



Maine Arts Academy 2023-2024 Course Catalog

This is a catalog of the courses Maine Arts Academy will be offering for the 2023 - 2024 school year. This catalog is made available for students to reference.

Academic Classes

ENGLISH

English 1

This is an entry-level English course that builds foundational skills for reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They will learn and apply their learning to real-world situations, both within the texts we read and without. Students will read and write in a variety of genres, for a variety of purposes, and the course will cover a broad array of material to adequately prepare students for English 2. Major texts may include: *Of Mice and Men*, *12 Angry Jurors*, and *Animal Farm*.

English 2

Prerequisite: English 1

The study of English includes the study of literature, informational texts, language, communication, writing, and research. In this course, the student will: study literature and informational texts; study grammar and learn its importance; learn to write appropriately, whether in a formal setting or informal setting; learn how to write a speech and deliver it with proper poise and confidence; and finally, learn how to research and gather data, so that he or she will be able to write a solid and intelligent research paper. This course is an extension of and will be building on the 9th-grade English course. This course also provides PSAT prep that is built into the curriculum.

English 3

Prerequisite: English 2

This course is a survey of American Literature, so the student will read selections from the birth of the United States to the present day. It will continue to build on the foundation you built in the 9th and 10th grade English courses, so the student will continue to comprehend, evaluate and analyze texts, correctly and appropriately write in formal and informal situations, and be able to vigorously and responsibly research and gather solid evidence to back up any thesis statement.

ENG 101 College Writing (through the University of Maine at Augusta)

Prerequisites: English 1 and 2. Students may take this course and ENG 102W in lieu of the English 3 requirement. Fall semester only.

ENG 101 builds upon your already acquired high-school writing skills to prepare you for the more advanced writing that you will do in your college career and beyond. It gives you extensive practice in the writing process, with an emphasis on crafting expository texts appropriate to academic contexts. During the course, the students will write in various modes, including, but not limited to, narrative, expository, and persuasive. The course will prepare students, so they can write clear, specific, and original thesis statements; organize essays in regard to audience and purpose; research appropriately and effectively; revise, edit, and proofread their work; engage in peer review; actively participate in literary discussions; and fully understand all facets of MLA formatting and style.

ENG 102W Introduction to Literature (through the University of Maine at Augusta)

Prerequisite: ENG 101. Spring semester only.

This course is a collegiate introduction to English literature. The students will be studying various time periods of English literature and various genres (poetry, plays, short stories, essays, and novels). The objectives of this course are to build a comprehensive foundation of the understanding of English literature, to support and guide students in a deeper analysis of literature, to strengthen their understanding of literary research and MLA format, and to ensure their ability to write a well-supported and original final paper.

Creative Writing

This course takes students on the scenic route through various genres of Creative Writing. Major units include a short story, poetry, and screenwriting. We also work on revising, workshoping, and creating a manuscript in one of a variety of genres. This can include a poetry, essay, or short story collection, a graphic novel, a play or screenplay, an album (the lyrics), etc. Students in this class will be encouraged to find their niche in Creative Writing and develop and pursue their own creative instincts and interests as a writer. At the same time, they will be asked to expand their horizons, experiment, and try new things.

Narratology

This course covers the fundamentals of the art and act of reading. We will look at the structure and function of narrative, learn to analyze or understand a narrative work using Narratology as a lens and develop the ability to critically evaluate texts. Students will have the opportunity to read self-selected books in a variety of genres, read a wide variety of short stories, and pursue individual creative and skill-building projects about the books that they read.

MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra

This Pre-Algebra course is an introduction to basic algebra concepts and a review of arithmetic algorithms. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Algebra I and Geometry. The course helps students develop good mathematical study skills and learning strategies. Students will explore algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities involving integers, decimals, exponents, fractions, and polynomials. Students will encounter ratios, proportions, percents, linear functions, and graphing techniques and will think spatially regarding area and volume, analytic geometry, data analysis, and probability.

