



MERCERSBURG ACADEMY

**Course Catalog
2020-2021**

Arts Department

Arts

Acting I	<p>SPRING. Prerequisite: None, open to all students</p> <p>Performing truthful action on stage is the actor's essential task. This course introduces students to basic acting skills, focusing on character development through improvisational theater games and increasingly more complex open scene projects. Students are exposed to a wide variety of techniques focusing on building skills of concentration, spontaneity, imagination, physicalization and vocal dexterity.</p>
Acting II: Shakespeare in Performance	<p>SPRING. Prerequisites: Acting 1 or completion of a 10th grade English Class.</p> <p>Shakespeare and other Early Modern playwrights will be studied using the skills and techniques of the actors who were the original audience for the texts. Students will work as a self directed ensemble and advance their skills of text analysis, study of verse vs prose, and development of character using the script as their starting point. Students will also explore the theatre styles that influenced the Early Modern Playwrights and the styles that developed after the Renaissance. These may include Greek Theatre, Commedia Dell'arte, Restoration Theatre, and Melodrama.</p>
Acting II: Contemporary Scene Study	<p>WINTER. Prerequisite: Acting I or Stage Combat or permission of instructor.</p> <p>This class will continue to develop the skills and theory presented in Acting I. Contemporary Scene Study focuses on the performance of scenes from realistic plays and films using Stanislavsky theory as the basis for character development and scene analysis. Students will hone their skills as actors, beginning to develop a personal practice and an understanding of themselves as performing artists.</p> <p>More advanced principles of acting will be applied to realistic texts through scene work, exercises, and improvisations. We will begin our exploration of realistic texts with scenes from plays in the American or European Canon of Modern Drama. Character development practices, scene analysis, and the actor's basic approach will continue to be developed. Exercises for further growth of the Actor's Voice and Body based on Lessac Kinesensics will be integrated into class work and daily warmups.</p> <p>Discussion and critique are an integral part of the process as scene work is done in class.</p>
Advanced Performance	<p>Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in Band, Chorale, or Strings and completion of Acting 1 or previous experience in Stony Batter.</p> <p>Students who take Advanced Performance are currently participating in Band, String, or Chorale Ensembles but also wish to continue their training in acting.</p> <p>Advanced Performance is a multi-discipline course for upperclassmen.</p> <p>This course allows a student to participate in their yearlong music ensemble and advance their theatre/musical theatre technique without adding an additional class to their schedules. This course is particularly helpful to those considering theatre/musical theatre as a future area of study. Students accepted into Advanced Performance will substitute this class for Band, Chorale, or Strings twice a week.</p>

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Advanced Studies: Art History

Prerequisite: successful completion of US History.
Fairly strong reading and comprehension skills suggested.

This course may be taken for history credit.

This survey of selected images of Global Art through the ages, involving architecture, painting, sculpture and the related arts, follows skill building guidelines of description, explanation, analysis, as well as making conceptual connection in comparison and contrasting fashion. Reading material, slides, active class discussion, and museum visits are the tools used to aid the student's knowledge. It prepares students to identify art from specific cultures, periods, and styles and develops the ability to verbally articulate the comparison of conceptual themes between cultures and artwork. This course also concentrates on improving the student's writing to be descriptive in a clear and concise format.

Advanced Studio Art

Prerequisite: Second level of a Visual Art class.
Completed application.
***For Upper Middlers only.
Department approval required.

Advanced Studio Art values the students' creative processes as well as their final artwork. Students will develop techniques in a variety of media, and then conduct thoughtful inquiry into their own thinking and art making processes' recording this learning in written and visual formats in their sketchbooks. Students are expected to be independently motivated as they research artists and art works throughout history and across cultures. Connecting their research to their own work, students will create a portfolio of artwork that expresses their own personal voice within a cultural context. In addition to learning how to appreciate and evaluate their own work and that of others, students will be required to share their work with an audience through exhibitions in the Cofrin and gallery niche. Frequent assessment of their sketchbooks and work through critique individually with the instructor and in groups with the other members of the class.

Advanced Topics in Ceramics

SPRING. Prerequisite: Ceramics II or permission of the instructor.

