

*Long Island*  
*High School*  
*for the Arts*

# Course Offerings

**Note: The courses described below are typical arts offerings. Not every course is offered every year, and course descriptions may change. Academic courses are available for full-day students.**

## Department: Creative Writing

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### Playwriting

Playwriting students begin by learning to observe the world as playwrights and ultimately write one-act plays. Areas of study include creating settings, building characters, and constructing scenarios. Each component of the class is reinforced by in-class and at-home exercises and by deep readings of several masterworks.

### Poetry Workshop

As well as continually writing in-class and at home, students are introduced to literary devices—the “tricks of the trade”—and learn the terms and theories all good writers must know. Revising, editing and submitting work for publication are emphasized. Students become finer poets, shrewder readers and helpful critics to their classmates and fellow writers. The Poetry Workshop is eligible for college credit from Adelphi University.

## Department: Dance

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### Audition Class

Seniors discuss what it means to major in dance at the same time they are choreographing audition pieces for college-level programs. They develop their dance composition skills, participate in mock auditions and build skills in dance criticism.

and movement across the floor. It calls for a high level of discipline, as students work toward developing both technique and the qualitative and expressive aspects of movement.

### Ballet

Ballet vocabulary and technique provide a foundation for understanding the principles of all other dance training. This class reflects standard classical format—that is barre work, center floor

### Dance History and Criticism

The evolution of dance is traced from its earliest origins. Historical events, cultural forces, developments in other arts and current perspectives are interrelated during classroom discussions.

Students are required to prepare thoroughly researched presentations on a dancer, choreographer or dance company, and they may earn college credit through Adelphi University.

## **Exploring American Dance**

Students learn how the various styles of jazz and tap have influenced American musical theatre dance, and they learn about the dancers and choreographers of American dance in film and theatre. The class format includes lectures, readings and projects as well as movement. Master classes in tap, jazz and hip-hop enrich young dancers' understanding of past and present.

## **Functional Anatomy and Dance Kinetics**

Students examine the skeletal and muscular systems, joints and joint action, injury prevention and proper use of breath—all needed to give students the best opportunity to become effective and efficient movers. Kinesthetic principles will be applied so the students can make mind/body connections.

## **Jazz Dance**

Jazz Dance is a unique American art form that grew

out of various rich and diverse cultures. Today this form of dance can be seen on television, Broadway and the concert stage. At LIHSA, the study of jazz dance is designed to complement ballet and modern dance classes, developing well-rounded performers.

## **Modern Dance**

Modern Dance is a living, growing and ever-changing art form, which continues to evolve and reflect the times in which we live. Connections to modern dance history will be made as students learn fundamental movement principles. The styles of modern dance taught at LIHSA reflect the instructors' varied experiences.

## **Performance Workshop**

Underclassmen from dance, theatre and music combine the techniques they have learned and apply them in creation of a collaborative piece. They explore improvisation and stage combat, perform songs and original choreography from the musical theatre repertoire, perform mock auditions and stage original productions.

# **Interdepartmental: Digital Music and Media Lab**

## **Digital Media Track (for visual arts, writing and film majors)**

### **Digital Media—Introduction**

Students are introduced to the digital skills required of the professional artist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In a workshop environment, they will learn to create, present and distribute multimedia, with a focus on shooting and editing video, producing podcasts and creating websites. Projects connect with and support each student's area of artistic interest.

### **Digital Media—Intermediate**

The intermediate course extends topics students explored in the introductory class, with an emphasis on student projects and marketing.

### **Digital Media—Advanced**

Advanced students move on to more challenging production subjects, including multi-track recording, sound reinforcement for live music ensembles, sound design for film and video, and use of the "green screen." They also have the opportunity to explore motion graphics and special effects.

## **Digital Music Production Track (for music, musical theatre and dance majors)**

### **Music Production—Introduction**

From the scientific foundations of sound and digital recording to the new digital creative genres, this

course begins the study of technological skills required of professional musicians in today's digital age. It includes an overview of music and multimedia production techniques as well as covering the foundations of composition.

