

**Bedford High School  
Visual Art Department  
Sean Hagan, Program Director**

**Course Syllabus**

**Course: #7414/7413 Art Explorations Major/Minor Level 4/3**

Prerequisite: A minimum of two years of art and permission of both one art instructor willing to serve as the student's mentor and the Program Director.

Students who have demonstrated a high degree of competence in one or more mediums, and who have also proven themselves capable of great initiative and personal commitment in their art-making, may enroll in this course with the permission of a member of the Art Department willing to serve as their instructor. In essence, this course is a supervised and minimally structured independent study. The emphasis is on in-depth exploration of themes and materials. Students may choose to concentrate on one medium and/or theme or genre for the whole year, or may decide instead to shift their emphasis from one quarter to another. Students are required to keep a journal/sketchbook, maintain a portfolio of research and experimentation, and produce one major art work — or a series of related smaller works — each quarter. The year's work will culminate in a final exhibition/assessment activity involving thoughtful and effective presentation design to communicate their work and their learning to a public audience.

Minor: Periods per cycle: 2 Credits: 2.5

Major: Periods per cycle: 4 Credits: 5

**Primary responsibility for the following academic expectations:**

**Active Learners:**

- 1a: Students will understand and use what they learn
- 1c: Students will engage in inquiry and self-directed learning
- 1d: Students will use feedback and self-reflection to extend learning

**Resourceful Thinkers:**

- 2a: Students will employ creative thinking skills
- 2d: Students will make meaningful connections

**Effective Communicators:**

- 3b: Students will express knowledge and skill creatively using a variety of media, technology and the arts
- 3c: Students will engage effectively in discussion

**I. Learning Objectives**

*The student who successfully completes this course will have learned:*

- a. how to use their chosen medium in a variety of ways
- b. various ways to present an idea or concept
- c. ways to decide what mediums, genres, styles, and forms are best suited to express a variety of emotional and intellectual content
- d. how to experiment, brainstorm, and produce thumbnails for potential projects
- e. how to plan and carry out long-term projects effectively

## **II. Learning Experiences**

*In this course, students will:*

- a. plan and execute major projects or series of smaller related works
- b. communicate plans and ideas to their instructor by means of both sketches and written proposals
- c. modify plans as necessary to accommodate technical limitations or the evolution of ideas and motivations
- d. participate in critiques with a degree of sensitivity to their own and others' intentions and artistic development, and with an awareness of a range of past and contemporary art work relevant to the work being examined
- e. keep a journal/sketchbook of work
- f. design and construct an installation/presentation of their work for the annual K-12 Art Festival.

## **III. Course Outline**

Students will produce at least one major work or series of related smaller works per quarter. Individual critiques will be on-going but very brief; more extensive critiques will occur several times per quarter, and, logistics permitting, Art Explorations students will participate in one significant group critique each quarter. Students will submit a written/sketched proposal for each quarter's work at the beginning of that quarter, and will write a brief reflection on their work at the close of each quarter.

## **IV. Course Materials:**

Students will have access to all materials in the art department as needed and as practicable.