



FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY 9TH-12TH

Approved by KSD Board of Education: (May 19, 2025)

Course Description:

In Fine Art Photography, students learn how to effectively manipulate the elements and principles of design, digital SLR camera settings, and Adobe Photoshop in order to achieve a desired outcome. Students will also be introduced to the history of photography and its processes. Further, the students will be exposed to and experiment with alternative photographic processes.

Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade

Unit Scope and Sequence

- Unit 1:** Digital Camera Basics an Manual Mode
- Unit 2:** Composition Techniques
- Unit 3:** Portraiture
- Unit 4:** Photoshop
- Unit 5:** Analyzing Photographs

Course Enduring Understandings:

- Art is a powerful form of communication where materials, techniques, and intent come together to convey meaning, emotion, and narrative.
- Artistic skill develops through practice, experimentation, and refinement, allowing for deeper impact and personal growth.
- Artists create in response to their world—cultural influences, personal experiences, and historical events.
- Artwork is a dialogue between creator and viewer; understanding artistic intent and justifying creative choices are essential to both making and critiquing art.

Course Essential Questions:

- How are the elements and principles of design chosen in an informed manner?
- How does media choice aid in the success of an artwork?
- Why do artists create the work that they do or have historically done?
- How should an artist present their artwork?
- How should one respond to another person's artwork?

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Unit 1: Digital Camera Basics an Manual Mode

In this unit, students will learn how to operate a camera and manipulate camera settings to create clear, properly exposed images.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
- Form follows function. Formal qualities (what is physically present and manipulated-- i.e. line, shape, color, balance, etc.) are determined by an artwork's purpose and/or meaning. What form something takes is dependent on its purpose. - Artists harness their chosen media as a means of personal expression, transforming materials into powerful visual statements. - The essence of an artwork—its emotion, story, or meaning—is not inherent but is skillfully infused by the artist's intent and technique. - Artistic growth comes through practice—techniques evolve and deepen through repetition, refinement, and exploration. - Artists create in response to their world, drawing inspiration from events, culture, and personal experiences. - Every artist has an intention behind their work; understanding these choices is essential before forming critiques or interpretations. - Both the meaning and the use of media in art are subjective, but artists must be able to thoughtfully justify their creative decisions.	- How are the elements and principles of design chosen in an informed manner? - How does media choice aid in the success of an artwork? - What methods of construction are best for a specific project? - How should an artist present their artwork? - How should one respond to another person's artwork?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
- The different parts and functions of a camera - The relationship between shutter speed, aperture and, ISO - How camera settings impact both the amount of light and visual quality of an image.	- Demonstrate their understanding of the functionality of the exposure triangle. - Utilize the light meter to make informed choices about manual mode settings. - Successfully manipulate shutter speed, aperture and ISO to create properly exposed images.

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Unit 1: Digital Camera Basics an Manual Mode

Missouri Learning Standards

Priority Standard: Create 1.A: Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors (Va:Cr1A.I).

Priority Standard: Create 2.A: Engage in making a work of art or design without having a preconceived plan (Va:Cr2A.I).

Priority Standard: Presenting/Producing 4.A: Analyze, select, and curate artifacts and/or artworks for presentation and preservation (VA:Pr4A.I).

Priority Standard: Connecting 10.A: Document the process of developing ideas from early stages to fully elaborated ideas (VA:Cn10A.I).

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Unit 2: Composition Techniques

In this unit, students will learn to identify and apply a variety of composition techniques that enhance an image.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions
- Form follows function. Formal qualities (what is physically present and manipulated-- i.e. line, shape, color, balance, etc.) are determined by an artwork's purpose and/or meaning. What form something takes is dependent on its purpose. - Artists harness their chosen media as a means of personal expression, transforming materials into powerful visual statements. - The essence of an artwork—its emotion, story, or meaning—is not inherent but is skillfully infused by the artist's intent and technique. - Artistic growth comes through practice—techniques evolve and deepen through repetition, refinement, and exploration. - Artists create in response to their world, drawing inspiration from events, culture, and personal experiences. - Every artist has an intention behind their work; understanding these choices is essential before forming critiques or interpretations. - Both the meaning and the use of media in art are subjective, but artists must be able to thoughtfully justify their creative decisions.	- How are the elements and principles of design chosen in an informed manner? - How does media choice aid in the success of an artwork? - What methods of construction are best for a specific project? - How should an artist present their artwork? - How should one respond to another person's artwork?
Students must know:	Students must be able to:
A variety of composition techniques including: - Rule of thirds - Leading lines - Framing - Symmetrical balance - Asymmetrical balance - Worm's eye view - Bird's eye view - Filling the frame - Highlighting a focal point - Utilizing negative space	- Identify and utilize the elements of art and principles of design to create strong compositions. - Successfully integrate composition techniques with their prior knowledge of manual mode settings. - Create images using all composition techniques.

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Unit 2: Composition Techniques

Missouri Learning Standards

Priority Standard: Create 1.B: Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present-day life using a contemporary practice of art or design (Va:Cr1B.I).

Priority Standard: Create 3.A: Apply relevant criteria from traditional and contemporary cultural context to examine, reflect on, and plan revisions for works of art and design in progress (Va:Cr3A.I).

