



AMERICAN SCHOOL
OF PARIS

founded 1946

UPPER SCHOOL GUIDE

PROGRAM PLANNING

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SYSTEM OF EVALUATION



FINE and PERFORMING ARTS

The ASP Arts Program mission is to foster an appreciation, understanding and respect for the visual and performing arts by providing exciting and inspirational opportunities for students to express themselves and find their creative venues. This aim is achieved through offering a variety of different creative mediums and forms of expression in which students can thrive regardless of their prior experience and talents. The study of the arts is fundamental to an education preparing young people for the future by allowing them to experience the creative process first hand, develop a variety of artistic and aesthetic skills, learn complex forms of problem solving and present in front of an audience. Through this process students' outlook on present and past civilizations is broadened, and their self-awareness deepened, preparing them to constructively contribute to our diverse planet.

Fine Arts

The Visual Fine Arts courses at ASP offer a diverse curriculum dedicated to expanding students' critical and aesthetic horizons. Students may choose from a variety of media, with emphasis placed on individual growth and creative expression.

Ceramics (Grades 9-13, one semester, ½ credit)

In ceramics students learn the basic procedures working and creating with clay. Students create pieces using coil-building, throwing on the potter's wheel and slab building, as well as different decorating and glazing techniques. Students will work on seven to eight projects ranging from functional pieces to more sculptural projects. The class also looks at the history and development of ceramics as well as design issues related to form and function. We work with earthenware, and the studio is equipped with four potter's wheels and two electric kilns.

Digital Animation (Grades 9-13, one semester, ½ credit)

This course will provide students with an introduction to the art of computer animation in both two- and three-dimensional forms. 2-D animation will be explored using Adobe Flash, WinMorph and other programs. In the 3-D world, students will learn to create images and animate scenes using Google Sketchup and other programs. Students will create their own games using Game Maker software. Students will produce a portfolio of projects throughout the semester and make a presentation of their work to the class. Aside from Adobe Flash the programs used in the class are freeware so students can use them at their pleasure outside of school.

Digital Art (Grades 9-13, one semester, ½ credit)

This course will introduce the concept of digital imaging with the creation of 2D computer generated images and short animations. Programs such as Photoshop, Painter and Illustrator will be taught. Students will learn the basic tools in one or more of the graphic programs through teacher presentations, on line tutorials and experimentation. The course will consist of the production of a digital art portfolio with images and animations based on themes provided throughout the semester.

Projects for the production of posters for school events such as theater, visiting speakers and sports events etc. will be created in this class if and when requested by the different school groups. Discussions on balance, elements of design and color theory are a continual part of the course. Grading is based on a set of criteria with ongoing formative assessment.

Digital Photography (Grades 9-13, one semester, ½ credit)

In today's world of mass produced image exposure; visual literacy & comprehension is crucial to an individual's education. This course would explore digital photography through the critical eye of the artist, developing a sense of visual communication and creative expression via digital imagery. Fields of study will include rules of composition, depth of field, resolution, color, tonal range & light management, photojournalism. Concepts of study and practice will include landscape photography, portrait photography, still photography and abstractions. Students will be introduced to the historical aspects of photography as well as the study of famous photographers. State of the art image enhancing applications such as Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Bridge will be applied. Please note: Students are encouraged to provide their own compact digitals or SLR digitals.

**Print Making** (Grades 9–13, one semester, ½ credit)

Printmaking is an ancient form of image making which actually can be traced back to prehistoric times. The main focus on this course is to introduce the students to the concept of limited editions and the creation of multiples. This is mainly a hands-on course but the presentation of various artists and historical aspects of printmaking will be taught. The students will learn several different types of printmaking such as: Block printing using linoleum, rubber blocks and wood (color theory), etching on plastic and metal (value studies through cross hatching and different inking techniques), experimental techniques using cardboard and various materials to create different textures, stenciling, stamps, rubbings and silk-screening using various inking techniques and photosensitive emulsion. Basic elements of design and composition are also taught as integral part of the course. During the semester students will also use these techniques to create posters for student run events etc.

Sculpture (Grades 9–13, one semester, ½ credit)

This course will introduce the basic principles of three-dimensional design. Form, space, volume texture and surface finishes will be explored. Several mediums may be employed such as cardboard, wire, clay, plaster, stone, papier-mâché, and wood. Students will be introduced to different sculptural elements applied within different cultures and throughout history, to include our contemporary world of art. The concept of spatial relationships, the understanding of proportions, balance and harmony will be studied through problem solving projects. Innovation, imagination and motivation are encouraged.

