

David Exner
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Guiding Philosophy

What I tell all of my students... (*repeatedly*)

I teach people about life through Art, and I firmly believe that the greatest work of Art that you will ever work on is ***yourself!*** You'll never be done with your work; you will always have something new to look forward to working on. That work includes character building, taking responsibility for your own thoughts, words and actions, teamwork, integrity, honesty, perseverance, patience, compassion, empathy, genuine giving with an open heart, loyalty, overcoming frustration and disappointment, giving encouragement and support, learning how to problem solve, sharing your skills with those who need them etc.

These lessons address the school's three main areas of learning within our West Chicago Community High School, District 94 Mission Statement: "to provide lessons in Learning, Living and Leadership". They also expand on our **WeGo Touchstone:**

Working together,
Embracing diversity,
Giving back to the community,
Owning our voice.

I will try my best to incorporate these "life lessons" into our daily work & work routine. In life, all of us are teachers, and all of us are students, so I look forward to what YOU have to teach me this semester as well.

Course Description for Drawing I

We will work on developing perceptual skills as they pertain to line, value, color and painting. Initial exercises, lessons, and sketchbook assignments will lay the foundation for developing these perceptual skills. We will start to combine these skills to solve visual challenges in the form of drawings, compositions and paintings.

Students will learn how to effectively communicate their thoughts, feelings and responses to world events and personal experiences through various drawing media such as: graphite, charcoal, colored pencils, conté crayons, wax/soy crayons, markers and pens.

Students will be introduced to a number of techniques, styles and processes. However, mastery will only come with years of practice, so the emphasis will be on a willingness to try new things, and to overcome immediate frustrations and mistakes.

General Learning Outcomes

In addition to the studio activities (Art Production), students will also gain experience with Art Criticism, Aesthetics and Art History. They will gain a deeper understanding of these areas and a greater appreciation for Art in general.

Higher level thinking skills and problem solving skills will be used as students explore multiple solutions. They will learn how to create and maintain a positive, supportive work environment, in which everyone has the opportunity to achieve their goals.

Students will learn how to expand their comfort zone as they gain confidence in their growing mastery of perceptual skills. In the short time we have together, students will see marked improvement in their drawings, compositions, creative thought processes, and problem solving skills.

Instructional Expectations

Maintaining a safe environment is critical since students will be working with potentially dangerous tools and materials such as craft knives, and hot glue guns. Students need to adhere to all classroom procedures related to tool distribution, use and collection. Due to heavy facility use and tight time constraints, following established clean up procedures is also key to the success of the class.

Students need to be on time and ready for class. I encourage all students to interact with each other; therefore, no personal electronic devices (cell phones or MP3 players) will be allowed in class. Of course, we will Chromebooks for project research. Images containing inappropriate subject matter, content or themes are not acceptable.

Students will discuss the progress of their work on a regular basis throughout the unit. Students are not only encouraged, but expected to mentor each other as they explore solutions to challenging and complex problems. Self-evaluation is an integral part of instruction.

Students are expected to show respect for each other, the teacher, their work, tools, supplies and the facility. Comments and behaviors which are negative or disrespectful will be addressed promptly, while positive comments and behavior will be reinforced daily.

Grading

I use the school's default grading scale: A= 100-89.5, B=89.4-79.5, C=79.4-69.5, D=69.4-59.5, F=59.4 and below. Grades include participation, lessons, exercises, projects, and sketchbook drawings. I use TOTAL POINTS.

Schedule All classes meet in Art Room 1146

1st Hour Drawing I, Advanced Drawing & Studio Art

2nd Hour Prep

3rd Hour Drawing I, Advanced Drawing & Studio Art

4th Hour Lunch

5/6th Hour Prep/Lunch

7/8th Hour Prep

10th Hour Drawing I, Advanced Art & Studio Art