## **Music Production—Intermediate**

The intermediate course extends topics students

explored in the introductory class, with an emphasis on student projects and marketing.

## **Music Production—Advanced**

Advanced Music Production students have the opportunity to explore film scoring, orchestration and instrumentation.

## **Department: Film**

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### **Animation/Film**

Animation students are introduced to a variety of software used to create interactive projects—for example, Adobe Flash and After Effects. Class projects include such challenges as creating a 30-second television spot. The emphasis is on understanding various interactive techniques and protocols.

### **Digital Editing**

Digital Editing students learn how to log and capture, organize, filter and sequence their raw digital footage using Final Cut Pro software. They work in a state-of-the-art iMac computer lab.

### **Film History and Genre Study**

Films are viewed and studied with particular attention to such elements as theme, execution of style, direction, use of soundtrack and acting styles. The course begins with early works, such as *The Great Train Robbery* (1903), and continues into the present. Emphasis is placed on the study of

American and European films that fall into a particular category (genre) for one reason or another.

### **Film Production Workshop**

How to compose shots and scenes, move and angle the camera, run a shoot and communicate with the cast—these are some of the directorial procedures covered in the Film Production Workshop. Students learn the functions and capabilities of different camcorders and, on the creative side, how to maintain the tone, vitality and vision of their respective pieces.

### **Screenwriting**

Students develop ideas and character sketches into screenplays using proper formatting techniques. They are taught how to fuse imagination with structure as they fit their story concepts into forms that most effectively convey their desired messages. The focus is on characterization, plotting and conflict—growth and resolution. (Students may also take Playwriting, described under the Creative Writing Department.)

## **Department: Music**

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### **AP Music Theory**

In addition to preparing the students in every aspect of the Advanced Placement Music Theory

Examination, this course includes the study of the sonata allegro form, score analysis and orchestration.

## **Audio Recording Technology**

Music equipment is used to enhance and/or support good musicianship and compositional talent, not distract from it or replace it. This class presents students with an overview of the development of music technology from microphones and tape recorders to today's powerful computer-based recording/sequencing systems. Students get hands-on experience in LIHSA's state-of-the-art recording studio, working on a variety of class projects that result in professional-quality recordings.

## **Audition**

A senior's musical abilities may be excellent but if he or she fails to present these abilities confidently and correctly at a college entrance or placement audition, the student's musical accomplishments may not shine through. The audition course develops performance and communication techniques to ensure that the instrumentalist or vocalist appears relaxed and self-assured. Also covered: selection of audition material, conquering nerves, appropriate attitude, dress and posture.

## **Chamber Ensemble**

Chamber Ensemble acquaints students with the literature for small instrumental ensembles and instructs them in the performance of music from various periods. Emphasis is placed on sight-reading and interpretive skills.

## **Classical Vocal Ensemble**

This class focuses on classical repertoire in Italian, French, German and English. Students work collaboratively on ensemble selections and on solo performances. Seniors prepare repertoire geared toward college auditions and competitions.

## **History of Music**

Music from the Middle Ages to the present is covered in this course, which is designed to develop listening skills and an appreciation of the diverse elements represented in western music tradition. Students become familiar with the characteristics of music from different periods in music history and develop the ability to discuss them using appropriate music terminology.

## **History of Popular Music**

Students learn about popular music from folk songs around the world to the present day. In particular,

the course illustrates how America is a musical melting pot.

## **History of Popular Music Applied**

This course is a companion piece to History of Popular Music. Students perform popular music from the distant and not-so-distant past.

## **Jazz Ensemble**

Students practice sight-reading and jazz improvisation techniques. Class sessions focus on jazz repertoire, with emphasis on modes, form and style. Works studied include jazz, blues, classical and contemporary music, with an eye toward in-school and outside performance opportunities.

## **Literature and Materials--Basic**

Literature and Materials is a basic music theory class combining ear training, sight singing and keyboard literacy. Students learn scales, key signatures, intervals and voice leading. In ear training, the class covers chord and interval identification, scales and harmonic structure. All students learn sight singing according to their abilities, and have the opportunity to work in the Music Technology Lab.