Advanced ceramic principles, methods, and techniques will be taught through the use of hand-built and/ or wheel-thrown objects (students preference).

Student will choose their course of independent study with the guidance of the instructor. The elements of art, art historical reference, sources, and personal expression will be addressed even further. Design and composition aesthetics are paramount in teaching a student how to communicate their message using a ceramic object.

Band Performance

Prerequisite: Permission of the department.

This course is designed for students who play brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. Students practice performance skills both individually

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and as an ensemble. Required public performances are an important part of the work for this course. The course encourages an understanding of the aesthetics of music and also teaches the skills of intonation, sight reading, blending, tone quality, and basic musicianship. Students are enrolled into this course upon recommendation of the music faculty.

This course earns 2/3 credit per term.

Ceramics I

FALL, WINTER, SPRING. Prerequisite: None.

This course is an introduction to the fundamental methods and techniques of ceramics. Students will work four weeks at the wheel and four weeks hand-building. The assignments address context and content issues as the students create sculptural and utilitarian objects. Glazing the objects with an informed understanding will be developed. The course also addresses the nature of art as it relates to the specific object.

Open to all students.

Ceramics II

FALL & WINTER. Prerequisite: Ceramics I.

Intermediate ceramic principles and techniques will be taught through the use of hand-built and/ or wheel-thrown objects (students preference). The elements of art, art historical reference, sources, and personal expression will be addressed. This course is intended to give the student an understanding of concepts common to all three-dimensional art forms. Art historical references will be researched to support the students personal expression.

Choral Performance

Prerequisite: None.

This course is designed for singers - sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. Students will practice performance skills both individually and as an ensemble. Public performances will be an important part of the work for this course. The course will encourage an understanding of the aesthetics of music and will also teach basic music theory and sight reading. Students will be enrolled into this course upon recommendation of the music faculty.

This course earns 2/3 credit per term.

Dance Composition I

FALL & WINTER. Prerequisite: None.

Open to all students.

This course provides students the opportunities to learn the fundamentals of choreography. Students come to recognize that a dance has a beginning, a middle and an end, and that the form of a dance must be related to its content if it is to be an aesthetic whole. Through experimentation and improvisation, compositional elements are gradually introduced (space, time energy, etc.) and students attempt to incorporate these elements into their compositional work. After school rehearsals, special engagements and performances may be required.

Dance Composition II

SPRING. Prerequisite: Dance Composition I or permission of the instructor.

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This course provides students the opportunities to further extend the acquisition of knowledge of techniques of choreography and performance.

The content includes experiences in dance critique, research on periods in dance history, lighting design, costumes and dance choreography for performance. After school rehearsals, special engagements and performances may be required.

Dance Composition III

SPRING. Prerequisite: Dance Composition II or permission of instructor.

This course will provide students the opportunity to further extend the knowledge of techniques of choreography and performance. Students will express their understanding of choreographic elements (space, time and energy) through the use of both traditional and invented movements. Group work, including partnering, as well as solo work, is explored.

Digital Imaging

WINTER. Prerequisite: None.

Open to all students.

Students will learn and explore Adobe Photoshop as a digital imaging and digital paint tool. Students will create artwork using the current technology within raster or pixel graphics using digital cameras, scanners, Macintosh Computers, and Wacom Tablets. They will use Adobe Photoshop to create composite images, paint digitally, and design layouts. The students will explore color theory, composition, conceptual art, and typography. Students will develop a portfolio that demonstrates the technical, design and conceptual skills. They will develop their artistic eye using various design techniques like the Rule of Thirds and other grid systems. They will create commercial and fine art while building the foundations of the principles and elements of art and design.

Digital Photography

FALL, SPRING. Prerequisite: None.

Open to all students.

This class provides students the opportunity to study and explore digital photography and learn techniques used in a digital darkroom. Students will learn how to properly use a Digital Single Lens Reflex camera. Students will explore and learn manual settings, camera optics and focal lengths, lighting, perspective and exposure. The second half of the course will focus on processing the images using current digital darkroom techniques. Students will learn to process images using Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop. Students will develop a portfolio that demonstrates technical, design and conceptual skills. Students will have the opportunity to explore both natural and studio light scenarios. They will develop their artistic eye using various design techniques like the Rule of Thirds and other grid systems. They will create commercial and fine art while building the foundations of the principles and elements of art and design.