Algebra 1

This is a first-year algebra course in which students will learn to reason symbolically. Key content involves writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations in two unknowns. Emphasis is placed on factoring polynomial cubic, quadratic, and linear expressions. Quadratic

equations are solved by factoring or by application of the quadratic formula. The course also includes the study of monomial and polynomial expressions, inequalities, exponents, functions, rational expressions, ratios, and proportions. Algebraic skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

This course assumes that the student has demonstrated a solid foundation in algebra. Topics include the relationships between points, lines, and planes; the axiomatic system, logical thinking and proof writing; and measurement, including area and volume; congruency and similarity; two and three-dimensional geometric figures; parallel and perpendicular lines; and the coordinate plane. Reinforcement of algebraic problem solving methods are presented continually throughout this course within the context of geometric theorems, postulates, and concepts. Mathematical reasoning, analysis, and communication skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Algebra 2

Prerequisite: Geometry

This is a second-year algebra course in which students will extend learning from Algebra I. This course introduces students to key concepts and theories which provide a foundation for further study in mathematics and increase students' mathematical literacy, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. The key content involves the following: writing, solving, and graphing linear equations, inequalities and systems, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions, equations, and expressions. Quadratic equations are solved by factoring, completing the square, graphically, or by application of the quadratic formula integrating both real and complex solutions. Mathematical reasoning, analysis, and communication skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Honors Pre-Calculus

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

This course is designed to cover topics extending beyond Algebra II ranging from polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions to conic sections. Students will compose functions and graph complex numbers. Students will develop unit circle definitions of trigonometric functions, graph sine, cosine, and tangent functions; solve trigonometric identities and equations; and work with the Laws of Sines and Cosines. This is a rigorous math course for those on a college track.

Honors Calculus

Prerequisite: Honors Pre-Calculus

An introductory college-level calculus course. The areas of study include graph analysis, limits of functions, continuity of functions, derivatives at a point as well as a function integration, and techniques of anti-differentiation.

Personal Finance and Business Math

Junior and Senior course

This personal finance and business math course will extend learning from previous mathematics classes. This course is an applied math course and introduces students to real-world concepts and theories, which provide a foundation for success with mathematics in future personal and business endeavors as well as increase students' mathematical literacy, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. The key content involves calculating personal income taxes, budgeting, and qualifying for a mortgage or other loans, interpreting credit card

statements and terms, and creating a business plan, balancing a personal budget, etc. Mathematical reasoning, analysis, and communication skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

SCIENCE

Lab Earth Science

This course surveys key topic areas in Earth Science including the application of scientific processes to explore astronomy, the geosphere, the atmosphere, and the hydrosphere. Topics include the history of the universe and our solar system, the earth's interior and plate tectonics, solar energy, weather and climate, and freshwater versus oceanography. Students will also examine and discuss both the current scientific understanding of the human impact on the world and the application of that understanding to global and local environmental issues. Classroom discussions and labs will focus on problem-solving skills, including reshaping debate into consensus and action.

Lab Biology

Prerequisite: Lab Earth Science

Biology is the study of life. It includes an introduction to the scientific method, cytology, genetics, botany, zoology, ecology, taxonomy, evolution, biochemistry, and microbiology. Lab work includes the biological and physical adaptation of human and animal anatomy and physiology (with attention to dance and movement). Students will use critical thinking in group discussions and present independent projects. Coursework, lab work, and examinations will prepare students for future science courses.

Introduction to Lab Physics and Chemistry

Prerequisite: Lab Biology

Physical Science is designed to serve as a foundation for other high school courses, especially chemistry and physics. Physics units include Newton's 3 laws of motion, forces, scientific definitions of work and power, momentum, conservation and conversions of energy, relationships between electricity and magnetism, and wave phenomena and behavior (including characteristics and calculations) including electromagnetic and sound waves. Chemistry units include composition and classification of matter, history of atomic structure up to the present-day model, learning the periodic table to include, but not limited to all chemical symbols, patterns, trends, and isotopes, chemical bonding, compound naming, and chemical reactions.

Honors Lab Chemistry

Junior and Senior course

Prerequisite: Introduction to Lab Physics and Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of matter. In this course, we will examine matter from atomic structure with its chemical bonding, to the conservation of matter through balanced stoichiometry, then to the states of matter, and finally move into gas law, acids and bases, and solutions. Students will engage in critical analysis and class discussions of chemical principles through class materials, lab investigations, and in daily life as well as completing and presenting independent projects. This is an honors-level course for those students who have completed Physical Science.

