

Course Description: Introduction to Photography

This course is a basic introduction to black and white photography. It is designed as a semester course with no prerequisites. Students will learn how to see the world through the camera and to develop a language of photography as an image-making medium. This course will focus on basic darkroom procedures for developing and printing black and white film, and investigating new technologies utilizing the digital image and the computer. In particular, students will learn about light, the pin-hole camera, different types of 35mm cameras (SLR, point/shoot, ABS), film technology, wet and dry printing techniques, special effects, the basics of Photoshop and the history of photography. Working in the darkroom and on the computer is an important component of this course. Students are expected to have access to a 35mm or digital camera.

Requirements include: keeping a notebook/portfolio of negatives, prints and finished work; tests, quizzes, and critiques; an oral presentation; midterm and final exams.

Major Course Objectives

When students have completed the Introduction to Photograph course, they will know and be able to:

1. *Observe* and describe visual qualities that characterize the photographic image;
2. *Solve* visual art problems;
3. *Communicate* ideas visually;
4. *Develop* and maintain a portfolio of prints;
5. *Develop* proficiency in handling tools related to the photographic print;
6. *Interpret* the meanings of artistic works in photography;
7. *Identify* historical influences on photography; and
8. *Investigate* the role of the photographer in the community.

Relationship to the Massachusetts Fine Arts Curriculum Framework

As students engage in the major course objectives, the students will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to create 2D and 3D works that show knowledge of unique characteristics of a particular media, materials and tools. (1.9)
2. Use electronic technology for reference and for creating original work. (1.0)
3. Explore a single subject through a series of works, varying the medium or technique. (1.11)
4. Describe and apply procedures to ensure safety and proper maintenance of the workspace, materials and tools. (1.12)
5. Review systems of visualizing information and depicting space and volume, for example, scale, and vanishing point, linear, atmospheric and isometric perspective, and create works using these system. (2.14)
6. Create artwork that demonstrates understanding of the elements and principles of design establishing a point of view, a sense of space or a mood. (2.15)
7. Create 2D and 3D artwork that explores the abstraction of ideas and representations, for example, students make images that represent abstract concepts such as respect for human rights, empathy, solitude, community, justice, or injustice. (3.9)
8. Create 2D and 3D images that are original, convey a distinct point of view, and communicate ideas. (3.10)
9. Demonstrate the ability to conceptualize, organize and complete long-term projects, alone and in a group setting.
Conceptualize: plan, generate ideas, make preliminary sketches, participate in discussions, imaging outcomes and set goals.
Organize: choose materials and techniques to attain the desired look and feel; maintain work space and

personal schedule; review progress of work with others; and revise work appropriately.

Complete: prepare work for presentation or exhibition. (4.9)

10. Demonstrate the ability to develop an idea through multiple stages, responding to criticism and self-assessment. (4.10)
11. Maintain a portfolio of artwork that demonstrates a progression of ideas and skills over time. (4.11)
12. Choose and prepare artwork for exhibition, and be able to discuss their choices. (4.12)
13. Demonstrate the ability to compare and contrast two or more works of art, orally and in writing, using appropriate vocabulary. (5.8)
14. Use published sources, either traditional or electronic, to research a body of work or an artist, and present findings in written or oral form. (5.9)
15. Critique their own work, the work of peers, and the work of professional artists, and demonstrate an understanding of the formal, cultural, and historical contexts of the work. (5.10)
16. Interpret the meanings of artistic works based on evidence from artists' biographies, autobiographies, or videotaped or written interviews. (6.5)
17. Describe and analyze examples of art forms that integrate practical functions with aesthetic concerns. (6.6)
18. Analyze how the arts and artists are portrayed in contemporary newspapers, magazines, films, and electronic media. (7.5)
19. Describe various roles that artists serve, cite representative individuals who have functioned in these roles, and describe their activities and achievements. (7.6)
20. Describe the roles of individual patrons, cultural organizations, and governments in commissioning and collecting works and presenting performances. (7.7)
21. Classify works from the United States and world cultures by genre, style, and historical period; explain why the works exemplify a particular genre, style, or period. (8.6)
22. Identify and describe examples of how technological development in one artistic domain can influence work in other artistic domain. (.5a)
23. Identify and describe the examples of the persistence of traditional historical materials and technologies in contemporary art works. (9.7)
24. Continue the above and alloy knowledge of cultural institutions to learning in the arts and other disciplines. (10.3)

Assessment Tools

Success in the Introduction to Photography course will be assessed by the following methods:

1. *Projects:* the ability to conceptualize, organize and complete a piece of work, to include daily grades and/or more than one grade per project based on the criteria of the assignment.
2. *Rubrics:* sometimes used to assess individual/group projects and presentations.
3. *Homework Assignments:* to include sketchbook assignments, research projects and/or oral presentations, to be reviewed for completeness, accuracy and comprehension.
4. *Critiques:* to include individual/group discussions, self assessments, and peer exchanges to be evaluated by the teacher and/or students.
5. *Tests, quizzes, and exams:* given periodically to consist of multiple choice, short answer, open response questions and/or essays.
6. *Portfolio of work:* to evaluate the proficiency and mastery of student work by the teacher.
7. *Exhibitions:* to evaluate the artwork prepared for classroom, department, community, state and national displays and/or competitions by the teacher, at times, in conjunction with other art teachers.

Materials and Resources:

Core Reference books:

The Step by Step Guide to Photography by Michael Langford

Basic 35mm Photo Guide by Craig Aleese

Time Life Series on Photography by Time Magazine

Supplementary Texts:

The Photographer's Handbook by John Hedgecoe
The Basic Book of Photography by Tom Grimm
The Complete Guide to Photography by Roger Woodson
The Kodak Photographer's Organizer by Kodak

Supplementary Materials:

American Photo Magazine
Relevant newspapers and periodicals
Films, slides and art prints related to this medium

Relationship to the High School Student Expectations:

Every student will have the opportunity to:

- Be an effective reader;
- Be an effective writer;
- Be an effective speaker/presenter/performer;
- Be an effective problem solver;
- Be an effective information seeker/organizer; and
- Contribute to the community at large.