

**MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Name: Drawing**  
**Course Number: 7501**  
**Length of Course: 6 PPC for One Semester**

**Department: Art**  
**Grade Level(s): 10-12**  
**Credits: 2.5**

**Course Description:**

This is a multi-media drawing course, which is organized to strengthen students' observational drawing skills. A series of assignments has been designed to stretch each student's ability. Problems will include line work, design composition, color tonality/value, creating an illusion of 3-D form, perspective, understanding the figure, explorations with a variety of media, and other areas pertinent to one's drawing development. The composition of the class will find students of varying strengths and levels of experience. Students who are considering a career in architecture should seriously consider enrolling in this course. Students will work with a variety of materials, concepts, and approaches in personally defining what drawing is. Included will be graphite pencil, pen and ink, colored pencil, charcoal, pastel (soft and oil), and a wide variety of experimental materials, alone and in combination.

**Central Objectives:**

The students will:

- develop their own drawing style within the prescribed confines of the class projects.
- learn the techniques of a variety of mediums and their suitability for the solution of given projects along with their inherent expressive qualities. Some mediums include but are not limited to pencil, pastel, charcoal, conte crayon, ink, and mixed media.
- 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 the semester.
- 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.
- increase their awareness of our visual environment and become better observers by working from observation and the imagination, and by dealing with concepts of realism, symbolism and abstraction.

**Major Activities:**

Each student will create a body of work in which the emphasis will be on a variety of materials and processes as associated with drawing. 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). Major units in the following areas will be explored:

***Drawing:***

- Explore drawing and shading of basic forms, both geometric (cube, pyramid, cylinder, sphere), and organic.
- Experiment with drawing from both 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, perspective, horizon line, vanishing point, sighting, parallel, line, contour, overlapping, proportion, view fonder, mark making, shadow, artistic license, outline, texture, contrast, figure-ground, ebony pencil, gum eraser, value. 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:*** *Composition, positive space, negative space, design, symmetry, asymmetry, break-the-edge, rhythm, variety, pattern, realistic, abstract, geometric.*

### **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 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 Drawing 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 and demonstrations will be used to safely introduce new 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.

**Revised: July 2006**

# 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.