COURSE DESCRIPTION Becky S. Johnson 4-2-2015

 Visual Literacy/ Art Appreciation 105/106

Contemporary communication in our modern world depends now, more than ever, on visual media and less on the written word & speech. Images can be extremely effective tools for conveying information and mood, and it is important for us to appreciate the power—for good and bad—of visual media. Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of the techniques, history, and interpretation of the conventions of visual culture .

Through lectures, readings, gallery visits and hands-on activities, students will develop an understanding of the functions of imagery in art, a basic vocabulary for describing visual art, a general understanding of the role art has played throughout Western and Non-Western history, and contemporary trends. Emphasis will also be given to the creative process.

S.R.G. system. No prerequisite. ½ unit credit per semester. Year long course. Available to 8,9,10,11,12th grade. Could be a pathway to A.P. Art History and I.B. Visual Arts

Course objectives:

* provides a foundation for a historical understanding of visual conventions, including both western and non-western cultures.
* introduces the expressive potential of visual forms, applies rigorous methodologies for the study of perception and interpretation of the visual world.
* requires students to be makers as well as interpreters, i.e. through the fabrication of visual essays and statements using new or traditional media.
* prepares the student to view and understand information presented in modes used in a variety of disciplines and areas.
* upon successful completion of the course, students will have a working knowledge of the

 vocabulary necessary for objective description of art objects, media, techniques, and

 styles.

* Students will understand the context out of which art has been made in the past, present, and its potential impact on the future of visual culture.