Studio Art 102 (Grades 9–13, one semester, ½ credit)

For any student who may be considering the IB Visual Arts 401/501/502, this course is highly recommended, however any student wishing to develop their creative talents and manual skills will benefit from this art learning. Here, students will specialize in a hands-on production course of the fine arts. Students will explore the foundation skills of drawing, painting, and printmaking through the use of different mediums and materials. Color theory and color application are also explored. This course will give students an understanding of the basic elements of design and aesthetics. Historical, contemporary and cultural references are also an integral part of the program, to include a museum visit.

Visual Arts – 402 (Grades 11-13, full year, 1 credit)

This course is designed for students who have had at one semester of Studio Art 102 and one semester of another Visual Arts elective, i.e. Sculpture, Ceramics, Print Making, Photography or Digital Art in upper school and wish to work in the context of the IB Visual Arts course without the pressure of being examined after the 2 year period. All students will produce an independent portfolio of work. They will also be required to keep a written and visual art journal to plan and critique their studio projects, as well as draw and produce visual experimentation outside of class time.

IB Visual Arts – 401 IB Standard Level & IB Higher Level I (Grades 11-13, full year, 1 credit) 502 1B Standard / 501 IB Higher Level II (Grades 12-13, full year, 1 credit)

This course is designed for students who have had at one semester of Studio Art 102 and one semester of another Visual Arts elective, i.e. Sculpture, Ceramics, Print Making, Photography or Digital Art in upper school and who are seriously interested in the visual arts, as to continue at an advanced level. Standard level may be done in one year, but two years are preferable so that quality work and art learning may be pursued under less pressure. Higher level is done over a two year period. For the first semester of the junior year, students are given specific assignments and themes to develop. By second semester the students will be expected to find their personal direction and theme(s), as well as choosing the media with which they wish to work. This personal work will lead to developing a portfolio and presentation of artwork in an exhibition at the end of the course. Along with the studio work the students will be expected to keep an on-going series of written and visual art journals (Investigation Workbooks) to: (1) plan, record progress and critique their studio projects, (2) research other artists, cultures and periods of art history that relate to the theme(s), and (3) record gallery and museum visits focusing on specific works that interest them. For evaluation the studio work and the Investigation Workbooks are weighted separately at a 60% / 40% ratio. Students have the choice of pursuing the studio work at 60% and the Investigation Workbooks at 40% or they may do the reverse if they are more



interested in the research/written component. Each IB candidate will be required to photograph and digitally upload their studio artwork, as well as, scan and upload pages from their Investigation Workbook, to the IBO website, as part of their exam. A filmed interview of each candidate by the art teacher will also be a part of the final assessment. The video, studio art photos and scanned work are all assessed externally by an IB examiner. Basic art materials will be provided, however depending on the choice of projects students will need to be prepared to purchase some of their own materials.

Digital Filmmaking (Grade 9–13, one semester, ½ credit)

Filmmaking is an exciting process, a mixture of creative thinking and creative action. The emphasis of Digital Filmmaking is on production, working from small scenes through longer creations, always with a focus on visual quality and creative expression. Students will work with professional editing programs, editing audio and video, as they create a variety of programs, both fiction and non-fiction. Come and experience the creative process through digital filmmaking.

Please note: Students are welcome to repeat the course, and the second immersion will allow for individualized exploration and more challenging productions.

IB Filmmaking – 401 IB Standard Level I & IB Higher Level I (Grades 11, full year, 1 credit)

IB Film-Making 401, year one of this two-year program, challenges students to fully explore Film as Art by studying great films, creating documentary scripts and producing short fiction films. This three-pronged approach creates opportunities to thoroughly investigate Film as Art while preparing students for the IB Film Portfolio, submitted in Year 2. Students will follow the IB curriculum, but the course is not limited only to those seeking the IB Diploma. The course is open to all students who seek an in-depth understanding of the power of film to inspire, to inform, and to entertain.

Year 1 of the program looks critically at a variety of film genres, develops cinematography and editing skills, and introduces script writing as art. It is advisable but not required to have some film experience before taking this course.

IB Filmmaking - 501/502 (Grades 12–13, full year, 1 credit)

IB Film-Making 501/502 is the second year component of the two-year IB Film curriculum, where students complete the three elements of the IB Film Portfolio - a film (with trailer for HL), a documentary script and a structured film analysis. Throughout the year students will view and discuss select films, work on production exercises and script writing assignments. Students will spend the first semester creating their IB film, a five-minute (SL) or seven-minute (HL) production. During this process they will specialize and focus on one production role. They will also research and begin writing their documentary script for submittal. During the second semester students will finalize all of the pieces of the IB Film Portfolio, including the analysis component of the course, a 12-15 minute scene analysis project. Pre-requisite: **IB Filmmaking 401**

Publications/Yearbook (Grades 9–13, full year, 1 credit)

