchbook
- Portfolio

Copyright

All work must be original. If students use someone else's work or a published image as a basis for their own pieces, there must be significant alteration to the piece for it to be considered original! Working from life and original photographs is strongly encouraged! During individual as well as group discussions and critiques, students will develop an understanding of what constitutes plagiarism and how to maintain their own artistic integrity. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in the course. Plagiarism is the use of published photographs or work from other artists. Any portfolio that shows evidence of plagiarism will not be submitted and the students will be reported to the administrators.

Assessment

Assessments are both formative and summative and include self-evaluations and peer evaluations. Summative assessments will occur at the conclusion of projects. Work is evaluated in progress and in the finished state through critiques with teacher and peers. The AP Studio Art rubric, which is distributed separately, provides the grading criteria. Assessment of student work is based on original compositions and artistic integrity. This course teaches students how to develop their own work so that it moves beyond duplication and therefore upholds their artistic integrity. If a piece is plagiarized, an exact copy of another person's artwork, the student will not receive credit for the piece.

You also will declare your area of interest and inquiry for your sustained investigation. You may work solely in one media, or digital, mixed media, etc, or explore a variety of material under one topic or idea. You will be required to write a statement about the questions you developed to explore your topic as well as how your investigation shows evidence of practice, experimentation, and revision guided by these questions. Once we return to class in January, your primary focus will be developing your sustained investigation; 15 pieces are due by the end of April. With sustained investigation beginning in the fall semester, this gives you three weeks to complete each piece in the spring semester. **ALL WORK MUST BE IN DIGITAL FORMAT BY APRIL 20.**

Possible Sustained Investigation Topics and Inquiries

By the middle of first semester, students should have their sustained investigation topic and guiding questions. Through inquiry based artmaking, it's possible the focus of the topic will shift. This is part of the investigation. If a shift happens students need to be prepared to present evidence of the experimentation and revision of their artwork that led to this change. This can be further explained in their statement. Possible sustained investigation topics include study of spaces, windows, shoes, decay, rituals, heritage, anatomy, psychological disorders, family, portraits, etc.

Scoring

Portfolios are sent to the AP Board to be assessed. A minimum of three people will assess each section of the portfolio individually, the scores are averaged. The portfolios are scored based off a numeric scale of 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. The student must score at least a three to pass the portfolio, typically they must score at least a 4 to obtain college credit (although some schools accept 3s). Use the following criteria as a basis for personal assessment.

Course Skill 1: Inquiry and Investigation

- 1.A Generate possibilities for investigation (not assessed).
- 1.B Describe how inquiry guides investigation through art and design (not assessed).
- 1.C Describe how materials, processes, and ideas in art and design relate to context (not assessed).
- 1.D Interpret works of art and design based on materials, processes, and ideas used (not assessed).
- 1.E Investigate materials, processes, and ideas (not assessed).

Course Skill 2: Making Through Practice, Experimentation, and Revision

- 2.A Formulate questions that guide a sustained investigation through art and design.
- 2.B Conduct a sustained investigation through art and design that demonstrates practice, experimentation, and revision guided by questions.
- 2.C Make works of art and design that demonstrate synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas. 2.D Make works of art and design that demonstrate 2-D, 3-D, or drawing skills.

Course Skill 3: Communication and Reflection

3.A Identify, in writing, questions that guided a sustained investigation through art and design. 3.B Describe, in writing, how a sustained investigation through art and design shows evidence of practice, experimentation, and revision guided by questions.

3.C Identify, in writing, materials, processes, and ideas used to make works of art and design. 3.D Describe how works of art and design demonstrate synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas (not assessed).

3.E Describe how works of art and design demonstrate 2-D, 3-D, or drawing skills (not assessed).

3.F Present works of art and design for viewer interpretation (not assessed).

	Poor	Moderate	Good	Strong	Excellent
Materials well used; technique is excellent	1	2	3	4	5
Inventive/imaginative	1	2	3	4	5
Evidence of thinking, clear visual intent	1	2	3	4	5
Purposeful Composition	1	2	3	4	5
Awareness of style and format	1	2	3	4	5
Sensitive, evocative	1	2	3	4	5