

# ARTS

The Arts Department mission is to inspire, nurture and support every student in recognizing their inherent artistic potential. We promote courageous exploration, self-awareness, and cultural fluency through a collaborative approach that allows each student to discover their unique creative voice.

We believe the arts serve as a bridge to the world, a way to make sense of what is going on around us, a way to peer back in time, as well as anticipate what is yet to come. The arts have the power to serve as a transformative tool for social, environmental, economic and cultural justice. Art, in all its forms, celebrates beauty, reveals relevance, reflects a range of fragility and strength in both nature and humanity. Essentially, engagement in the arts offers the opportunity to become more dimensionally human as it awakens the intellect, heart and body. Engagement in the arts brings about a heightened sensitivity as perceptual awareness, conceptual connection, and the ability to appreciate artistic expression develops. We strive to ensure that all students not only participate in the process and practice of making art, but also learn how to see, hear and talk about art. Whether it be as artists or audiences, we hope to instill a lifelong understanding of the intrinsic value of art.

The arts curriculum offers foundation classes in dance, music, theater, and visual arts, and classes that serve students who wish to delve more deeply and potentially achieve a higher level of distinction in a particular arts discipline. Diverse performance opportunities are offered through various dance and music ensembles and multiple theater productions throughout the year. Exhibits of student artwork occur both in the Arts Center and across campus. Art is continually seen and celebrated at Choate Rosemary Hall.

*– Kalya Yannatos, Director of the Arts  
and Department Head*

*Note: Not all of the following courses run in any given term or year. Final course offerings each term are determined based on student demand. To ensure students are able to take a course that they desire, students must indicate two choices for an arts class when inputting their course requests.*

## DANCE

The dance program offers all students a supportive and instructive environment that encourages the development of well-rounded, diverse movement artists. The focus is on creating a deeper understanding of movement as a whole—by improving strength, flexibility, and coordination of body and mind. Studio-based courses introduce dance through a variety of techniques, improvisation, composition, anatomy, and awareness. Additionally, Dance: History is offered during the academic day, providing perspective and relevance to our studio-based courses.

In addition to the performing opportunities that exist for students involved in the Dance Company, many Choate students participate in and perform with the Hip Hop Club and Step Squad, two student-run and faculty-supported groups.

## DANCE: HISTORY

Winter term; 1 course credit  
DA220

Through film, live performances, class discussion, guest master classes, and choreographic assignments students will move through dance history. Focusing on the connections between current dancers and choreographers with their past dance influences, students will be participant-observers in a historical investigation of dance from a contemporary perspective.

## CONTEMPORARY DANCE

All terms; 1 course credit (earned for full-year commitment)  
ATDANCE or DA900

Contemporary Dance participants commit to three weekly dance classes of their choice. The classes, in a variety of styles (ballet, contemporary/modern, hip hop, jazz) focus on creating a deeper understanding of movement as a whole. While dancers explore their own artistry through movement, they gain core strength, flexibility, understanding of alignment, and coordination of body and mind. In a supportive, multi-level environment, these classes build a strong, expressive physical foundation from which to move.

*Note: Athletic credit granted on a term-by-term basis. Year-long participation earns one arts credit (no GPA inclusion) and may satisfy the second area art requirement.*

## DANCE INTENSIVE

All terms; 1 course credit (earned for a two consecutive term commitment)  
ATDANCEIN or DA915 (Fall/Winter) or DA916 (Winter/Spring)

Dance Intensive students participate in five weekly dance classes, offering the chance to further expand their movement vocabulary, refine their technique, and develop their artistic voice through a variety of styles (ballet, contemporary/modern, hip hop, jazz, improvisation). Dancers grow individually in connection to the class community, moving toward a common goal, supporting each other through the artistic process. Two levels of both ballet and contemporary/modern are offered. Beyond regular weekly work with the dance faculty, special guest teachers are brought in to enhance the student experience.

*Note: athletic credit granted on a term-by-term basis. Two terms of consecutive participation earns one arts credit (no GPA inclusion) and may satisfy the second area art requirement. Students must declare intention to earn academic credit at the beginning of the fall term (DA915) or the winter term (DA916).*

## DANCE COMPANY

Year; 1 course credit  
DA910

Dancers must commit to three or more scheduled weekly rehearsals in order to engage in Dance Company for academic credit. They have the chance to work with faculty during repertory rehearsal blocks during the week, and as choreographers, dancers and rehearsal assistants during the Sunday rehearsals that focus on student work. The highly collaborative process involves developing choreographic repertoire, making choices that pertain to music, costumes, lighting design and all other aspects of production. Student leaders work intensely (with faculty support), learning

elements of company management, scheduling and other aspects of what it takes to support the weekly demands of company rehearsals. Constructive opportunities for feedback, reflection and dialogue are facilitated throughout the creative process. A dedicated commitment through all scheduled performances is expected of all dancers. Performances include the main stage Spring Dance Concert, along with other opportunities to dance at various venues both at school and within the local community. Dancers interested in choreographing are encouraged to take the winter term Dance History academic course. In order to further refine their technique and expand their artistry, company members are strongly encouraged to participate in Contemporary Dance or Dance Intensive at least one term per year.