Honors Lab Physical Science

Junior and Senior course

Prerequisite: Introduction to Lab Physics and Chemistry

In this course, the students will examine the fundamentals of Physics with a focus on Newton's Laws and the application of those laws on the four fundamental forces of our universe. Daily class discussions will focus on

critical thinking, problem-solving, and supporting conclusions with sound evidence and scientific reasoning. We will use mathematical equations and current scientific reading to explore the ever-changing nature of reality at both a universal and a quantum level. Electricity, magnetism, particles, and waves will be discussed as they affect the physical processes on earth and the motions, characteristics, and forces in space. Students will be expected to create and present independent projects. This is an honors-level course for those students who have completed Physical Science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

United States History

This one-year course will examine the history of the United States of America. The course will make connections to overall themes in history such as immigration, race relations, national values, religion, etc. We will take a critical look at the story of American history, starting with the British colonies in North America, through the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the modern era. Students will be expected to think critically about decisions and events in our history that have molded our country to the present day. We will also be making connections to civics via the study of our foundational documents and a reflective analysis of how history has and continues to impact our present. First-year course.

Current Events

Prerequisite: United States History

Current Events is a year-long class where we discuss issues in the news and topics that matter in the world. We cover topics ranging from local to global events, economic issues to social issues, the environment, and electoral politics (and much, much more). This class involves lots of class discussion so those who enjoy participating are more than welcome! We'll also complete semi-regular projects — from posters to essays to student polls to presentations.

History Through Art

Prerequisite: United States History

History Through Art (or art history) is a yearlong survey into how art has been used to reflect or interpret historical events and movements. The course is divided by art medium – visual arts, music, theater, photography, film, dance, etc. In this course, you will study the historical context that surrounds certain artistic outputs from across the globe. We will also study culture and popular culture frequently. Assessments will be completed through a variety of tests, essays, and projects. This course is targeted for sophomores who have completed United State History.

Philosophy

Junior and Senior course

Prerequisite: United States History

Social Studies and English credit

A brief introduction to some of the major philosophers of the Western tradition, and to some of the key questions that have been asked: *What is philosophy? What is consciousness? Is free will an illusion? Are we living in a simulation? Can machines think? What is justice? What constitutes a good life? What kind of meaning can be ascribed to our existence? What is a question? How do we gain knowledge about the world? And what are the limits of our knowledge?* Class assessments include several inquiry-based projects working up to an aggregation of major philosophical contributions throughout history. We will routinely discuss, debate, and reflect on those experiences while improving critical thinking skills.

Honors History Through Literature

Prerequisite: United States History

Social Studies and English credit

This course explores the impact of significant works including samples ranging from the past into the future. We will explore major works of historical relevance that put the evolution of literature into proper context, will select key works from the science fiction genre, will discuss specimens from genres of historical fiction and colonialism across different regions and time periods, will investigate topics aligned with individual art pathways to develop a customized timeline of important literature throughout history, demonstrating learning through both projects and daily writing assignments.

Honors Latin American History and Politics

Junior and Senior course

Latin America History and Politics is a year-long survey into the more modern histories of a number of Latin American countries. This includes (but is not limited to) Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, Cuba, and Jamaica. We will also discuss the United States' role and relationship(s) with these countries and touch on current issues like foreign policy, social justice, and immigration. We'll delve into Latin American art, literature, music, and film frequently throughout the year to contextualize what we've learned. It's an advanced class meant for students with a keen interest in history and politics as the material is difficult (at times college-level) but the workload is manageable.

Honors Sociology

Junior and Senior course

A preparatory course for what students might take to prepare for college, this class is, one-half sociology and one-half social psychology. We will cover the behavioral science of human interaction and later apply that to broader society. Much of this class will be taught through experiential learning and observations, with an emphasis on discussion and theory. Will involve a fair amount of writing as well. This course will cover issues ranging from racial discrimination, gender dynamics, social movements, and general social interaction. Hopefully, we'll have some fun!