Student capacity: 13

Digital Photography II

SPRING. Prerequisite: Digital Photography or permission of the department.

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This class provides students the opportunity to continue studying and exploring digital photography. They will build upon their foundation learned in Digital Photography I and learn advanced techniques used in-camera, with studio lighting and a digital darkroom. Students will use a Digital Single Lens Reflex camera to create fine art and commercial photography. Students will explore and learn advanced techniques in shooting, camera optics, and focal lengths, lighting, perspective, and exposure. The course will focus heavily on conceptual work and visual literacy. Students will learn to process images using Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop.

Students will develop a portfolio that demonstrates the technical, design and conceptual skills. Students will have the opportunity to explore natural light, studio light, and scenarios that require the photographer to balance both. They will develop their artistic eye that uses the medium to control the creative voice and concept of the work. The course will focus on learning and building functional applications of the principles and elements of design.

Digital Video Art

WINTER. Prerequisite: None.

Open to all students.

This course is an introduction to the principles of film media, with an emphasis on digital video capture and editing. Students combine audio, video technology and 2D graphics of filmmaking. Students will explore camera, audio and editing techniques that build the story and mood of a film or documentary. Students will spend time analyzing films from a filmmakers perspective and apply this to their own work.

Drawing I

FALL, WINTER, SPRING. Prerequisite: None.

Open to all students.

This course introduces students to the Elements of Design: line, shape, value, form, space, texture and color. These Elements are emphasized and rendered through direct observation and exploration manipulating various dry media such as pencil, charcoal, cont' crayon and marker. Each lesson and project progressively builds upon the next culminating in a Self-portrait built upon the proportions and scale of the human skull. These projects allow the student artist to formulate conversation with the knowledge to describe, analyze, and interpret ART in and out of the studio setting.

Drawing II

WINTER. Prerequisite: Drawing I.

Students build on techniques learned in Drawing 1 incorporating Elements of Art with Principals of Design. The students begin working from observation to employ the Principals of Design and move from representation to deconstruction and essence building their comfort in crafting more conceptual themes. Creative curiosity is nurtured as students develop visual statements evoking emotion and meaning beyond representation.

Materials include but are not limited to pencil, pen, charcoal, conte crayon, pastel and ink wash.

Introduction to Dance

FALL, WINTER. Prerequisite: None.

Open to all students.

This course will provide students with the opportunity to acquire proficiency in dance regardless of previous training and background. From the

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athlete looking to improve balance and flexibility to the student with prior knowledge wanting to develop their interest in dance, this course is designed to incorporate all levels of ability.

The content includes application of fundamental principles of modern, ballet and jazz technique. Including barre, center floor, axial center, and locomotor and physiologically sound movement progressions. Class will primarily consist of technique; however, a variety of dance related topics (including the introduction of the history and terminology of these idioms) will be covered in lecture format.

Mixing Music in the Digital Age

FALL, WINTER, SPRING. Prerequisite: None.
Open to all students.

This course introduces students to the world of music production using the contemporary music software GarageBand. Mixing Music provides a project-based, hands-on experience in loop-based music production, MIDI basics, audio recording, digital signal processing and effects, live and post-recording mixing, and digital mastering. Students do not need to have a music performance or music-reading background.

Mixing Music in the Digital Age II

SPRING. Prerequisite: Mixing Music I and permission of the department.

Students with past experience with DAWs may qualify based on a project they submit.

This course continues work completed in the first level of Mixing Music in the Digital Age. We move from a basic DAW (digital audio workstation) in Garageband to a professional workstation in Logic Pro X. More advanced compositional techniques and more advanced music theory will be explored, building on what was learned in Level I. Additional emphasis will be placed on techniques in mixing tracks via an analog mixer.

Modern Dance

SPRING. Prerequisite: None.

Modern Dance provides students with opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills in basic modern techniques. The content includes knowledge and application of fundamental principles of modern dance including released-based techniques, rolling through the spine, fall and recovery, contractions, moving to and from the floor with ease, stretching, strengthening the core connection, proper alignment, and improvisation. Center floor, axial center, locomotor and physiologically sound movement progressions across the floor are followed by center combinations. Styles include classical and contemporary modern vocabulary.