*Note: A student who wishes to participate in less than three rehearsal periods a week may do so as a club extracurricular, but they are still expected to commit to the entire process through all scheduled performances.*

## **MUSIC**

The music program offers a wide range of courses in history, theory, composition, and performance, for students at all levels of experience. Beginning students have the opportunity to become fluent musicians during their time at Choate, and advanced students can build a solid foundation for entrance to a conservatory or college music program.

### **MUSIC LITERACY AND COMPOSITION**

All terms; 1 course credit

MU125

Designed for the beginning musician, this course explores the basic structure and notation of music through improvisation and composition. Starting with the genesis of sound from a vibrating string or air column, and proceeding to the harmonic series, intervals, scales, chords, and harmony. We synthesize pitch material and then assemble it into original works for various instruments. We explore rhythms and rhythmic notation through movement and percussive improvisation. The course culminates with the composition of a song for piano, voice, and percussion set to the student's choice of text. No previous musical experience is necessary. Open to all students.

### **RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE ERAS**

Fall term; 1 course credit

MU210

The Renaissance and Baroque eras witnessed world exploration, the rise of Humanism, the invention of the printing press, Shakespeare, Cervantes, and Benjamin Franklin. The history of western music and the musical genius of Monteverdi, Lully, Vivaldi, Handel, Bach and others is discussed and analyzed within the context of this historical and cultural milieu. Open to all students.

### **THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT**

Winter term; 1 course credit

MU260

Against the backdrop of freedom, equal rights, universal education, social reform and humanitarian ideals, three musical giants

emerged—Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. The music of the Classical era is studied through the lens of its time, while also looking forward to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Open to all students.

### **THE ROMANTIC ERA**

Spring term; 1 course credit

MU270

The 19<sup>th</sup> century produced some of the world's most popular composers, including Schubert, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Verdi, Chopin, Wagner, and Strauss. This course traverses the time between the music of these classical Romantics and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the eruption of world wars, economic depression, and an explosion of radical artistic expression. Students are exposed to the music of Mahler, Debussy, Orff, Bartók, Copland, Cage, and Gershwin. Open to all students.

### **MUSIC OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURIES**

Spring term, 1 course credit

MU280

Beginning in "La Belle Epoque Parisienne" and the masterworks of Debussy, we trace the evolution of music to the 21st century in the innovative and often controversial masterworks of Stravinsky and Schoenberg, the first Victor Talking Machine recordings, the symphonic masterworks of Mahler and Ives, the jazz-inspired masterworks of Gershwin, the minimalist works of Reich, the new electronic music of Varese and Stockhausen, the virtuosic jazz vistas of Parker, Davis and Coltrane, The Beatles' revolutionary studio recordings, the aleatory music of Eno, electro techno synth pop of Herbie Hancock, sym pop rock of Emerson, Lake & Palmer, the mystical minimalist composers Pärt and Tavener, the sound landscapes of Cage, the thrash metal band Ancient, Deep Forest, rap, hip hop, Klezmer and the synth vocal wizardry of Bobby McFerrin. Open to all students.

### **HISTORY OF JAZZ**

Winter term; 1 course credit

MU300

Through video documentaries, recordings, and live performances, the important stylistic developments of jazz are studied. Beginning with the blues and spirituals and continuing through "the Jazz Age," swing, and bebop eras to the 1990s, students examine the innovative performers of each era and seek to understand their music as an expression of the zeitgeist. Open to all students.

### **MUSIC OF THE 1960s**

Spring term; 1 course credit

MU310

This course surveys some of the diverse music created in the 1960s. We examine many styles that originated during this decade, including folk-rock, soul music, psychedelic rock and other broad styles such as rock, R&B, and country and blues as they evolved during the 1960s. We also discuss the broader social movements that accompanied the shifts in music during this time, though the primary focus is on the music itself, examining the traits of important artists and styles and learning how to deconstruct the elements of the songs we explore through audio recordings and videos. Open to all students.

## **MUSIC PRODUCTION**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
MU320

Students are introduced to the fundamentals in theory and practice of contemporary music production, with emphasis on modern recording studio practices. The primary goal of the course is to teach students how to listen and think like a producer, and to simultaneously provide them with a working knowledge of the history of technology in music, music-related technologies in today's society and culture, and issues of evolving technologies in the music business of tomorrow. Some topics include basic recording techniques, acoustics, musical instruments, microphones, studio design, MIDI, digital audio (editing and mixing), and the many careers in the music industry, all with an emphasis on digital recording. During the second half of the term, weekly evening studio sessions are required and qualified students participate in the recording and production of selected music department groups. The course is designed to give each student an appreciation of all major concepts in the recording process and basic knowledge of the many avenues in the evolving modern day music business.