WORLD LANGUAGE

French 1-4 and Spanish 1-4:

Each French or Spanish course is a year-long, one-credit course comprised of five Anchor Standards (AS):

- Interpretive Listening
- Interpretive Reading
- Presentational Speaking
- Presentational Writing
- Interpersonal Communication

Within each Anchor Standard, students progress through Learning Targets (LT), or Steps, of gradually increasing language complexity. Students move on to more challenging material as they acquire more language. At all levels, students are developing strategies to derive meaning from level-appropriate spoken and written material, as well as to convey a level-appropriate comprehensible message in speech and writing.

Classes are conducted primarily in the target language using an approach called Teaching with Comprehensible Input (TCI). The language is presented in meaningful contexts in a way that students can understand, using limited amounts of new vocabulary and lots of repetition to encourage acquisition. English is used for

clarification, as needed.

With students giving input and direction to the discourse, the topics covered relate to real life and students' interests. Whenever possible, the arts are specifically connected to the instruction, often with cultural connections to the countries where the target language is spoken.

WELLNESS

Health & Fitness

This course will provide students the tools to practice life-long health and fitness skills. Over the course of the semester, we will learn about body systems, nutrition, and physical activity; learn the difference between chronic and infectious diseases; and learn how to base current and future decisions on the topics of drugs, healthy relationships, alcohol use, and safe technology practices on facts. We will focus on mental illnesses, anxiety and stress, and will learn effective coping strategies. This class will incorporate and encourage many different forms of learning from the reading of scientific texts and novel excerpts, writing, film, open discussions, projects, art, music, yoga, exercise, and mindfulness. Students will learn that healthy behaviors and choices are in their hands and will be provided with an arsenal of tools to help make the best choices.

Fine Art Classes

DANCE

Dance Studies - History and Appreciation

Dance and Social Studies credit

This course is designed to provide students with a significant background in dance genres, dance influencers, famous dance pieces, and history. Students will study dance vocabulary, dance genres, and dance eras, and explore their creative abilities in the classroom.

Sample Dance

Level I

This class is an excellent option for the nondancer or beginner dancer to try new things and better understand their interests. This class is a great way to sample many genres of dance and learn the very basics of each including physical skills, terminology, and history. This class will cover American social dance, ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, acrobatics, and hip-hop. There will be an expectation for students to perform as a class in one of our recitals to showcase what they have learned. Necessary appropriate attire would be similar to workout clothes or physical education class attire.

Acrobatic Arts

Level I, II, and III

Instructor permission is required for student safety

This class will follow the Acrobatic Arts syllabus through certified instruction. This is an excellent option for any interested student and will focus equally on building flexibility, strength, balancing, limbering, and tumbling through physical skills and terminology. There is a level of physical fitness required for this class; students should be comfortable with the idea of working hard, receiving feedback, and following instructions to maintain safety for themselves and others. This class may include a performance opportunity for some or all students. Necessary appropriate attire would include form-fitting activewear and bare feet. Hair must be secured out of the face.

Dance Technique Lab 1 - Jazz and Tap

Level I, II, and III

This class is an excellent option for the intermediate dancer who is interested in dance and/or musical theater to further their knowledge. This class will cover intermediate level skills, terminology, and history in the styles of jazz in semester one and tap in semester two. There will be an expectation for students to perform as a class in at least one of our recitals to showcase what they have learned. Necessary appropriate attire would be similar to workout clothes or physical education class attire. Tap shoes are required for the second semester of this course and can be borrowed from the school if necessary.

Dance Technique Lab 2 - Ballet and Contemporary

Level II, III

This class is an excellent option for the intermediate/advanced dancer who wants to further their training. This class will cover intermediate and advanced level skills and terminology in the styles of ballet in semester one and contemporary/modern semester two. There will be an expectation for students to perform as a class in at least one of our recitals to showcase what they have learned. Necessary appropriate attire would include form-fitting dancewear such as leotards, tights, leggings, appropriately sized t-shirts, joggers, etc. Hair must be secured out of the face. Ballet shoes and dancing in bare feet are required for this course, ballet shoes can be borrowed from the school if necessary.

