

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

PART-TIME ARTS COURSE OFFERINGS 2023-24

The Visual and Performing Arts at Moravian Academy are part of our heritage. At the same time, they are part of our “here and now,” a vital and essential aspect of our daily lives at Moravian. Our Arts experiences afford us the opportunity to see our collective existence from many vantage points as we develop our own unique perspectives on the world around us. We invite students to tap into their creative spirits and to express themselves through sounds, images, words, and characters. By functioning as active artists, musicians, dancers, actors, and creative teams, our students blend historical perspective with modern sensibilities, share freely their passions and curiosities, embrace empathy and the power of art to tell stories, and ultimately learn to see the world around them in new and deeply meaningful ways.

Introduction to Theatre

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

The course is designed to provide the students with an understanding of the development of written and performed drama with a focus on its roots in Ancient Greece, the Shakespearean Era and the present day musical theatre. Beginning the year with an exploration of the Theatre space and the aforementioned historical examination, the remainder of the year will focus on other separate areas of importance in theatre. Following the history portion, the class will focus on the technical aspects of theatre. With a stress on Set Shop Safety the students will learn the proper use of the tools of the scenic building trade and dabble in a few scenic painting techniques. Finally we will focus on Training for the Speaking Voice and text analysis/presentation. This basic building block of the actor’s trade provides valuable material for every walk of life. Using the work of Kristin Linklater, the goal of this portion is to provide the students with a solid basis in clear vocal production and public speaking. Students are expected to attend the Winter Musical, Spring Drama, and see two productions at the professional, collegiate, or community theatre level.

Acting I – Fundamentals

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

This course is designed to provide the actor with the fundamental tools of voice, movement, and acting technique. Beginning with a focus on healthy vocal production and physical relaxation, the students will move into the development of a personal acting technique using methods developed by Robert Cohen, in the Stanislavski tradition. The final exercise of the year will be a unit of basic stage combat and safety.

Acting II – Style

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

This course is designed to enhance the actor’s development and personal technique by exploring three major styles theatre: early-Realism with Henrik Ibsen, High Comedy using the principles of Maria Aitken and practiced with Noel Coward, and finally William Shakespeare (with a bit of dialect work popping up for fun). Through research projects, actor journals, and practical application through scene and monologue work, the actor will gain a variety of tools for their craft.

Prerequisite: Completion of Acting I

Acting III – Contemporary Scene Study

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

This course focuses on works of the Contemporary Theatre. The actor is expected to have a strong grasp of the fundamental tools of the actor’s craft from previous courses so when moving into Acting III, they are prepared to investigate the character fully through text and external research. The vibrant plays of study will change annually to reflect the dynamic nature of the art of theatre. The final effort, “Project Concept,” asks the students to reconceptualize a work of Public Domain theatre.

Prerequisite: Completion of Acting II

Chorale

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

The Chorale is the principal choral performing ensemble of Moravian Academy. It is open to students in grades 9 to 12 who demonstrate musical ability and an interest in singing. A wide variety of choral literature is prepared for public performances at Coffeehouse, the Moravian Academy Christmas Vespers, and the Academy’s Spring Concert. Members are required to participate in all performances to receive credit. An audition may be required by the instructor for students new to the group.

Moravian Academy Chamber Singers**2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course**

The Moravian Academy Chamber Singers are a small, select vocal ensemble chosen by audition from members of the Chorale. Emphasis is given to the preparation of more advanced choral literature in an appropriate musical style, and the perfection of group vocal technique through ensemble, sectional, and individual rehearsal. The Moravian Academy Chamber Singers are the musical ambassadors of Moravian Academy and perform at school functions and throughout the community.

Prerequisite: Audition

Wind Ensemble**2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course**

Students learn and perform music chosen from a wide variety of wind band literature. This group is comprised of standard wind and percussion instruments: woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The ensemble performs for various school functions as well as the combined Lower Middle and Upper School Spring Concert of Instrumental Music.

Open to all students with previous musical instruction and ability to read musical notations.

Jazz Band**2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course**

The Jazz Band is a special ensemble for instrumentalists interested in playing jazz in a group setting, with a strong focus on improvisation. Members are required to participate in all performances to receive credit.

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor

Co-requisite: Wind Ensemble or String Orchestra

String Orchestra**2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course**

Students learn and perform music chosen from a wide variety of orchestral literature and chamber music ADD, in addition to the exploration of score-reading and conducting. This group is comprised of orchestral string instruments. Up to two pianists can participate in the string orchestra, though they must be approved by audition or permission of the instructor. The ensemble performs for various school functions as well as the combined Middle and Upper School Evening of Instrumental Music.

Must have a minimum of three years playing violin, viola, cello, or double bass.