Prerequisite: Prior experience (basic music reading and keyboard skills), MU125 or permission of the department. Priority is given to fifth and sixth formers.

## **MUSIC AND THE BRAIN**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
MU340

Not offered 2018-2019

This course explores the basics of music perception and cognition, the relationship between music and emotion, and the psychology and neurology of musical experience. Students approach each topic experientially, by participating in simple experiments and documenting their responses to listening examples. Students proceed by reading related music research and theory and discuss connections between personal experience and written material. The course approaches pitch perception and "tuning" using monochords, hurdy-gurdies, found and constructed objects, and traditional musical instruments. Students explore music and emotion by documenting their feelings over time while listening to the music of Vivaldi, Brahms, Debussy, Schoenberg, Messiaen, Ella Fitzgerald, Eminem, and Steve Reich. The class discusses connections between musical experience and brain function, and the relationships between music practice, learning, and memory. Students also learn about various applications of music therapy. Finally, students explore music intended to induce altered states of consciousness, such as the trance music of Southeast Asia, West African and Haitian polyrhythm, Tibetan ceremonial music, and the function of chant in diverse religions. The course culminates with student-designed experiments and studies. Open to all students.

## **MUSIC THEORY AND HARMONY, HONORS**

Three terms; 1 course credit (each term)  
MU351HO (Fall), MU352HO (Winter), MU353HO (Spring)

A study of chord formation and progression, this course includes

harmonic, melodic, and rhythmic analysis. One session per week is devoted to the development of aural skills with the aid of appropriate computer software.

Prerequisite: MU125 or permission of the department.

*Note: This course is best taken in one full year, but if necessary, it may be split term by term, and taken over the course of several years, so long as it is taken in sequential order.*

## **ADVANCED HARMONY/COUNTERPOINT, HONORS**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
MU450HO

This course builds on material presented in Music Theory and Harmony and offers an introduction to contrapuntal writing.

Prerequisite: Music Theory and Harmony or permission of the department.

## **MUSIC ENSEMBLES**

Ensemble course participation is by audition, with the exception of Festival Chorus. A full-year commitment is required. Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Chorus earn one arts credit per term, and grades are factored into a student's GPA. All other ensemble courses receive one-third credit per term, earning one arts credit for the year. While grades for these ensembles appear on student transcripts, they are not factored into the GPA.

### **CHAMBER CHORUS**

Year; 3 course credits  
MU420

Students study and perform advanced a cappella repertoire. The course emphasizes repertoire from the Renaissance and Baroque periods, as well as the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Students study repertoire and diction in several languages each year. In the context of the repertoire, students study music literacy, sight-singing, basic music theory, and structural analysis. Students cultivate deep listening and focus through ear-training exercises, silent meditation, improvisation, and the rehearsal of challenging repertoire. Students also develop musical independence and leadership, as well as ensemble sensitivity, artistic interpretation, and creative risk-taking. Students in Chamber Chorus must also participate as leaders within the Festival Chorus or an equivalent music ensemble in order to fulfill the course requirements. In addition to many performances on campus, Chamber Chorus members have the opportunity to go on tour. Past tour highlights have included performing at the Vatican and Carnegie Hall in New York City; in South Korea and Hong Kong, and on the Great Wall of China. Chamber Chorus rehearses three times per week.

*Note: Private music lessons are required for the fulfillment of this course.*

### **SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Year; 3 course credits  
MU480

The Symphony Orchestra performs symphonic masterworks from the Classic, Romantic, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The Orchestra

performs annual Choate concerts in the Paul Mellon Arts Center, and when possible, on tour. Past tours have taken the orchestra to 12 European countries, Asia, Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City, Yale University, and The White House. A chamber component of the Symphony Orchestra performs music drawn from the standard chamber orchestra repertoire and accompanies the Festival Chorus and Chamber Chorus in choral masterworks. The Orchestra rehearses three times per week.

*Note: Private music lessons are required for the fulfillment of this course.*

### **FESTIVAL CHORUS**

Year; 1 course credit  
MU910

All students are welcome to participate in Festival Chorus, without audition.

Festival Chorus is Choate's largest vocal ensemble, which specializes in the performance of major works for combined choir and instrumental ensembles. Festival Chorus covers Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20<sup>th</sup> century repertoire, including selections from non-Western and popular genres. Students sing in diverse languages and styles. Repertoire is approached with an emphasis on music literacy, ear training, and aural cognition. Students practice writing about music in response to occasional listening assignments. The Festival Chorus performs several times a year on campus, often in collaboration with the school's Orchestra as well as local professional musicians. Festival Chorus rehearses two times per week. Staff, faculty, and faculty children ages 8 and up are also welcome to sing in Festival Chorus.

