

**MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Name: Photography II
Course Number: 7912
Length of Course: 6PPC for One Semester

Department: Art
Grade Levels: 9-12
Credits: 2.5

Course Description:

Photography II is a course designed to further students' knowledge and experiences in photographic processes through the use of film cameras and the traditional darkroom with its chemical processes. A sequence of assignments will be utilized to introduce both technical as well as aesthetic problems. In addition, the critiquing process will be practiced frequently. The history of photography, as well as some of the pioneers of the field and contemporary photographers will be introduced into the projects as appropriate. Photography II students will be asked to observe carefully; think creatively and technically; and make decisions thoughtfully and reflectively. *Photography I is a prerequisite for this course.*

Central Objectives:

Students will:

- gain a working knowledge of several camera formats, including all of its parts and functions.
- expand upon the zone system of exposure theory, depth of field, selective shutter speeds, exposure bracketing, and the use of studio lighting and equipment including strobe lighting.
- experiment with non-traditional darkroom processes, including advanced film development techniques, silver gelatin printing, local exposure control, contrast control, spot toning, and presenting final pieces.
- learn to create prints using sophisticated printing techniques such as multi-negative printing, use of liquid emulsion, toning, and contact printing from paper negatives.
- verbally articulate and justify what they have created using the elements of art and the principles of design while infusing work with visual and conceptual structure.
- continually reflect upon one's work in order to more effectively resolve it.
- familiarize themselves with the works of historical/contemporary photographers as appropriate and their place in our history and culture.
- maximize the effectiveness of the photographic process through their level of technical ability and creative input in their solutions to all assignments.

Major Activities:

Each student will photograph, develop, and print a series of projects which address the specific guidelines contained in the Massachusetts Visual Arts Curriculum Frameworks and the Masconomet Art Department's list of "Elements of Art and Principles of Design" (see Attachment 1). Some projects will explore individual frameworks objectives, while others will address multiple objectives. Major units in the following areas will be explored:

Advanced Darkroom Processes:

- Learn to set up, break down, and test all darkroom chemistry.
- Learn and practice darkroom safety, including "darkroom manners".
- Learn and practice advanced printing techniques such as multi-negative printing, the use of liquid emulsion, toning a print, and contact printing from paper negatives.

Vocabulary: *white lights, safe lights, enlarging stations, enlarger (head, mouth, height crank, height crank lock, contrast dial, lens, lens board), timer (on/off switch, seconds/tenths switch, time/focus switch, time dials, expose button), developer, stop bath, fixer, water wash, tongs, trays, drip tray, print dryer, blue/sepia toning, paper negatives, liquid emulsion, multi-negative printing.*

Photographing a Photograph:

- Learn to work thematically by planning, executing, and successfully completing a visual solution to a conceptual problem.
- Deepen an understanding of printing techniques in order to achieve a high level of consistency in print quality.
- Gain the ability to discuss photographs in regards to technique, aesthetic value, and conceptual investigations.

Vocabulary: camera, exposure, film, silver gelatin printing, local exposure control, contrast, composition, theme development, conceptual photography, elements and principles of design.

Studio & Natural Lighting: Portraiture

- Learn, understand, and demonstrate the ability to use and control tungsten-based studio lighting.
- Gain ability to individually set-up, operate, and then take down studio equipment, performing a photo shoot to completion.
- Demonstrate the ability to manage all people involved in a portrait shoot.
- Gain the knowledge to create interesting portraits, or self-portraits, capturing the expressive nature inherent in this category of photography.

Vocabulary: studio lighting, main light, fill light, gobo, flag, umbrella, reflector card, portrait, self-portrait, multi-person compositional portrait, Yousef Karsh, Richard Avedon, Shelby Lee Adams, Diane Arbus, and Mary Ellen Mark.

Shooting a Still Life

- Learn to create a photographic image that represents a personal narrative through objects.
- Learn to compose the various elements within a photograph in order to elicit an intuitive response from the viewer.
- Learn to use small-scale tabletop studio lighting equipment and techniques to arrange and create a unique environment for the subject matter.

Vocabulary: tungsten-based studio lighting, main/key light, fill light, rim light, gobo, flag, umbrella, reflector card, depth of field, view finder, narrative, table top lighting techniques.

Photographing from Nature:

- Learn to recognize, adapt to and predict various natural lighting conditions and situations.
- Utilize selective composition and focus to create ambiguity of location and scale.
- Refine the ability to discriminate between effective and distractive compositional elements, strengthening the image during the original conception of the photograph.

Vocabulary: zone system, available light, selective composition, selective focus, and Ansel Adams.

Behavioral Expectations:

The students will:

- be on time to class.
- be expected to put forth their best effort.
- respect that the art room and darkroom are shared, cooperative spaces. You will be expected to show an ability to use, control, and clean up all tools, materials and equipment properly and safely.
- assume responsibility to make up work missed due to absence.
- come to class prepared to work.
- receive a conduct grade that is 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 Photography 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:

Additional relevant handouts and visual presentations will be provided as appropriate.

Methodology:

- **Investigations:** Students will be exposed to a variety of methods, materials and processes that will be used to uniquely solve visual problems.
- **Lectures and Demonstrations:** Lectures and demonstrations will be used to safely introduce new art methods, materials and approaches. Introduction of specific photographers and photographic 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 discussions and to use proper art and photography 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.

Revised: February 2008

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.