Chamber Music (S1 & S2)**Single Semester Course offered both 1st and 2nd****Semesters; .25 Credit per Semester; Part Time Course**

A music performance class in a small group setting, geared towards performance and focusing on music repertoire not addressed in larger ensemble courses at MA.

Chamber music hones a student's ear in ways that are different from the experience of being in orchestra, band or choir, challenging the student to express, share, receive, and think differently about music. This course is about learning what to look for, and how to listen, in addition to exploring the repertoire.

Offered on certain days of the rotation, culminating in a Red & Gold recital performance in January (for First Semester enrollees), and a Spring performance in May (for Second Semester enrollees) during the Spring orchestra concert -- or as a prelude an hour before that Spring concert begins. This is in addition to any Coda Red opportunities for vocalists, and possibly other events with a featured music component.

Although 11th and 12th graders may take this course for a single semester only depending upon their other arts course choices and their schedules, these students are encouraged to consider enrolling in both semesters, as there would be new repertoire chosen in each semester.

Prerequisites: Open to 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade string players, wind players, vocalists, and pianists by permission of the instructor. Demonstrable instrumental or vocal competency, ability to read music well, evidence of current study with a private teacher.

Moravian Academy Handbell Ensemble**2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course**

The Moravian Academy Handbell Ensemble serves as an introduction to handbell ringing at the Upper School. Students learn and review a variety of ringing skills and techniques while exploring repertoire to be performed at the Christmas Vespers service and the Spring Concert as well as some chapel services during the year. Important concepts in musicianship and music theory are addressed as well. Performances are mandatory and comprise a major portion of the grade for class. *Beginning ringers with some musical background are encouraged to join this group. Handbell experience, while not necessary, would be of great value to a member of this ensemble.*

Intermediate Handbells

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

This ensemble-based class is an appropriate choice for a student who has completed one year as a member of the Handbell Ensemble, but is not yet ready to work at the level of the Moravian Academy Ringers. In addition, a student with strong musicianship skills but no previous experience, as determined by the instructor, may be given permission to join the handbell program at this level once they have had an interview and brief audition with the instructor. The goal of this ensemble is to begin incorporating advanced techniques and skill sets into more regular use and to achieve mastery of all basic aspects of the handbell idiom. The group will perform more frequently for evaluation than in the previous year, and may be expected to demonstrate advanced skill acquisition in the classroom setting from time to time. The focus will be on helping the group develop a strong sense of interdependence and teamwork.

Moravian Academy Ringers

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

Handbell ringing is the ultimate in ensemble performance experiences, as each performer has sole responsibility for the notes that are assigned to them. The Moravian Academy Ringers perform for Upper School chapel programs, Christmas Vespers, and the Spring Concert as well as for occasional concerts in the community. Their performance repertoire consists of arrangements of music written for other instruments as well as original music written especially for handbells. *Membership is restricted to those students with prior handbell experience or permission of the instructor.*

Art and Design (Freshman requirement)

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

Visual communication takes place everywhere around us. Using the elements and principles of design, and incorporating concepts in visual culture and the history of art students in this class make tangible connections between what is considered art and common everyday objects. The varied projects in this course will enable students to develop their technical art-making skills while guiding them to a greater articulation of their own aesthetic preferences as they discover art and design in the world around them. This course prepares students to be visually literate in contemporary culture and society. It encourages creative citizenship by redirecting from consumption culture toward active creative practice and to become knowledgeable creators and examiners of culture, media, and art.

Ceramics I

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

This course is designed to introduce students to the excitement of working with clay in a variety of ways: functional, non-functional and sculptural. Techniques taught include both hand-building and an introduction to the potter's wheel. Emphasis is on the technical and aesthetic considerations as well as historic and cultural perspectives.

Prerequisite: Art & Design

Ceramics II

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

Having laid the groundwork with basic pottery techniques and processes in Ceramics I, students achieve a more advanced mastery in both their hand-built and wheel-thrown pieces (and combination of both) allowing for further development of their own unique styles. Projects in this class are gradually more student-generated, with emphasis being placed on clay selection, complex multi-piece constructions and glaze applications.

Prerequisite: Ceramics I or permission of instructor

Advanced Ceramics

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

Students in this course will build upon the knowledge, and acquired skills of their previous years' work in ceramics. In this year, most ownership in the designing of the projects will be student based to further articulate their visual voice while strengthening the mastery of their current skill sets and learn additional ones in order to accomplish their goals working with clay. Ongoing monitoring from the instructor with each student and their daily progress with the project will take place from start to finish to assist with planning and anticipating future needs to support student effort to meet both the course's expectations and their goals – making adjustments when and where needed. Examples of work at this level: multiple mold making options, throwing off the hump, creating glazes, combining functional elements with purely sculptural ones.