### **STRING ORCHESTRA**

Year; 1 course credit  
MU925

The String Orchestra performs music from the string repertoire of the Baroque, Classic, and Romantic eras with an emphasis on the development of string technique and ensemble skill. Each term the String Orchestra joins the Symphony Orchestra for a performance of a masterwork. Rehearsals are twice per week.

### **WIND ENSEMBLE**

Year; 1 course credit  
MU960

The Choate Rosemary Hall Wind Ensemble is dedicated to performing high quality, challenging, and musically stimulating work. The ensemble performs regularly throughout the academic year, including several performances on the Choate campus. Rehearsals are twice per week.

### **JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

Year; 1 course credit  
MU970

The Jazz Ensemble is an 18-piece big band consisting of saxophones, trombones, trumpets and a rhythm section. The jazz charts are drawn from the books of Thad Jones, Buddy Rich, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, Bill Holman, Miles Davis, Gordon Goodwin, and graduates of the Jazz Ensemble.

Rehearsals are twice per week during the academic day.

## **INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL INSTRUCTION**

Lessons are offered in piano, organ, harpsichord, voice, North Indian Vocal and Rhythm, bagpipes, Yangxin, strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitar, banjo, harp, composition and jazz improvisation. Arrangements may be made for lessons in other instruments upon request. Individual lessons are scheduled with a member of the music faculty or with a visiting teacher during a student's free academic period. Our visiting music faculty includes professional musicians/teachers from the surrounding community, including Yale, Wesleyan, and the Hartt School of Music. Students interested in studying music composition – classical, jazz, pop and songwriting – may also study privately as a special project. Some music students elect to continue their studies on the weekend at Juilliard, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music or at the New England Conservatory. There is an additional charge for music lessons. Scholarship funds are available for students who demonstrate financial need. Students are responsible for obtaining an instrument for their lessons, with the exception of piano, organ, harpsichord, and drums. Please contact the Music Lesson Program Coordinator if you need information regarding rental instruments. (Choate Rosemary Hall does not rent musical instruments. We will be happy to put you in touch with local companies that can assist you in obtaining a rental instrument for your child. Contracts signed with those companies are the sole responsibility of the parent and student.)

*Note: Auditions are not necessary for instrumental and vocal instruction.*

## **THEATER**

A number of courses are offered in different areas of theater arts at the foundation level so that any student may select a special area of interest. Advanced level courses are offered in all areas. Productions are used as a basis for class analysis and discussion.

### **ACTING I**

All terms; 1 course credit  
TA100

This course explores the choices an actor makes in preparing a role and the skills helpful in presenting a variety of characters to audiences. Theater games, improvisations, monologues, and scenes are the core of individual and class exercises. Open to all students.

### **ACTING II**

Winter, Spring terms; 1 course credit  
TA200

The student now puts into practice the skills acquired in Acting I. Building a character, carrying out text analysis, and working as an ensemble are the objectives of Acting II. A play chosen especially for the students enrolled in the class, is the focal point of class work. The actors are taken through the homework and rehearsal process as they delve into discovering objective, subtext, arc, and physicality of character and script. Improvisation, imagery

exercises, as well as Hagen, Chekhov, and Stanislavski techniques are explored.

Prerequisite: TA100.

### **ACTING III: THEATER INTENSIVE, HONORS**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
TA351HO

Mastering the Stanislavski system and Michael Chekhov technique are the main focus of the fall term of the Acting III sequence. Students are taken step-by-step through the audition process as they prepare two contrasting monologues, design resumes, discuss headshots, practice interviewing, and learn to approach auditions and cold readings. Clowning, a performance style that has been used since the dawn of theater, is simultaneously explored. Students learn to trust their intuition, live in the moment, and embrace the ensemble while they produce imaginative and physically connected characters.

Prerequisite: TA200 and permission of the department.

### **ACTING III: THEATER INTENSIVE, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
TA352HO

Winter term focuses on the One-Person Show. Designed to put into practice everything that the students have mastered in TA100, TA200 and TA351, the One-Person Show is written and performed by the actor. Shows can be fictional, autobiographical, or illuminate a historical figure or event. They can be of any genre, performed in any style, and focused on any theme that is important to the student. Actors are encouraged to evaluate what they do well and what still intimidates them as performers and to build a show that will both illustrate their strengths and enable them to continue to grow. The 20-minute One-Person Show is performed for the public at the end of the term.

Prerequisite: TA351HO.

### **ACTING III: THEATER INTENSIVE, HONORS**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
TA353HO

Rehearsal and performance are the keystones of TA353. Each year a different play is investigated and produced. Students utilize the techniques they have studied, including improvisation, imagery exercises, Laban, Chekhov, and Stanislavski. All aspects of production, including lights, sound, costumes and sets are designed and constructed by the ensemble members.

