

**MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Name:** Art Studio I (College Prep and Honors)  
**Course Number:** 7101 (CP) and 7001 (H)  
**Length of Course:** 6PPC for a Full Year

**Department:** Art  
**Grade Level(s):** 9-12  
**Credits:** 5.0 (2.5 per semester)

**Course Description:**

Art Studio I is part of the sequential six-year program in studio art at Masconomet—beginning in Art 7 in the middle school. It is an elective program in the high school. Students in Art Studio I are assigned projects from selected areas of art study with an emphasis on drawing and design as foundation skills. The projects include a variety of multi-level problem solving assignments in the areas of drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and design. Exposure to and experimentation with a variety of methods, materials and processes is essential in establishing a common art vocabulary and ultimately leading to future growth as a visual artist. Integral to the program is an emphasis on the elements of art and the principles of design. Art historical connections are also established throughout the course as appropriate. Art Studio I students will be asked to observe carefully; think creatively; and make decisions thoughtfully and reflectively.

Art Studio I College Prep and Honors are offered concurrently. We do this to better facilitate scheduling and to encourage strong peer modeling. The differences between CP and H are that honors students are required to keep a sketchbook for the class that will be reviewed and graded periodically and they are also required to create one additional independent project each quarter in the form of a paper, PowerPoint presentation or a replication of a master artist's work. Usually, students are recommended by their eighth grade teacher to take Honors, however, the ultimate choice of CP or H is up to the student and his/her parents. All parties must realize that the choice to successfully pursue the Art Studio I Honors track requires a significant additional commitment of time and energy on the part of the student throughout the year.

**Central Objectives:**

The students will:

- develop a series of unique solutions to a variety of structured visual problems.
- learn the techniques of a variety of media and their suitability for the solution of given projects along with their inherent expressive qualities.
- maximize the effectiveness of the selected medium through their level of technical ability and creative input in their solutions to all assignments.
- formulate a portfolio of resolved, original art work at the conclusion of each course.
- verbally articulate what they have created using the elements of art and the principles of design.
- provide constructive criticism to their peers regarding the work that has been created in class during formal critique sessions.
- continually reflect upon one's work in order to more effectively resolve it.
- develop the ability to become more informed about how art is created and its place in our history and culture.

**Major Activities:**

Each student will create a body of work in which the emphasis will be on a variety of materials and processes including: drawing, design, relief printmaking, painting and additive sculpture. All visual problems will address the specific guidelines within the Massachusetts Visual Art Curriculum Frameworks and the Masconomet Art Department's list of; "Elements of Art and Principles of Design" (see Attachment 1). All honors students will also be required to complete four additional art historical projects—research papers and/or PowerPoint presentations and replications of artists' works. They will also be responsible for maintaining a personal sketchbook. Major units in the following areas will be explored:

**Drawing:**

- Explore drawing and shading of basic forms—geometric (cube, pyramid, cylinder, sphere) and organic.
- Experiment with drawing from observation and imagination.
- Develop observational skills to more accurately evaluate and render the way our eyes see objects around us.  
**Vocabulary:** *two-dimensional, three-dimensional, composition, line, contour, break-the-edge, overlapping, proportion, positive space, negative space, contrast, value, texture, parallel.* **Note:** *All students and teachers will reference Masconomet's; "Observational Drawing Rules for Full-Value Drawings" when completing an observational drawing assignment (see Attachment 2)*

**Design:**

- Experiment with ways to organize and balance lines, shapes, and color.

- Explore the overall visual presentation of an artwork, including composition and style.
- Explore both man-made and natural designs.  
**Vocabulary:** *design, symmetry, asymmetry, rhythm, variety, pattern, realistic, abstract, geometric, organic*

#### **Color:**

- Maintain proper control, care and clean up of painting tools and materials.
- Understand the color wheel
- Experiment with basic color mixing.
- Explore color relationships and how color can be used effectively as a means of expression.  
**Vocabulary:** *Primary colors, secondary colors, tertiary colors, warm/cool colors, value, tint, shade, hue, saturation, monochromatic, complementary, analogous, contrasting colors, opaque, transparent*

#### **Additive Sculpture:**

- Experiment with ceramics, or papier mache , plaster casting material, or assemblage.
- Learn the limitations and potential of sculptural media.
- Learn use, care and clean up of all tools and materials associated with sculptural media.  
**Vocabulary:** *(Ceramics) wedging, clay slip, coil, slab, scoring and slipping, kiln, fire, engobe, leather hard, bone-dry, greenware, bisque, underglaze, glaze; (Papier Mache or Plaster Casting Material) armature; (Assemblage)*

#### **Relief Printmaking:**

- Explore relief printing through linoleum carving.
- Develop proper use care and clean up of all tools and materials associated with relief printmaking.
- Learn control of the many variables in printmaking to create consistent, multiple prints.  
**Vocabulary:** *brayer, printing ink, inking plate, bench hook, printing press, water bath, blotter, ghost print, overprint, chine colle, rainbow roll (multiple color blend), embossment*

#### **Art History (Honors only):**

- Explore the life and work of two master artists through the completion of research papers or PowerPoint presentations about those artists.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the style of the same master artists by replicating one of each of his/her works as closely as possible to the original.