Dance Technique Lab 3 - Ballet and Jazz

Level III

Audition Only

This class is an excellent option for the advanced dancer who is dedicated to receiving and applying feedback and actively wants to further their training. This will cover advanced level skills and terminology in the styles of ballet in semester one and jazz in semester two with regular work in strengthening, stability, balance, and specialty skills. There will be an expectation for students to perform as a class in at least one of our recitals to showcase what they have learned. Necessary appropriate attire would include form-fitting dancewear such as leotards, tights, leggings, appropriately sized t-shirts, joggers, etc. Hair must be secured out of the face. Ballet shoes and jazz shoes are required for this course and can be borrowed from the school if necessary.

Composition and Performance

Level III

Audition Only

Prerequisite: Concurrently take 2 dance classes within the dance pathway or a minimum of 6 hours a week of outside training, with at least one of those hours being ballet.

This class is an excellent opportunity for the advanced dancer who has a strong level of technique/experience in a variety of genres. This class will focus on improvisation techniques, student composition, independent choreography, collaborative projects, and group choreography as well as learning, retaining, and performing choreography in a timely manner. Students in this course should be comfortable working independently as well as in a cohesive team and prepared to take leadership roles in the dance department. This group will perform regularly on campus and represent MeAA at any potential community performances. Necessary appropriate attire would include form-fitting dancewear such as leotards, tights, leggings, appropriately sized t-shirts, joggers, etc. Hair must be secured out of the face. Students should bring their dance bags with any shoes they own.

FILM

Introduction to Film Studies

Available to grades 10, 11, and 12 (9th graders need Administrative Approval)

Film and English credit

This course will help students understand the production of film and introduce them to it in a way that will teach them how to study and analyze it as they would any piece of literature. We will examine, study, and analyze mise-en-scène, editing, sound, the narrative structure in film, and the history of film from the birth of cinema to the present day. By the end of this course, the students will have an extremely strong foundation in the study of film and an understanding of filmmaking techniques and cinematic language.

Honors Film Genre and Theory

Prerequisite: Introduction to Film Studies (may take concurrently with Introduction course with approval)

Film and English credit

This course builds on Introduction to Film Studies and will push the students to dive even deeper into the study of film. Many aspects and knowledge taken from the prerequisite course will be utilized to help the students analyze film while looking at film genre and film theory. In this course, the students are expected to decipher how genre affects the viewing of a film and in what way it fits into the study of film (genres studied: documentary, the western, drama, horror, science fiction, comedy, fantasy, film noir, and cult). Furthermore, the students will examine, comprehend, analyze, and evaluate several film theories (Marxist, feminist, reception, and auteur) and apply it to the study of film. By the end of the course, students should have an even stronger foundation of film studies, in which they can dissect films in a much greater capacity.

Honors Film Production 1 and 2

Prerequisite: Introduction to Film Studies (may take Film Production 1 concurrently with Introduction course with approval)

This is a hands-on course to help students better understand and learn the language of cinema and many filmmaking techniques. The student will use the knowledge acquired in Honors Introduction to Film Studies in several collaborative and individual assignments where a wide range of techniques will be used along with filmmaking equipment to help the student become familiar with using a camera, integrating sound, constructing the proper lighting, and utilizing editing software. The student will have full access to Adobe Creative Cloud and film equipment for the entire process. By the end of the course, the student will have a basic understanding of how to write a film treatment and screenplay, pre-production planning, going through the production process, and how to navigate and complete a film through post-production with an aesthetic goal in mind. Film Production 2 is an extension of the first course and is more of an independent study for students involved (along with guidance from the instructor).

MUSIC

Piano Lab

This course teaches piano performance and music reading from the very beginning/intermediate level and is intended for students with no musical experience. Students learn basic finger patterns along with the elements of musical notation, working through various books to develop facility, and skill at the keyboard. Students will leave the course able to read music in treble and bass clefs and play major/minor scales as well as all 4 triad qualities in all 12 keys.

Some of the repertoire covered in this class will feature works from master pianists/composers such as Bach, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, and Thelonious Monk to name a few. Each student will receive assignments in

piano technique, piano etudes/songs, and piano literature from all the major style periods (European Classical, Blues, Jazz, Latin, Pop, Rock, and Funk).

