

**MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Name: Photography III/IV
Course Number:
Length of Course: 6PPC for One Semester

Department: Art
Grade Levels: 10-12
Credits: 2.5

Course Description:

Photography III/IV is a combined course designed to allow students to explore, in great depth, the process of cultivating photographic works into a portfolio. The III students utilize an exploratory approach toward refining their work, utilizing a series of self-assignments to narrow their choices down to the collection of work that will eventually become the subject of concentration in their photography portfolio. The IV students, having worked through this process, concentrate on building upon and refining their photography into a complete body of work that represents the culminating experience of the two classes. The critiquing process is practiced frequently, and students are introduced to the works of contemporary photographers as appropriate. Students will be asked to observe carefully; think creatively and technically; and make decisions thoughtfully and reflectively. *Photography II is a prerequisite for this course.*

Central Objectives:

Photography III students will:

- Choose a format within which to work, either traditional, digital, a combination of both, or an alternative format.
- Examine their existing photography on their own, as well as through the critiquing process, to make determinations as to the style and direction of their work to this point.
- Create a series of self-assignments designed to familiarize them with possible directions for the refinement of their work.

Photography IV students will:

- Reflect upon their existing photography, exploring ways to both refine and build upon it.
- Incorporate their new work with their existing work, continuously editing their work while considering the collection as a whole.
- Finalize a portfolio of work that accurately represents the current level of their ability in photography.

Major Activities:

Students in both Photography III and IV will photograph, print, and present a series of works 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 student work will explore individual frameworks objectives, while others will address multiple objectives. Major units in the following areas will be explored:

Examine and Reflect Upon Existing Works:

- Present their work to the class in a group critique designed to identify student's strengths, while articulating ways to build upon and improve their work.
- Explore historical and contemporary photographers who may have created works of a similar nature.
- Discriminate between successful and less than successful previous work, and revisit areas of confusion or difficulty in order to resolve weaknesses, both technical and conceptual.

***Vocabulary:* critique, editing, influence, portfolio, culmination, concept.**

Designing a Series:

- Learn to work create a series of images by planning, executing, and successfully completing a photographic solution to a conceptual problem.
- Deepen knowledge of an unfamiliar area of photography by exploring it through research and experimentation, followed by the production of a series of images that reflect the amount and quality of work put into this activity.
- Create a written proposal that details the theme of the series, as well as a self-assessment component that will be used to determine the level of success of this activity.
- Report the results of this activity in the self-assessment, and determine the viability of negotiating this type of photographic work into a successful portfolio.

***Vocabulary:** theme, series, concept, and types of photography, photographic style, research, experimentation, proposal, assessment, self-assessment.*

Critique and Edit:

- Actively participate in individual, small group, and class critiques, offering and receiving feedback in a productive and professional manner.
- Consider the impact each new work has on the existing collection of work, noting the change in value, placement, and flow each new work has on each existing work.
- Replace pieces as appropriate, using the criteria of the impact of new work on existing work as a guide, while frequently considering the direction that the body of work is moving toward.

***Vocabulary:** individual critique, small group critique, class critique, critique etiquette, constructive, destructive, image placement, image flow, image impact, direction of work.*

Portfolio:

- Explore various types of media presentation, including traditional presentation materials, digital presentations, as well as non-traditional or alternative presentation methods.
- Present a final portfolio of their work in an interview-style setting as a final critique and culminating experience.
- Research, draft, and create an artist statement that will accompany and complement their portfolio.

***Vocabulary:** portfolio, media, print portfolio, digital portfolio, non-traditional portfolio, alternative presentation, artist statement.*

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:

Relevant handouts and visual presentations will be provided as appropriate, along with guest critiques and visits by photographers and relevant artists working in the field.

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 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.