Through the production of the ASP Yearbook students learn the skills necessary to plan, design, produce, and distribute a major publication. The curriculum includes the study and application of photography, graphic design, editing, journalism and technology. Students in this class learn and work with Adobe In-Design - one of the most operative desktop publishing software programs used in the industry. Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Bridge, Acrobat Professional and digital SLR and compact camera skills are also taught and applied. Students work as a team, unify creative ideas and take on leadership roles. Requirements for this class are: self-motivation, dedication to completing a large project, the ability to meet deadlines on time, and the responsibility to produce a 300+ page publication for the entire ASP community. Students successfully completing this class earn ½ credit in visual arts and ½ credit in computer science. Digital Art and Digital Photography are excellent pre-requisites for this course, but not required. Please note: Students of this class are strongly encouraged to participate in the Yearbook Club on Mondays after school.



Performing Arts

Performing Arts courses offer an active and dynamic addition to the life of ASP. The 375-seat Performing Arts Center allows for the staging of numerous performances and productions. Other facilities include music ensemble and practice rooms, a modern sound and light booth and diverse backstage rooms for actors. ASP also holds a wide range of string, woodwind and brass instruments available for rent, as well as many orchestral, jazz and world percussion instruments on campus.

US Concert Band (Grades 9–13, full year, 1 credit)

Do you know how beneficial playing a musical instrument can be for your physical and cognitive development? Universities and colleges also look for students who can show long-term commitment to developing skills and talents in areas such as music. If you have 2 or more years of playing a **woodwind, brass or percussion** instrument (piano players are also welcome on percussion) then the US Concert Band is for you. The course focus is upon development of instrumental, aural and ensemble skills alongside a broad appreciation of musical periods, cultures and history. The band repertoire covers many varied styles and genres – something for everyone.

The Concert Band meets every other day and performs at 2 official school concerts each year, as well as other events. Members of the band are required to participate in all performances as they represent an important assessment each semester. Students enrolled in Concert Band are also eligible to audition for the AMIS International Honor Band Festivals that take place at various schools around the world.

Concert Choir - Ultimately Vocal (Grades 9–13, full year, 1 credit)

Ultimately Vocal is a choir open to all students who want to sing! Enthusiasm compulsory, experience optional! The class reinforces the fundamentals of vocal technique and the skills necessary for performing choral repertoire from a wide variety of musical styles and genres. Opportunities are also given to experience conducting and accompanying, or to perform as soloists and members of smaller vocal ensembles. A choir is a team effort and as this is a performance based course, participation in all school concerts (approximately three per year) is required. Students enrolled in Ultimately Vocal are eligible to audition for the International Honor Choir Festival.

Digital Music (Grades 9–13, one semester, ½ credit)

This introductory course combines an overview of the roots and development of American popular music - blues, folk, jazz and rock - with hands-on experience creating and arranging music using digital audio production techniques. The ASP Media Lab's Macintosh computers equipped with MIDI keyboards allow students with varying levels of prior musical experience to learn basic concepts of melody, harmony and rhythm. Starting with projects using GarageBand © pre-recorded loops, the students then learn to use their own keyboard inputs before finishing the course with the creation of soundtracks for short films produced by their colleagues in the ASP Digital Film-Making courses.

Music + (Grades 9–13, one semester, 1/2 credit)

This exploratory music course is especially designed to cater for those who enjoy music but may not have learnt an instrument or think they can. The course is structured to accommodate individual musical tastes and pursuits, as well as to develop an awareness and appreciation of what's new. Generic aspects of music are explored and explained through developing skills in keyboard and guitar playing, listening, reading, and composing.

Ensemble Theater (Grades 9–11, full year, 1 credit)

This course inspires students to explore the very nature of Theatre by 'Making Theatre' as well as by studying it. Theatre is essentially an art of communication, of telling a good story. Students will learn about the craft of acting, directing and playwriting. The course encourages students to gain a deeper understanding of their creative potential through performance experience. Students will also be introduced to a variety of contemporary as well as classical playwrights. No experience necessary.

IB Theater -- 401 IB Standard Level & IB Higher Level I (Grades 11–12, full year, 1 credit)

502 IB Standard /501 IB Higher Level II (Grades 11–13, full year, 1 credit)



Theatre is a unique art form in that at its very foundation it requires encountering and interacting with each other as well as our humanity. This encounter is live, happens in real time before the eyes of the audience and in the lives of the performers and practitioners. The course is devised to ensure that students examine theatre in its diversity of forms around the world as well as reflecting on theatre in its past and present contexts. It is a course that engages the student in a very practical as well as academic manner. Students must commit to working on at least three productions in different capacities. Skills such as acting techniques, devising, directing and design are continually being introduced, explored and perfected. The course emphasizes the growth of the individual as well as that of the group ensemble. It is a two year exam course.