

AP Studio Art

Course Syllabus 2026-27

Torah High School

Instructor

Ms. Phan

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Class Time

Monday/ Wednesday 3:05-4:25 PM

Friday 11-11:45 AM

Room 304

Course Description

This introductory college-level studio art and design course helps students develop their creative skills while building a strong body of original artwork. Throughout the year, students will explore how to use composition, color, shape, space, texture, typography, imagery, and other visual elements to communicate ideas through traditional and digital 2-D processes.

Students will focus on the creative process by developing ideas, experimenting with materials and techniques, evaluating their work, making revisions, and reflecting on their artistic decisions. Throughout the year, students will document their ideas, experiments, research, and creative development as their work toward a “Sustained Investigation” exploring a question, idea, or area of personal interest. **By the end of the year, students will have developed a cohesive body of original artwork and submitted an AP 2-D Art and Design portfolio!**

Major Units of Study

- Unit 1 – Foundations of 2-D Art & Design
 - ◆ Explore the elements and principles of 2-D art and design
 - ◆ Analyze how artists and designers use visual choices to communicate ideas

- Unit 2 – Materials, Processes, & Visual Exploration
 - ◆ Experiment with a variety of traditional and digital materials and processes
 - ◆ Develop ideas through practice, experimentation, and revision
- Unit 3 – Composition & Visual Communication
 - ◆ Create effective compositions using visual elements and design principles
 - ◆ Use creative problem-solving to communicate ideas and meaning
- Unit 4 – Artists, Research, & Personal Ideas
 - ◆ Study artists and designers to understand different approaches to art and design
 - ◆ Use research, observation, and personal interests to generate original ideas
- Unit 5 – Sustained Investigation
 - ◆ Develop a body of related artwork around a personal question, idea, or area of interest
 - ◆ Explore, experiment, revise, and reflect throughout the creative process
- Unit 6 – Portfolio Development
 - ◆ Select, refine, document, and reflect on artwork for the AP portfolio
 - ◆ Prepare and submit the Sustained Investigation and Selected Works sections

About the AP Exam

The AP 2-D Art and Design exam is a digital portfolio evaluated on students' ability to develop ideas, experiment with materials and processes, and demonstrate 2-D art and design skills.

Section I: Sustained Investigation (60% of score)

- **15 digital images that prove sustained investigation of an idea, question, or concept**
 - ◆ Shows practice, experimentation, and revision through the development of the work
 - ◆ Can be sketches, process documentation, or work-in-progress shots
- Includes written evidence explaining the inquiry, materials, processes, and development of the work

Section II: Selected Works (40% of score)

- **5 digital images of your “best work” that demonstrate 2-D art and design skills**
 - ◆ Each work should show skillful use of materials, processes, and techniques
- Includes written evidence describing the materials, processes, and ideas demonstrated in the selected works

Grading Policies & Expectations

Late Work

Assignments may be submitted up to one week late with a **5% reduction per day**. After one week, work may earn up to **50% credit** until the end of the semester.

Each semester, students receive 1 late-work freebie, allowing a submission up to one week late with no deduction. If unused, it converts to **1% extra credit**.

Grade Weights

Artwork & Research Projects	50%
Sketchbook	30%
Discussions & Critique	20%

Artwork & Research Projects

- **Artwork:** Finished art projects that students may use in their AP portfolio.
- **Research Projects:** Explore a variety of art and design resources through books, websites, videos, etc. Report takeaways and how you will use them in practice.

Sketchbook

Build skills and experiment with new materials and techniques through quick “sketchbook” sessions. Graded on completion.

Discussions & Critique

Online written discussions are a way to explore assigned resources, and share takeaways with each other. In-person, we will practice explaining your design choices and giving/ receiving critique. Students must also respond to at least one classmate.

Artistic Integrity & AI Usage

Students are expected to create original artwork and understand the difference between inspiration, reference, appropriation, transformation, and **plagiarism**.

Students may study and reference work of other artists and designers, but must *develop their own ideas and demonstrate meaningful transformation* (you will learn how to do this!).

AP Art and Design Policy

Here are some direct quotes from College Board as it pertains to AI for the 2026-27 school year:

- **Generative AI is allowed in the early stages of the artistic process. Using generative AI tools to create final submitted artwork is prohibited.**
- **In addition, using generative AI features embedded in digital editing tools for final submitted artwork is prohibited.** In practice, any AI feature that generates or inserts new content (e.g., object creation, generative fill/expand, background replacement), even when accessed through otherwise permitted software, is treated as generative and not permitted in final submitted artwork.
- **Non-generative AI is allowed in all stages of the artistic process.** In practice, editing student-made content (e.g., exposure, contrast, color correction, cropping, minor cleanup) is permitted.
- **Students must disclose any AI use (generative or non-generative) in the AP Digital Portfolio for artwork in both Sustained Investigation and Selected Works.** Disclosures should explain how AI was used to support research, ideation, practice, experimentation, and/or revision.

Read more here:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/exam-administration-ordering-scores/administering-exams/exam-policies/artificial-intelligence-tools>

Required Materials

- Drawing and painting material
- Sketchbook
- Photography equipment (your phone works!)
- Laptop to access Jupiter, AP Classroom, and image-editing software (<https://www.photopea.com/> or <https://www.canva.com/>)
- Additional resources provided throughout the year (documentaries, field trips, etc.)

Optional but helpful:

- USB drive or digital storage for your portfolio materials
- Start gathering different materials and ideas you may want to experiment with, since we can't cover every possibility in class!



Tips for Success

AP 2-D Art and Design is an opportunity to develop your **own creative voice**. You do not need to be a professional artist to succeed in this course – you need to be willing to explore, practice, think critically, and develop your ideas.

Remember that growth, experimentation, and thoughtful decision-making are just as important as the finished artwork!