Prerequisite: TA352HO.

### **DIRECTING, HONORS**

Fall and Winter terms; 2 course credits  
TA450HO

This two-term course explores character and textual analysis, set design, casting, technical considerations, and other aspects of production, providing a basis for the student's development of production concepts. A complete production book and a scene directed for public presentation are required.

Prerequisite: TA100.

*Note: Students interested in behind-the-scenes work can participate in Tech Theater Crews in Costume and Props, or Sets and Lights, as alternate athletic activities.*

### **IMPROVISATION**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
TA240

Offered in alternate years; available in 2018-2019

This course in improvisational theater explores a variety of techniques through which the actor can create and develop character and performance material. The improvisational performer is at once the actor and the playwright. The study and practice of other methods developed by British, Canadian, and American improvisational companies conclude with a final performance project.

### **PLAYWRITING AND SCREENWRITING**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
TA270

Students in this course learn how to write a story and transform it into a camera-ready script. Analyzing a range of produced screenplays, from *The City of God* to *Crash*, students investigate strategies for effective exposition, characterization, pacing, dialogue, and visual storytelling. Through writing exercises and workshops of each other's materials in class, students expand their screenwriting techniques and develop their individual voices as writers. In seminar, students discuss the screenwriting process—from the outline and treatment through the draft and the pitch. As a final project, each student writes a 15-minute screenplay of professional standard, and pitches it to the class. Open to fourth, fifth, and sixth form students.

*Note: A primary purpose of this course is to prepare students who wish to participate in the annual Choate Fringe Festival; therefore, underform students have priority over seniors for enrollment in the class. With permission of the English department, sixth form students may receive English credit for this course.*

### **INTRODUCTION TO THEATER HISTORY** (Online Course Offering)

Spring term; 1 course credit  
TA320

Through this online class, students explore the history of the theater from the ancient to the modern world. Through an analysis of significant productions – from *The Bacchae* at the Theater of Dionysus in 405 B.C. Athens, to the Noh theater in the shogun court of 14<sup>th</sup> century Japan, to *Show Boat* on Broadway in 1927 – the course introduces students to key moments and movements in theater history. Students investigate developments in stage architecture, the shifting "place" of the stage within culture, and the changing styles and methods of production. Students examine materials ranging from set designs and costume sketches, to historical diaries, photographs, newspaper reviews, and dramatic texts. Students are required to participate with their teacher and classmates in online discussions, write a series of reaction pieces, design a theater-of-the-future independent project, and produce a significant independent

project pursuing advanced exploration of a single figure, production or moment in theater history. Open to all students.

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF THEATER DESIGN**

Spring term; 1 course credit

TA108

Offered in alternate years; available 2018-2019

This course is an introduction to the theory, history, and practice of stage set and costume design. Students learn the basic techniques of script analysis, period research, style, and color. Basic theatrical terminology and techniques of drawing, drafting, and model-making are introduced. Each student develops a fully conceptualized design of a play as a final project. When possible, students may be offered the opportunity to design portions of the current or upcoming theater production. Open to all students.

### **STAGECRAFT I**

Fall, Winter terms; 1 course credit

TA110

In this course, students learn about technical theater and the skills necessary for successful backstage work in a hands-on environment. Students learn the history of technical theater, the different types of physical spaces, building/structural theory, and how to read and draft theater architectural plans. Students are expected to become adept at theater-specific construction and safe equipment operation, and learn the fundamentals of rigging systems, scenic lighting, scenic painting, and scenic and lighting design. Open to all students, though students are strongly encouraged to take Fundamentals of Theater Design (TA108) before enrolling in this course.

### **STAGECRAFT II**

Spring term; 1 course credit

TA220

Offered in alternate years; available in 2019-2020

This continuing study of technical theater consists of advanced work in more specific technical areas that include specialty property building, special effects, fine carpentry, welding, scenery engineering, and mechanized scenery.

Prerequisite: TA110.

### **TECH THEATER CREW: COSTUME & PROPS**

All terms; athletic credit

ATTECHCP

For those interested in the backstage workings of a theater production, the opportunity to work in the costume/prop shop is offered. Students are introduced to fundamental aspects of prop and costume design, including acquiring historical period research and understanding the aesthetic and practical needs of the production. They are also exposed to the integral skills required of construction, including hand and machine sewing; commercial and handcrafted patterning and building; painting, dyeing, distressing and crafting of fabrics and materials; measuring, altering and fitting costumes; and running props and wardrobe during performances. No prior sewing or crafting experience is required. Costume and

Prop Crew meets after school.