## **Literature and Materials I**

This class is a continuation of the Basic class. It presupposes a working knowledge of scales, key signatures and intervals. More advanced skills are developed as preparation for Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory or a college music theory class.

## **Literature and Materials II**

Literature and Materials II deepens the understanding of music gained in the previous course, with an emphasis on the intricacies of four-part harmonic writing and principles of voice leading.

## **Percussion Ensemble**

Students develop reading skills and perfect their drum set technique in the areas of Rock/Funk, Jazz/Swing and Latin music. Music writing and transcription are included.

## **Piano Ensemble**

Piano Ensemble provides students with a background in the repertoire for the piano, starting

with music originally written for other keyboard instruments, such as the clavichord and the organ. They play a wide variety of pieces, including compositions for four hands on one piano and piano concertos originally written for piano and orchestra and transcribed for two pianos.

## Popular Ensemble

In Popular Ensemble, students are introduced to the discipline of reproducing the sounds heard on radio and other mass media. Songs are chosen, arrangements are provided and vocalists are added to create a complete product. The Ensemble is often called upon to perform outside engagements and to

represent LIHSA at various events.

## Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Students study artists and movements in jazz from the 1930s through the 1960s, becoming familiar with the styles of such personalities as Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald. They prepare vocal selections including ballads, swing, Latin and blues, with an emphasis on key selection, rhythm, phrasing and tempo—and they even memorize solos to perform in “scat syllables.”

# Department: Theatre

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## Acting Techniques

Acting Techniques is a full-year course that meets once a week for 2 ½ hours and is required for all Drama and Musical Theatre majors. Students explore skills and character development in depth, and work on a variety of monologues and scenes from classic to contemporary plays, and from serious to comical works. A written character analysis is required for every monologue, scene or song that students work on.

## Acting Techniques for Seniors

For seniors, the focus is on technique, understood through exercise and practical applications. The course includes storytelling, sensory work, solo and group exercises, improvisation and monologues.

## Audition Techniques

Through this required course, seniors are equipped for college and scholarship auditions and complete their Senior Jury Projects. For auditions, students prepare and perform monologues and songs, which are critiqued by the faculty and classmates. Learning to analyze the performances of others is a major element of this class. The Senior Jury Project calls for researching and writing about a playwright, composer or lyricist and performing a selected work.

## Cabaret

Students learn how to thematically create and link together material suitable for solo and/or group Cabaret performances. They are given the opportunity to find choice material from the standard, contemporary and pop catalogs to create a cabaret act suitable for both intimate settings and larger venues.

## Creative Dramatics/Improvisation

Designed for aspiring actors in grades 9 – 11, this course allows students to explore acting techniques. In this class, the creative process stems from ideas

based in improvisation (long and short form), sound and movement, and storytelling.

## Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre is a requirement for drama and musical theatre majors, alike. Performance techniques and character development are studied in depth. Students work on a variety of songs from musical theatre shows, and are required to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the play and of the character who sings the song.

## Performance Workshop

Underclassmen from dance, theatre and music

combine the techniques they have learned and apply them in creation of a collaborative piece. They explore improvisation and mock combat, perform songs and original choreography from musical theatre repertoire, perform mock auditions and stage original productions.

## **Physical Theatre**

Stage combat, Commedia dell'arte, martial arts, gymnastics and improvisation bring a story and its characters to physical and emotional life on the stage. Physical Theatre flexes students creative muscles and calls upon them to learn diverse theatrical techniques.

## **Department: Theatre Technology**

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### **Introduction to Lighting**

You can't learn about lighting by reading a book; in this hands-on course students collaborate on projects, work on lighting crews for student productions and attend departmental and professional dance and theatre performances. Instruction includes the properties of light, types of stage lighting fixtures, the makeup of a production team and the basic concepts behind lighting for the stage.

### **Stage Management**

Every aspect of mounting, rehearsing, running and maintaining a production is discussed and explored in this class. Numerous jobs in the theatre and what

## **Theatre Dance Ensemble**

This class covers a broad base of dance styles, including musical theatre, ballet, modern, jazz and tap.