Guitar Lab

This is an introductory study of the guitar. This course covers basic hand technique, note reading, scales, open-position chords, and beginner-level songs.

Vocal Lab

This is a skills class open to any instrumentalist or vocalist. Vocal lab will provide instruction in sight singing, and learning new music. Students in Vocal Lab will be required to learn new music, sight-sing new music, and sing in front of peers. Along with learning vocal skills, students will be able to play piano or guitar to learn their music or even accompany themselves.

Music Theory & Ear Training

This is an introductory class that covers topics such as tonal harmony (major and minor scales), rhythm, dictation (transcribing what you hear), intervals, chords, and modes. Students will learn the fundamental skills necessary to successfully read, write, and hear/analyze music in treble and bass clef.

Survey of American Popular Music

This class is a study of influential music of America spanning from the 19th century to the modern day. This class will include basic listening skills and writing skills. Students will be required to research, listen, and write about various topics about music.

Strings Ensemble

Students in Strings do not need to demonstrate any prior knowledge of music in order to qualify for the class. The only prerequisite for Beginning Strings is interest and the ability to follow directions. Students in this class will be expected to develop the following skills:

- how to hold and generally handle their instrument
- how their instrument is tuned, and how to tune it
- how to hold the bow and play up and down bow strokes
- how to learn music by ear
- how to read and play basic rhythms (whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes and rests)
- how to read and play the notes of the staff
- basic understanding of tempo and time feel
- how to play the notes on their instrument in tune
- know the instruments of the string family and how they are tuned
- basic understanding of music theory (octaves, major and minor, scales, and arpeggios)

Folk & Blues Ensemble

Intro level ensemble. Students develop fundamental skills through learning the tradition. The folk and blues ensemble focuses on learning basics through the study of traditional songs.

Chorus

Skills and Ensemble Class. Open to all students, the chorus is an ensemble where we will practice and perform music of varying genres, including, but not limited to: American music, world music, popular tunes, jazz, and traditional music. This is the opportunity to work on your collaboration skills and learn to sing in a group, as

well as hone skills to become a successful musician, particularly in voice, including sight-reading and ear training. Students will be required to perform with the class during recitals.

Classic Rock & Pop Ensemble

Prerequisite: Folk & Blues Ensemble and Music Theory & Ear Training

Students learn technique, song form, chord progressions, improvising, and rhythm through the study of classic rock.

Soul, R&B, and Rap Ensemble

Prerequisite: Folk & Blues Ensemble and Music Theory & Ear Training

Hip Hop music is the last major innovation in American music. Students will learn about and perform the music that Hip Hop artists sampled like the music of Motown, Stevie Wonder, James Brown, Marvin Gaye, and many others.

Original Music Ensemble

Prerequisite: Folk & Blues Ensemble and Music Theory & Ear Training

Students will write and teach their own music to their classmates. No boundaries stylistically.

Chamber Music Ensemble

Prerequisite: Folk & Blues Ensemble and Music Theory & Ear Training

Intermediate to advanced course for instrumental musicians.

Electronic Music Ensemble

Advanced course

Audition only

Electronic music comes in all sounds, colors, and textures. This electronic music ensemble deals with composition and improvisation utilizing both acoustic and electric instruments. One must demonstrate strong music theory skills for this class. Honors level course.

Jazz Ensemble

Advanced course

Audition only

Prerequisite: Folk & Blues Ensemble, Music Theory & Ear Training

This honors class will be focused on the great tradition of American Classical music called jazz and blues. This includes the works of artists such as Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Thelonious Monk, among others. Students will be required to read music including melody, chord changes, and improvise.

THEATER

Introduction to Acting

Level I

Students will learn the essentials of honest storytelling through techniques from the Stanislavski Acting System. Students will learn to analyze scripts, research, and develop characters while working on a variety of classic texts. Acting techniques will be demonstrated through scene work. This course will also offer an introduction to voice and speech for the actor.