### **TECH THEATER CREW: SCENERY, LIGHTS & SOUND**

All terms; athletic credit

ATTECHSL

Students are heavily involved in all aspects of backstage work for the theater department productions as well as work that relates to the day-to-day running of the theater. While working both in the shop and on the stage, they gain hands-on experience with set construction, scenic painting, and lighting. Students are required to assist backstage as run crew for one term during one of the student productions. It is expected that students be present at all weekend technical rehearsals and evening dress rehearsals the week before the show and at all performances. Tech Theater meets three afternoons a week for two hours a day.

### **PRODUCTIONS**

All terms; athletic credit

ATPROD

Each term, various opportunities for students to perform are offered, including main stage productions, Choate's Fringe Festival and productions in other venues on campus. Auditions are announced and cast lists are posted on the theater call board by the entrance to the black box theater, (the Chase-Bear Experimental Theater). Beyond offering students the chance to perform, students contribute to the life of a production in other ways, including serving as stage managers and assistant stage managers. Rehearsals occur after the academic day and count as an afternoon athletic credit. Only the musical counts as a "sweat sport."

## **VISUAL ARTS**

The visual arts program offers all students the opportunity to explore the creative process and expand their visual literacy. Students who discover a passion for a specific medium have the opportunity for more dedicated in-depth study. As an extension of the academic day, studio art courses may require regular attendance at studio labs.

### **FOUNDATION COURSES**

Students are welcomed into the visual arts program through the following courses, which are designed to introduce students to the formal elements of visual art. Students may choose the course in which they are most interested, assured that common essential elements learned can be applied to further study across various art media. There are no prerequisites for any of these courses, and no prior experience is necessary. All foundation courses are open to all students, with the exception of Video Production I (VA310).

### **VISUAL STUDIES: CORE CONCEPTS I**

Fall, Winter terms; 1 course credit

VA200

This course addresses all of the fundamentals of material expression from conceptual development to technical skill development. Merging aesthetic consideration with narrative intent, each student will learn how the formal elements of art work

in concert to serve the concepts and process of the artist. Students will not only make art but also develop artistic literacy by observing, analyzing, writing and speaking about the artistic process and artwork. A spirit of collaboration and creative problem-solving is fostered in the studio, prompting students to begin to discover their artistic voice.

#### **DRAWING**

All terms; 1 course credit  
VA210

This course introduces students to the basic elements of drawing from direct observation – line, value, texture, perspective, composition, and space – and promotes the investigation of drafting materials through the practice of various drawing techniques. Students will become comfortable using foundational black and white media including pencil and charcoal. These basic drawing elements, materials, and techniques will work in dynamic combination with each student's emerging concepts of self-expression.

#### **VISUAL STUDIES: MIXED MEDIA**

Fall, Winter terms; 1 course credit  
VA215

Students will explore a variety of media to promote creative expression with an emphasis on 3D space and design. Students will gain new project-based technical skills and strengthen their understanding of the foundational formal elements of art, including composition, form, color and light. In addition to traditional design projects, students may also experiment spatially with installation and performance art.

#### **JEWELRY I**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
VA240

This hands-on course is an introduction to jewelry and metal working skills. The course covers the basic hand skills required to manipulate metal with confidence and success. Methods of manipulation include removal processes such as sawing, drilling and filing as well as forming and methods of combining through cold and hot joining techniques. The history of jewelry and the significant role it plays in personal expression is included in studio discussions as personal designs are developed. Original pieces of finished jewelry are created from raw materials such as copper, brass, and silver. Bring your willingness to be curious and see what transpires as you build a new set of hand skills.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ART**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
VA245

This multimedia studio art course uses the theme of our surrounding environment to visually explore our connection to place. Students will work on both individual and collaborative projects that use the environment as content, context, and material. Students will also keep ongoing nature journals for exploratory source inspiration. Beyond the hands-on studio work, students will gain a historical, cultural, and interdisciplinary understanding of environmental art through digital media

presentations, readings and discussions.

#### **WEAVING I**

Fall, Winter terms; 1 course credit  
VA260

A study of on-loom weaving techniques is presented in this course, which includes a series of exercises in craft and technique as well as the opportunity to complete individual projects such as scarves, blankets, tapestry pillows, and rugs. The finest weaving materials from linen warp to hand-spun wool and silk are provided.

#### **CERAMICS I**

All terms; 1 course credit  
VA280

This course introduces students to the medium of low-fire clay. Instruction is given in the techniques of wheel work, hand-building, glazing, and underglazing. Basic techniques are covered during the first half of the term. During the second half of the term students are encouraged to concentrate on developing a single technique. Finished projects, including bowls, pitchers and mugs, that expand the student's knowledge of the craft, are created.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY I**

All terms; 1 course credit  
VA290

A look into the darkroom and traditional black and white film photography, this introductory course covers the controls of the SLR camera, film development, and printing. This investigation includes film characteristics, depth of field, chemical processing, and the ethics of photography. Shooting assignments and darkroom work is supplemented by class discussion and group critiques. If possible, all students should have a working 35mm SLR camera with manually adjustable lens and shutter. A limited number of loaner cameras are available.

#### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

All terms; 1 course credit  
VA295

This course introduces students to the techniques for capturing photographic images with a digital SLR camera and then manipulating those images using photo-editing software such as Adobe Photoshop. Camera controls and editing adjustments are combined with the general principles of artistic composition. Loaner digital SLR cameras are available.

#### **VIDEO PRODUCTION I**

Winter, Spring terms; 1 course credit  
VA310

The ability to effectively communicate using images and sound is a vital skill in contemporary media and understanding their effects or influences on society is equally important. This class takes students through the pre-production, production, and post-production steps in the creation of video projects. In pre-production students plan, script, and storyboard their ideas. Then the class learns how to use a digital video camera to effectively collect images that communicate a story to an audience. Camera techniques and

controls, balanced with good composition, are combined with sound capture and reproduction so that ideas can be effectively expressed to an audience. In the post-production editing rough video footage is captured and then edited using non-linear editing software. Student projects begin by isolating elements of production and design and progress to more short, but complete group video projects. At the end of the term projects are presented to the community at an informal screening. Open to fourth, fifth, and sixth formers.

### **UPPER LEVEL VISUAL ARTS COURSES**

The following courses allow students the opportunity to study a particular medium in depth. They are designed to build on foundational understanding, increase technical facility, and foster individual creative expression.

#### **VISUAL STUDIES: CORE CONCEPTS II**

Fall, Winter terms; 1 course credit  
VA300

This course allows students to create work of individual design in various media. The class is best suited for conceptually-driven students who embrace innovation and experimentation.

Prerequisite: VA200.

#### **JEWELRY II**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
VA350

With the permission of the art department and after successful completion of Jewelry I, students may enroll in Jewelry II for continued and more independent study. While Jewelry I focuses on technical skills, Jewelry II allows students to further apply these skills to their own modes of creative expression.

Prerequisite: VA240.

#### **WEAVING II**

Fall, Winter terms; 1 course credit  
VA365

With the permission of the art department and after successful completion of Weaving I, students may enroll in Weaving II for continued and more independent study. While Weaving I focuses on technical skills, Weaving II allows students to further apply these skills to their own modes of creative expression.

Prerequisite: VA260.

#### **CERAMICS II**

All terms; 1 course credit  
VA380

With the permission of the art department and after successful completion of Ceramics I, students may enroll in Ceramics II for continued and more independent study. While Ceramics I focuses on technical skills, Ceramics II allows students to apply these skills to their own modes of creative expression in clay.

Prerequisite: VA280.

#### **OIL PAINTING I**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
VA320

This course introduces students to the foundational techniques of oil painting. Students explore the key elements of observational painting through still life, portraiture, and/or landscape (when the weather permits). Students are taught how to see and how to mix color, modulate values, and develop form. Assignments are based on traditional and contemporary painting techniques and are designed to develop technical facility while fostering each student's concepts of creative expression.

Prerequisite: VA200, VA210 or permission of the department.

#### **ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
VA340

This is an introductory architectural design studio course in which computer generated 3D modeling techniques are taught through the preparation of individual student projects. Historical, ecological, creative and technical aspects of architecture are studied to enhance the design process. Visiting architects are invited to review student work and a field trip is part of the course. Attendance at one evening presentation session is required. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

#### **DIGITAL MEDIA DESIGN**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
VA370

Not offered 2018-2019

In this course, students explore the world of designing and creating graphic and animated digital media content. Students create original content using different technologies as expressive tools, including but not limited to Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and After Effects. The media content created in the course are used in various campus publications, posters and events. The course also examines visual design in print, advertising, app design, and online media while focusing on color, composition, and style. Students work to develop an artistic vision and learn how to use digital design to bring their ideas to life. Open to fourth, fifth and sixth formers.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY II**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
VA390

Students take an advanced look at the technical and aesthetic aspects of photography. Projects, demonstrations, field trips, critiques, and an exploration of photo history provide the basis for an ongoing exploration of photographic techniques in both the traditional black and white film processes, and/or digital imagery using a DSLR camera and computer editing software. The focus of this class is the development of a cohesive body of photographic work that represents the personality of the photographer.

Prerequisite: VA290, VA295 or permission of the department.

## **VIDEO PRODUCTION II**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
VA410

This class builds on skills learned in Video Production I. Students are combined into small production teams in which they assume the roles of members of a video production crew. During the term, they participate in a variety of job responsibilities in order to build skills in all areas of video production. Some specific skills that are studied include the effective use of the camera, combined with complex editing techniques and transitions. In addition, students study a variety of genres from which they ultimately select one or more to use as they complete individual creative projects. At the end of the term, these projects are presented to the community at an informal screening.