#### **Sketchbook (Honors only):**

- Explore a variety of observational drawing techniques on a regular basis.
- Experiment with a variety of methods, materials and approaches on a regular basis.
- Make preliminary studies for class assignments as required.
- Begin to establish the sketchbook as a personal visual journal.

#### **Behavioral Expectations:**

The students will:

- be on time to class.
- be expected to put forth their best effort.
- respect that the art room is a shared, cooperative space. You will be expected to show an ability to use, control, and clean up all tools and materials properly and safely.
- assume responsibility to make up all work missed due to absence.
- come to class prepared to work.
- receive conduct and effort grades that are reflective of their level of cooperation, behavior, attentiveness, alertness, interest and level of consistent participation in all classroom activities.

#### **Student Evaluation:**

Teachers will use the aforementioned criteria in combination with rubrics and/or performance checklists to arrive at a letter grade for each student—pluses and minuses will also be awarded. Grades in Art Studio I are as follows:

- A** The student mastered all the course objectives with an outstanding level of proficiency.
- B** The student mastered all of the course objectives with a commendable level of proficiency.
- C** The student mastered a sufficient number of the course objectives with a reasonable level of proficiency.
- D** The student mastered the minimum number of course objectives.

F The student failed to accomplish the minimum required course objectives.

**Text and Materials:**

Relevant handouts and visual presentations will be provided as appropriate.

**Methodology:**

- **Investigations:** Students will be exposed to a variety of methods, materials and processes which will be used to uniquely solve visual problems
- **Lectures and Demonstrations:** Lectures will be used to safely introduce new art methods, materials and approaches. Introduction to specific artists and artistic styles will also be presented in this format.
- **Discussions:** Individual and group discussions (critiques) of work in progress will be held on a regular basis. Students will be expected to take part in these critiques and to use proper art vocabulary terms. Students will also be expected to reflect upon their work and make adjustments to it as needed.
- **Visual aides:** Charts, samples, books, photos, websites, CDs, slides etc. will be used to motivate students and to strengthen their understanding of art elements, techniques, concepts, etc.

**Elements of Art and Principles of Design**  
**Masconomet Regional School District Art Department**

**Elements of Art:**

**Line:** The path of a moving point (“a dot going for a walk”).

**Color:** Color is the light reflected from a surface.

Color has three distinct qualities:

- Hue/Color—the identity of the color
- Value—lightness to darkness of a color
- Intensity—brightness to dullness of a color

**Value/Tone:** The lightness or darkness of a color.

**Texture:** The actual or implied surface of an object.

**Shape:** A two-dimensional area enclosed by an outline.

**Form:** A three-dimensional shape containing height, width, and depth.

**Space:** Organizes elements in a composition while also referring to the distance or area between, around, or within a shape or form.

**Principles of Design:**

**Unity:** This refers to the sense of wholeness, harmony and order in a work of art.

**Variety:** The differences among and between the elements in a composition.

**Balance:** The weighted relationship between elements in a composition.

**Emphasis:** Emphasis can be applied to one or more of the elements to create dominance.

**Rhythm:** The repeated use of an element to achieve visual movement in a composition.

**Repetition:** The use of an element or elements more than once in a composition.

**Proportion:** The size relationship of all parts, to each other and to the whole, in a composition.

**OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING RULES  
FOR FULL-VALUE DRAWINGS  
Masconomet Regional School District Art Department**

- There is no such thing as an outline.
- Keep it light until it's right.
- A shadow is simply a darker value of what is already there.
- Always use the point of your pencil.
- An eraser is a drawing tool.
- Don't smudge.
- Short multi-directional marks will create even values.
- Make sure that your mark making follows the direction of the objects you are drawing—curved marks for curved objects, etc.
- Breaking edges makes for more interesting compositions.
- Make sure that a figure-ground relationship is established by including connecting cast shadows below the objects.
- The negative space is often as important as the positive space in a drawing.
- Make sure that there is a change in value whenever one object meets another (even if it is negative space)—this is an **edge** not an outline.
- Always hang your work up, stand back and then assess it from a distance. It will always appear lighter.
- Make sure that every drawing has a full range of values—from the lightest lights to the darkest darks and a range of grays in between.
- Remember that each of you has an artistic license that can be used in order to make adjustments in what you are observing to provide artistic punch.
- If you don't understand how light is falling on objects that you are drawing then you will not be able to draw them accurately. Periodically, you will need to put down your pencils...really observe the relationship between the objects and the light falling on them. Only after reestablishing this connection/observation should you pick up the pencil and begin drawing again.