Book to Stage & Playwriting

Level I or II

Students explore the production elements present in theater by creating in-class theater companies and developing production concepts for several theoretical projects. Working within theater companies, students explore the jobs of theater producers, directors, set designers, costume designers, dramaturgs, playwrights, and their role in bringing a text to life as a theater production. Students will explore the creative and artistic process by working to research and analyze text and turning original ideas into visual elements. Playwriting skills will be developed by reading and analyzing different genres of plays, as well as through experimentation with dramatic structure and character development. Class exercises will include brainstorming methods, journaling, and playwriting prompts. Student work will be read out aloud for the class for feedback and development.

Intermediate Acting

Level II

Prerequisite: Introduction to Acting

Students will continue the exploration into the essentials of honest storytelling through techniques from the Stanislavski Acting System. Students will apply knowledge and skills to analyze scripts, research, and develop characters while working on a variety of classic texts. Acting techniques will be demonstrated through scene work. This course will also offer an introduction to voice and speech for the actor.

Theater Production

Level II, III, IV

Audition Only

Auditions for interested students will be held in the first week of the fall semester. The class will develop, rehearse, and produce student written plays for a One Acts Evening in January and a 10-Minute Play Festival in April. This course is for students interested in acting, directing, playwriting, developing original theater, and design. Students must be taking a Theater Skills class (Acting, Directing, or Playwriting) to be eligible for this course.

Honors Advanced Acting

Level III, IV

Prerequisite: Intermediate Acting

Students delve deeper into the Stanislavski Acting System by analyzing texts and creating characters different from themselves. The emphasis this year is on building characters. Students will explore Jerzy Grotowski's physical training system and ensemble work, Strasberg and The Group Theater, and Michael Chekhov's psychological gesture.

Honors Theater Leadership & Directing

Level III, IV

Prerequisite: Book to Stage & Playwriting

Students learn the basics of directing for the theater: analyzing scripts, collaborating with actors and designers, visual composition, and staging for various theater spaces. Students are asked to take a leadership role in the MeAA theater program by exploring different theater positions such as: directing, stage management, house management, and tech support. Each student creates and develops an independent leadership plan, according to personal interests, which will make a difference and move the MeAA theater program forward. This course will culminate with a showcase of student-directed work.

VISUAL ARTS

Art Lab

Do you like to make things? Do you enjoy working with your hands? This is the class for you. In this class, you will create traditional and nontraditional pieces. Students will be encouraged to experiment using materials ranging from yarn to charcoal pencils. A journal will be required at the end of the year

Foundations of Art

This course is open to all students, and no prior art experience is necessary. The focus of the course will be the elements and principles of art, art history, and communication through art. Students will explore the basic elements of art: line, shape, value, space, color, form, and texture, and be able to apply the fundamental principles of design in their artwork. Students will create a variety of projects while exploring the use of various art media. Students are encouraged to explore personal style and creativity. Creative problem-solving and the creative process will be highlighted. A focus is placed on traditional drawing techniques such as rendering techniques, perspective, figure/portrait drawing, fabric/draping drawing, backgrounds/landscapes, color theory, etc. A portfolio is required at the end of the year.

Photography 1

This course is open to all students and no prior photography experience is necessary. Students will learn the fundamentals of photography using film SLR and DSLR cameras. Students will also learn how to develop their film and use equipment such as enlargers in a darkroom. They will learn basic editing using photo editing software. The focus of this course will be the basic how-to's, history of photography, basic composition, and lighting use. Student photographs will be posted to their individual binders or a slide show, where they will showcase their skills. A portfolio is required at the end of the year.

Fashion Your Passion

In this course, students will learn the techniques of knitting, crocheting, embroidery, felting, weaving, beading, dyeing, hand and machine sewing. Expanding the knowledge of the fiber arts while creating unique fashion pieces. Promoting the idea of problem-solving, creative thinking, and formal expression. The course will be focused on developing an aesthetic voice, by reusing and repurposing fast fashion into new fashion. Students will create 10-15 fiber/textile pieces. Some materials will be required from home.

Graphic Design

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art

Students are introduced to the basic principles of graphic design. We will explore typography, logo design, page layout, color theory, software (Adobe), design theory and practices, terminology, printing, and many other elements. Students will go through the design process by creating thumbnail sketches, tight sketches, and final art (both traditional and digital). We work on real-world projects and team up with other pathways to create visuals for their programs. A portfolio is required at the end of the year.