Prerequisite: VA310.

## **OIL PAINTING II**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
VA420

With the permission of the art department and after successful completion of Oil Painting I, students may enroll in Oil Painting II for continued and more independent study. While Oil Painting I focuses on technical skills, Oil Painting II allows students to apply these skills to their own modes of creative expression in paint.

Prerequisite: VA320.

## **LIFE DRAWING, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
VA450HO

Life Drawing engages students in a serious class environment to further develop the student's ability to draw from observation and accurately and expressively render the human form onto a two-dimensional surface, using a variety of materials. Through drawing sessions from the nude and clothed model, demonstrations, discussions, slide lectures, and critiques, students gain a better understanding of the basic anatomical structure and form of the human body. We focus on different ways to approach figure drawing using various perceptual drawing methods that work in concert to promote each student's artistic voice.

Prerequisite: VA200, VA210, or permission of the department.

## **ADVANCED STUDIO ART PORTFOLIO**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
VA460AD

This course provides the student with the opportunity to further develop and organize a body of original work that can be submitted as physical or digital portfolios to art schools and colleges. Assignments are individualized and based on each student's portfolio, interests, and goals at the beginning of the course. It is strongly recommended that students preparing a portfolio identify themselves to the visual arts faculty as early as possible in the fifth form year. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

Prerequisite: Permission of the department.

## **ART HISTORY**

Some ideas can be best communicated verbally, others best through the forms that appeal directly to the eye or ear. The purpose of great art is to communicate, in an immediate, visual way, some of society's most urgent ideas. Students learn to identify the issues embodied in a work of painting, sculpture, or architecture and to discuss them confidently and fluently. Activities include discussions, papers, tests, student presentations, videos, and museum trips. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

### **ART HISTORY: ANCIENT WORLD, HONORS**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
VA551HO

This course offers an overview of mankind's achievements in the visual arts from pre-history to the Medieval period. Students explore the image-making, monumental sculpture, and architecture of these eras and learn something of the magic, religion, and politics behind them in both Western and non-Western traditions. Our studies range across space as well as time to include the art of ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, Byzantium, early Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

### **ART HISTORY: SACRED AND SECULAR, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
VA552HO

This course introduces students to the art of the world between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Students study the art and architecture from the Age of Faith to the later Ages of Renaissance Humanism, Reason and early Romanticism. They study some of the greatest figures in the history of world painting (Titian and Dong Qichang), sculpture (Donatello and Bernini), and architecture (Michelangelo and Wren). The course follows a succession of breathtaking accomplishments that marked the artists' increasing technical mastery as they communicated the religious and political values of their times. The arts of the early Americas are also explored with the subject of ever expanding colonialism and the spread of influences on a global scale.

### **ART HISTORY: MAKING THE MODERN WORLD, HONORS**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
VA553HO

This term begins with an exploration of the developments associated with Romanticism and Realism in Europe and the U.S. in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The continuing contributions made by China and Japan to world art is a returning theme from previous terms. The collapse of traditional values in the West around 1900 ushers in the radical, experimental revolution called Modernism. Students study pioneers like Picasso, Matisse, and Mondrian, as well as late Modernists like Pollock, Warhol, Beuys and Basquiat in their search for an art that honestly reflects our realities. Students also learn something of the art of Oceania and Africa, both for its own sake and for the ways in which modern artists have appropriated it for their own purposes. The term concludes with an investigation into the new globalization of contemporary themes in art.

**FILM HISTORY**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
VA345

This course explores the history of film by studying one genre of film from the silent era through to more contemporary works. For example: film comedies start with Buster Keaton, W.C. Fields, progressing through Woody Allen and Mel Brooks to finish with a present day director's work. The films also provide a diverse perspective on the treatment of the subject as it has changed or not changed over the years. The primary focus of study, for comparison and criticism, is the director's vision for the film. Open to fourth, fifth, and sixth formers.

**SEMINAR IN ART HISTORY, HONORS**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
MD625HO

This seminar considers the architecture of Choate Rosemary Hall and its historical antecedents from Italy, England, and America. Considerable study is devoted to Ralph Adams Cram's Seymour St. John Chapel and Archbold Hall, I.M. Pei's Paul Mellon Arts Center and Icahn Center for Science, and Pelli Clarke Pelli's Lanphier Center. Students acquire an understanding of the principles of these buildings, their place in the history of architecture, and their impact on teaching and learning at our school. From examining the architectural components of a structure to appreciating the structure's physical and emotional impact on its surroundings, students learn to how to analyze a building critically. Students are expected to play an active role in seminar discussions, to read scholarly material, to complete a creative assignment, and to lead class discussions from time to time. While no prior knowledge of art history is required, students should have a strong interest in the subject and excellent analytical skills. This course earns one visual arts credit. Open to sixth formers, and fifth formers with the permission of the instructor.