Prerequisite: Ceramics I & Ceramics II (or equivalent with permission of instructor)

Printmaking = Drawing + Painting

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

Looking back over 1200 years to woodblock printing that began in China and a myriad of additional processes birthed across the globe since, printmaking has a long history and is very much still relevant today as contemporary artists

continue to explore the many processes which offer endless possibilities of creativity for communicating their personal voices. Within the three printmaking processes of relief, intaglio and planographic, MA student artists will create prints utilizing the fundamental skill sets of drawing and painting.

Prerequisite: Art & Design

Photography I

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

Open to tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders, this is the foundation course in photography. Student artists are introduced to basic handling and functions of the (D)SLR camera. Students will have access to the darkroom and lab facilities for shooting on 35mm film, developing film, and traditional printing. Student artists will also have access to digital imaging and printing tools. Exploration will aid in developing an awareness of aesthetics and practice utilizing compositional techniques. Artists begin to make images that explore personal creative process, style, and interests. Artists will study the history of photography and research influential master photographers to help them to shape a personal process and creative interests. Student photographic artists will experiment, create, research, develop a keen understanding of the technical aspects of the medium, and research historical methods, explore the work of kindred artists. A goal for each artist is to have a basic understanding of how to utilize photographic technologies and methods and to begin to develop an autonomous studio practice by year's end which will lead into Advanced Photography.

Note: A lab fee of \$175 is required.

Advanced Photography

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

The primary purpose of this course is to explore one's personal and collaborative creative process through the creation of a collection of works created throughout the year. The first questions to ask oneself, as an artist are... "Who am I? What is my story? What is my creative vision and how might I share it with others?" Students who sign up for this course set out on the ambitious yearlong practice of exploring these questions while experimenting, creating, developing good practices and building a regular artistic practice with processes that are self determined. This course is very open to free choice students may choose from all tools available in the studio. Each student artist in this course will have a subscription to Adobe Creative Suite and well study digital editing. Students will also have the option of utilizing historic and experimental photographic processes in the darkroom and photo chem lab. Students may also choose to use this course to build a fine art portfolio and submit an AP Studio Art Portfolio to the College Board. All students will exhibit works in the Annual NAHS Fine Art Exhibition.

Note: A lab fee of \$175 is required.

Prerequisite: Photography I

Digital Publication

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

In this course, students learn about industry-standard software, graphic design, and journalism, in addition to photography and layout techniques. Students use InDesign CS3 and Adobe Photoshop to create an original yearbook for the community. Time permitting, students design and produce brochures, playbills, flyers, etc. regarding productions and activities at the school. Students need to be highly self-motivated, creative, inventive, and imaginative individuals who can meet deadlines and stay organized and enthusiastic! The primary task of the class is to plan, design, layout, and produce *The Legacy*, Moravian Academy's yearbook. After completion of the last deadline, students focus on planning the next edition of *The Legacy*. The goal of the course is to develop life skills that last beyond the completion of the main project, a memory book of the year.

Introduction to Woodworking (open to Gr. 10, 11, 12)

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

This course introduces students to the basic elements of woodworking. The course includes studying the types, characteristics, properties, and uses of both softwoods and hardwoods. Students learn the proper safety techniques for the use of both power tools and hand tools, including various saws, planers, routers, lathes, chisels, rasps, and sanders. Students learn the proper sanding and finishing techniques, including the advantages of various finishes such as stains, varnishes, and polyurethanes. Students design and create group projects and individual projects throughout the year.

Woodworking: A Community Service Project

2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course

Students as a group identify a specific need, within the local community, one that can be adequately addressed by the woodworking students. They work within the organization best equipped to meet that particular need and work as a group to complete a project to address that need. Students learn not only how to identify and address a need but also how to design as a group and how to do production runs in a woodshop environment.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Woodworking

Advanced Woodworking**2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course**

This class builds on the lessons learned in the Introduction to Woodworking course. Students learn how to hone their developing skills to design and build more complex and involved wood projects from furniture to sculpture. Emphasis is placed on originality and the skills necessary to bring a level of sophistication to the ideas themselves and to the finished product.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Woodworking

Guitar Building (open to Gr. 11 and 12)**2 Semesters, .5 Credit, Part Time Course**

In this elective for juniors and seniors the students will research, design and build their own, unique, working electric guitar.

Theme explorations will contain (but not be limited to):

- The history of the electric guitar
- The influence of the electric guitar on popular music and culture
- Design principles and geometry of guitar bodies
- Wood species effects on the guitar body
- CAD and CAM fundamentals
- Electronics: schematics, components and soldering
- Wood finishes (their chemistry and characteristics)
- Additional other various science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics themes