

Masconomet Regional High School Curriculum Guide

Course Title: Digital Photography

Course Numbers: 7860

Department: Art

Grade Level and Phase: 9-12 CP

Length of Course: 6PPC for one semester

Course Description:

Digital Photography is a course designed to introduce students to the photographic process through the use of the digital camera and Adobe Photoshop software. A sequence of assignments will be utilized to introduce both technical as well as aesthetic problems. The critiquing process will be introduced, and practiced frequently. The history of photography, both film and digital, and the pioneers of this relatively short history will be introduced into the projects as appropriate. Students will be asked to observe carefully; think creatively and technically; and make decisions thoughtfully and reflectively.

Objectives:

The students will:

- gain a working knowledge of the digital camera, including all of its parts and functions.
- learn, understand, and use exposure theory, depth of field, selective shutter speeds, exposure bracketing, and the use of studio lighting and equipment.
- become proficient in using Adobe Photoshop software, as an image importing tool, correction and modification tool, and as an output tool, resulting in highly refined final pieces.
- learn to recognize, and then create, technically correct color laser and ink jet prints.
- learn and practice introduced design concepts to infuse work with visual and conceptual structure.
- verbally articulate what they have created using the elements of art and the principles of design.
- continually reflect upon one's work in order to more effectively resolve it.
- familiarize themselves with the works of historical/contemporary photographers as appropriate.
- develop the ability to become more informed about how photography was created and its place in our history and culture.

Materials and Activities:

Each student will photograph, upload, digitally process, 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:

Understanding the Digital Camera:

The students will:

- learn the names of all of the parts of the camera.
- gain a working knowledge of all of the major parts and functions of the camera.
- understand and be able to use the manual exposure metering system of the camera, and be able to demonstrate the ability to find multiple correct exposures under a variety of lighting conditions.

Vocabulary: digital camera, image sensor, memory card, card reader, shutter, shutter speed, shutter speed controls, ISO, resolution, image/file size, image quality, self-timer, lens, lens cap, f-stop, f-stop controls, aperture, zoom control, focus, manual focus, auto focus, viewfinder, exposure.

Adobe Photoshop Software Processes:

The students will:

- learn to import, open, size, correct, save, and store digital image files.
 - learn and practice digital file management, including “network manners”.
 - gain a working knowledge of the functions of all equipment used in the computer lab.
 - gain a working knowledge of the software sequences, from importing images to the final output of them, which can be exporting, storing on disk, storing on drives, uploading to ftp site, or printing.
- Vocabulary:** *Adobe Photoshop, importing, exporting, keyboard shortcuts, saving, saving as, folder, file management, printing, ink jet printer, color laser printer, digital printing media.*

Image Restoration:

The students will:

- learn and master all skills necessary to perform restoration techniques to both digital and film photographs.
- gain skills in making subjective decisions regarding the skillful restoration of heavily damaged images, or images that have significant critical elements missing which may need to be recreated.

Deepen understanding of Adobe Photoshop software processes.

Vocabulary: *Adobe Photoshop, importing, exporting, keyboard shortcuts, toolbox, clone stamp, saving, saving as, folder, file management, printing, ink jet printer, color laser printer, digital printing media.*

Printing from Digital Files:

The students will:

- learn all processes involved in printing from digital files, including the difference between printer media formats, dedicated printing, and network printing.
- gain ability to judge print quality, and make changes to digital files to improve print quality.
- become familiar with the utility functions of photographic-quality ink jet printers, replace ink cartridges, perform head cleaning functions, and print test pattern pages to confirm head cleanings.

Vocabulary: *ink jet printers, color laser-jet printers, network printing, printing media (papers), print quality, ink cartridges, head cleaning utility, test pattern pages.*

Shooting for Emphasis: Still Life

The students will:

- become familiar with Masconomet Art Department list of Elements of Art and Principals of Design, and gain ability to incorporate them into photographs.
- gain ability to discuss photographs not only in regards to technical correctness, but also in terms of aesthetic visual characteristics.
- learn to manage files and server space through the upload and organization of digital images.

Vocabulary: *emphasis, in-camera cropping, composition, elements of art and principles of design, depth of field, Nikon Image Capture software, digital camera media cards, card readers, and cables, uploading images.*

Panograph:

The students will:

- learn to create and manage a multi-layered Photoshop file, including naming layers, grouping them, and creating a hierarchy of layers that best represents the image.
- expand on knowledge of composing with the camera during the photography process, cropping and editing while looking through the viewfinder or screen, while keeping Photoshop composition editing at a minimum.
- further expand on knowledge of digital files, including their compatibility and the process of combining many different images into one file.

Vocabulary: *layer, layer hierarchy, layer visibility, layer opacity, background layer, grouping layers, locking layers, naming layers, composition, in-camera cropping, resolution matching, drag and drop technique.*

Book Project:

The students will:

- learn to follow detailed project specifications.

- plan and execute a thematic series of photographs based upon the solution to a conceptual problem.
- deepen knowledge of photography through the use of images as representational and conceptual icons.
Vocabulary: accordion book, project spec sheet, thematic photographs, conceptual photographs, icons, visual contrast, conceptual contrast, visual tension.

Composition Collage:

The students will:

- expand on ability to follow detailed project specifications.
- plan and execute a thematic series of photographs based upon the solution to a visual problem.
- learn to see beyond the first layer of an environment, into the reflections, shadows, and abstracted refractions that are equally present, but subtle in their presence.

Vocabulary: highlight, shadow, reflection, refraction, Ansel Adams and “seeing”, layer hierarchy, building depth, drop shadow, print preview, print scaling, self-portrait.

Assessment:

Behavioral Expectations:

The students will:

- Effort--How hard you try.
- Originality--Your artwork is a solution to a given problem. Each student is expected to solve each problem in an individual way.
- Responsibility-- You will be expected to show an ability to use, control and clean up all tools and materials properly and safely. It is your responsibility to make up any work that has been missed.
- Discussion and Vocabulary-- We will have individual and small group discussions, (critiques), of work in progress. You will be expected to take part in these discussions and to use proper art vocabulary terms.
- Reflection/Adjustment --Students will reflect upon their work and will have the opportunity to make adjustments as needed.

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 Digital Photography 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.

Expectations Addressed:

Academic: 1, 3 and 4

Civic: 1, 2 and 3

Social: 1 and 3

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.