Painting I

FALL, WINTER, SPRING. Prerequisite: None.
Open to all students.

This course introduces the student artist to acrylic paint and it's formal application using the Elements of Design: line, shape, value, form, space, texture and color. Student artists will learn how to talk about their work and the work of others through Critical Analysis as they describe, analyze and interpret ART. Color theory, composition, and life rendering will be stressed as the student artist becomes more adept in rendering to then culminate in a personal choice subject adhering to the Artistic Process.

Painting II

SPRING. Prerequisite: Painting I.

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In this course students build on the techniques learned in Painting 1 incorporating Elements of Art with Principals of Design working in traditional and non-traditional application of the acrylic medium, watercolor, oil, and mixed media. The students work primarily from observation to explore composition, perspective, foreshortening and shading while diving deeper into the manipulation of the medium and will build a custom substrate using stretcher bars and canvas for their final painting. Creative curiosity is nurtured as students develop visual statements from conceptual themes evoking emotion and meaning.

Practical Design & Production

FALL, WINTER. Prerequisite: None.

In practical Design and Production students develop basic skills in building, architectural painting and design, and historical research as they relate to creating practical objects. Materials/techniques will include woodworking, sewing, 3d printing etc. This is the first step for students with an interest in makers spaces and theatrical design.

Sculpture I

FALL, WINTER. Prerequisite: None.

Open to all students.

This introductory course addresses the formal elements and the fundamental methods and techniques of sculpture using a variety of materials. Assignments focus on developing a student's creative thinking relying on personal experience.

Materials used are wire, wood, and glass.

Speech

FALL, SPRING. Prerequisite: None.

Open to all students.

This class will introduce students to the speaker's basic tasks: clear, full, free vocal and physical communication. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of exercises and techniques, focusing on building skills of articulation, phrasing, rhythm, tempo, concentration, spontaneity, imagination, physicalization, and interpretation.

Fundamental principles of speech will be presented through exercises and improvisations. Techniques for freeing and developing the Voice and Body will be integrated into classwork and daily warm-ups. A process for vocal and analytical interpretation of various forms of literature (prose, poetry, drama) will be introduced. Extemporaneous presentations will be developed as well. Students will rehearse, perform and evaluate their work and that of their classmates as work progresses. Students will learn skills leading to a well planned oral presentation.

Stage Combat

FALL, WINTER. Prerequisite: none.

Stage Combat is open to any student who would like to learn how to tell a story through SAFE non-contact combat mime. Work will include hand-to-hand combat, throws, sword and weapons work, and slapstick comedy.

Students will increase their flexibility, strength, and physical control while also stretching their imaginations and learning about the history of

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combat through the ages.

String Performance

Prerequisite: Permission of the department.

This course is designed for string players - violins, violas, cellos, and string bass players. Students will practice performance skills both individually and as an ensemble. Public performances will be an important part of the work for this course. The course will encourage an understanding of the aesthetics of music and will also teach basic music theory and sight reading. Students will be enrolled into this course upon recommendation of the music faculty.

This course earns 2/3 credit per term.

Voice and Vision

FALL. Prerequisites: Graduation requirements for Fine Arts must be met prior to enrolling in this class.

Students must have taken previous classes in the visual arts in which a body of work has already begun. Departmental approval required.

This is a course for seniors.

Through a variety of media, this term course enables student artists in twelfth grade to more deeply explore and express their visual statements, further weaving investigation, technique, and personal experience with their emerging personal aesthetic—resulting in a unique voice and vision.

Portfolios created may be used as primary or supplemental to the college application process flexing the student's depth of creative acumen. To complete their study in a culminating event, each student will showcase a portion of their body of work in the Cofrin Gallery during the Spring's Senior Art Exhibit.

Working Title: An Introduction to
visual storytelling

FALL. Prerequisite: None.

Class participants will be scriptwriters, directors, and performers in a series of projects that will develop their understanding of how to influence an audience through short films. The class uses cell phones or tablets for filming which puts the focus on story development rather than technical elements of video production.