Illustration

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art

If you enjoy visual storytelling, drawing, and working with color, then join us in illustration class. We work on the basic elements of illustration (color, layout, and design, creating a visual message, and improving your drawing abilities with a few one-day drawing challenges). The class is dedicated to real-world assignments (book covers, album covers, storyboarding, editorial, and character design). A portfolio is required at the end of the year.

Beginner Sculpture

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art

Students will focus on taking a concept from the journal and turning it into a three-dimensional form. Using the basic elements and principles of design learned in foundation art the student will realize an idea in the round. Drawing on those fundamentals to create harmony from all sides of a form. Basic tools, construction techniques, and recycled materials will be utilized. A passing grade in Foundational art, inventiveness, ingenuity, innovation, and a desire to experience creativity off the page is all that is required. Students will work independently and collaboratively to create 10-15 sculptures. Students will be required to collect salvage and recyclable materials from home for projects.

Advanced Graphic Design

Prerequisite: B average or higher in Foundations of Art and Graphic Design, a graphic design portfolio

Advanced Graphic Design will explore deeper the understanding and application of graphic design. This fast-paced class will push students to design and develop advertising campaigns, stationery packages, product labels (working with the advanced illustration students), web design, info and environmental graphics, fonts, movie/theater posters, title/motion design, etc. Each designer will take turns running a studio as an art director and creative director, leading the team(s) through projects by creating budgets, overseeing responsibilities, meeting deadlines, client contact, and presentations. This class is for those serious about graphic design and who are thinking about going to school to continue their education or going into the field after MeAA. You must maintain a professional-looking portfolio.

Advanced Illustration

Prerequisite: B average or higher in Foundations of Art and Illustrations, an illustrations portfolio

Advanced Illustration will allow illustration students to fine-tune their visual storytelling skills by working on real-world assignments. Being an illustrator is more than just knowing how to draw, paint, and compose an illustration for a client. You must juggle multiple projects at once, quote and budget your time, due client contact, and meet very tight deadlines. Assignments include commercial illustration (product characters), caricatures, illustrating for the foreign/overseas market, fashion design, animation and game character design, and a second-semester book project. Each project will require the illustrator to keep track of their time and submit timesheets, work within budgets, follow detailed specs, meet strict deadlines, client contact, and present their final art. In the second semester, we write and illustrate a book project (comic, graphic novel, comic strip, or picture book). Traditional and digital skills are a must. This class is for those serious about illustration and who are thinking about going to school to continue their education or going into the field after MeAA. You must maintain a professional-looking portfolio.

An Introduction to Glass Art

Advanced course

Off-campus course

Administration approval needed

Students will be instructed and complete small projects in each of the following areas of glass art: Etching & Sandblasting, Mosaics, Tiffany-Method Stained Glass, Fused Glass, and Flameworking. After finishing these units of study, students will be supported in the completion of a project in their preferred discipline (with encouragement to combine multiple techniques). Emphasis will be placed on applying the skills and knowledge they've gained to create an original design, analyzing their plan to select appropriate materials, and assembling the finished glass artwork.

Business for Professional Artists***Advanced course******Prerequisite: Foundations of Art and two other visual arts courses***

This is an honors upperclassman Visual Arts course. This is an art school and the last thing we are going to produce is starving artists! In this course, students will create their very own art business and learn about the fundamentals of entrepreneurship. Students will learn about contracts, copyright law, bookkeeping, self-promotion, writing proper emails and cover letters, developing promo pieces, doing mock interviews, public speaking, and many other art business-related practices. A portfolio is required at the end of the year.

Advanced Studio Art***Junior and Senior course******Prerequisite: Foundations of Art and two other visual art courses***

In this course, students will be expected to further explore their visual art pathway in more detail. Developing the creative voice by furthering their graphic design, sculpture, illustration, fiber, fine art, and photography voice by completing individual and collaborative projects. An opportunity for students to experiment with other mediums and possibly the opportunity for a rotating art installation where the artist creates an environmental experience. Exploration, innovation, and ingenuity will be the focus allowing the students to come away with 10 to 15 explorative original portfolio pieces. Students will be required to supply certain materials from home.