## **Vocal Communications**

In this course, students learn effective ways to sing and learn harmonies in an ensemble. They establish warm-up routines for practicing and performing, and learn to recognize and critique vocal techniques in themselves and others. Also covered: breathing, vocal placement, diction and singing posture.

they require are covered, as well as all of the duties and responsibilities of the stage manager.

## **Theatre Sound**

This course covers all aspects of theatrical sound design from acoustics to microphone placement and use. Students learn sound reinforcement techniques in class projects and during actual shows performed at LIHSA, and become familiar with special effects devices such as reverberation devices, equalizers and compressors.

## **Department: Visual Arts**

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### **Advanced Drawing**

Through both lecture and practice students begin to master concepts such as form, value, line, composition and perspective, pushing their drawings to a greater degree of finish and detail.

Cylinder studies are followed by class still life studies and other observational drawings. In addition, students create individual projects, demonstrating the development of their own artistic interests and sensibilities.

## **Advanced Painting**

Still lifes, landscapes, portraits, architectural forms, abstractions—all are part of Advanced Painting. A minimum of seven paintings is required, ranging from self-portraits to surrealist projects. To inform their work, students study major painting styles and movements in their historical context.

## **Advanced Studio in Art**

In Advanced Studio, students explore the language of art in depth: line, shape, color, value, space and texture. Lessons emphasize problem-solving to enhance creativity and develop skills. Media include painting, mixed media, collage and printmaking.

## **Animation/Film**

Animation students are introduced to a variety of software used to create interactive projects—for example, Adobe Flash and After Effects. Class projects include such challenges as creating a 30-second television spot. The emphasis is on understanding various interactive techniques and protocols.

## **Computer Graphics**

Good design is the basis of any successful image—but to translate that design into a digital image calls for an understanding of various software programs and knowing which one will help students reach their visual goals. This course covers both the basics of good design and of digital tools such as Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

## **Costume Design**

Students in Costume Design become visually articulate in the language of fashion. Topics include fashion history, drawing, fabrication and marketing. They won't just discuss Fashion Week—they'll also consider how to establish their own points of view as designers.

## **History of Art in the Western World**

Who creates art, for whom and for what purpose? These are the underlying questions in this survey of European and American art. The contributions and influences of non-Western art are also considered. Students have the opportunity to think, talk,

research and write about art and to create related hands-on projects of their own.

## **Introduction to Art and Design**

Students from other departments at LIHSA enroll in this introductory course, which explores how the visual arts impact their lives and careers. They may create visual pieces which convey the mood of their music—or try their hands at set design or costuming for a show.

## **Photography**

Photography calls for a combination of technical skills and aesthetic judgments. Both are covered in this course, which promotes a basic understanding of photographic terminology and composition and encourages students to develop their own personal styles.

## **Portfolio/Advanced Placement (AP)**

This class prepares students for meeting the portfolio requirements for art school or college admission. Representatives from noted and popular schools annually visit LIHSA and review students' portfolios. This is a required activity for seniors; those who elect to participate in AP Art will be guided in meeting portfolio requirements of an in-depth concentration in 2-D Design, 3-D Design or Drawing.

## **Sculpture**

Sculpture students explore space, sculptural volume, contours, planes, light and shadow, and texture—and then apply these principles to creating abstract and figurative pieces from a live model. The clay modeling and clay management skills learned in sculpture have applications to pottery, and students will have the opportunity to experiment with the potters' wheel.

## **Sculptural Anatomy**

This course teaches artists the basics of anatomy and physiology, supplying the students with a strong foundation for future artistic expression. They learn the proportions and features of the human form—

and how they have been reflected by various artists from Michelangelo to the present. And they produce their own anatomically correct figure studies,

showing such structures as bones and muscles.

## All Departments

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### College Communications

Applications for student artists need a special slant, and should reflect their talent and dedication to their art. This course takes LIHSA seniors through the college application process. While the Audition and Portfolio classes help youngsters prepare materials, College Communications places the emphasis on exploring who a student really is and what kind of college program is best for the individual.