Priority Standard: Presenting/Producing 4.A: Analyze, select, and curate artifacts and/or artworks for presentation and preservation (VA:Pr4A.I).

Priority Standard: Presenting/Producing 6.A: Analyze and describe the impact that an exhibition or collection has on personal awareness of social, cultural, or political beliefs and understandings (VA:Pr6A.I)

Priority Standard: Responding 9.A: Establish relevant criteria in order to evaluate a work of art or collection of works (VA:Re9A.I).

Priority Standard: Connecting 10.A: Document the process of developing ideas from early stages to fully elaborated ideas (VA:Cn10A.I).

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Unit 3: Portraiture

In this unit, students will explore a variety of techniques that aim to capture the subject in an accurate and genuine manner.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
- Form follows function. Formal qualities (what is physically present and manipulated-- i.e. line, shape, color, balance, etc.) are determined by an artwork's purpose and/or meaning. What form something takes is dependent on its purpose. - Artists harness their chosen media as a means of personal expression, transforming materials into powerful visual statements. - The essence of an artwork—its emotion, story, or meaning—is not inherent but is skillfully infused by the artist's intent and technique. - Artistic growth comes through practice—techniques evolve and deepen through repetition, refinement, and exploration. - Artists create in response to their world, drawing inspiration from events, culture, and personal experiences. - Every artist has an intention behind their work; understanding these choices is essential before forming critiques or interpretations. - Both the meaning and the use of media in art are subjective, but artists must be able to thoughtfully justify their creative decisions.	- How are the elements and principles of design chosen in an informed manner? - How does media choice aid in the success of an artwork? - What methods of construction are best for a specific project? - How should an artist present their artwork? - How should one respond to another person's artwork?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
- The importance of connection between the photographer and the subject. - A variety of techniques used to create portrait photography.	- Utilize lighting to communicate a mood or emotion. - Utilize a variety of strategies to connect with the subject of the portrait during the process. - Apply compositional and technical skills to the creation of a portrait.

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Unit 3: Portraiture

Missouri Learning Standards

Priority Standard: Create 1.A: Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors (Va:Cr1A.I).

Priority Standard: Create 1.B: Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present- day life using a contemporary practice of art or design (Va:Cr1B.I).

Priority Standard: Create 3.A: Apply relevant criteria from traditional and contemporary cultural context to examine, reflect on, and plan revisions for works of art and design in progress (Va:Cr3A.I).

Priority Standard: Presenting/Producing 6.A: Analyze and describe the impact that an exhibition or collection has on personal awareness of social, cultural, or political beliefs and understandings (VA:Pr6A.I)

Priority Standard: Responding 7.A: Hypothesize ways in which art influences perception and understanding of human experiences (VA: Re7A.I).

Priority Standard: Responding 9.A: Establish relevant criteria in order to evaluate a work of art or collection of works (VA:Re9A.I).

Priority Standard: Connecting 11.A: Describe how knowledge of culture, traditions, and history may influence personal responses to art (VA:Cn11A.I).

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Unit 4: Photoshop

In this unit, students will explore a variety of techniques using Adobe Photoshop to add enhancements and visual effects to their images.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions
- Form follows function. Formal qualities (what is physically present and manipulated-- i.e. line, shape, color, balance, etc.) are determined by an artwork's purpose and/or meaning. What form something takes is dependent on its purpose. - Artists harness their chosen media as a means of personal expression, transforming materials into powerful visual statements. - The essence of an artwork—its emotion, story, or meaning—is not inherent but is skillfully infused by the artist's intent and technique. - Artistic growth comes through practice—techniques evolve and deepen through repetition, refinement, and exploration. - Artists create in response to their world, drawing inspiration from events, culture, and personal experiences. - Every artist has an intention behind their work; understanding these choices is essential before forming critiques or interpretations. - Both the meaning and the use of media in art are subjective, but artists must be able to thoughtfully justify their creative decisions.	- How are the elements and principles of design chosen in an informed manner? - How does media choice aid in the success of an artwork? - What methods of construction are best for a specific project? - How should an artist present their artwork? - How should one respond to another person's artwork?
Students must know:	Students must be able to:
- The basics of a Photoshop workspace. - The basics of post-production processing. - Basic photoshop vocabulary including: - Layer mask - Gradient - Opacity - Double exposure - Composite	- Navigate a variety of tools to digitally manipulate a photograph. - Successfully separate a photograph's subject from the background using a layer mask. - Apply gradient overlays to a portrait. - Utilize a variety of Photoshop tools to create cohesive photographs.

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Unit 4: Photoshop

Missouri Learning Standards

Priority Standard: Create 1.A: Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors (Va:Cr1A.I).

Priority Standard: Create 1.B: Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present- day life using a contemporary practice of art or design (Va:Cr1B.I).

Priority Standard: Create 2.A: Engage in making a work of art or design without having a preconceived plan (Va:Cr2A.I).

Priority Standard: Create 3.A: Apply relevant criteria from traditional and contemporary cultural context to examine, reflect on, and plan revisions for works of art and design in progress (Va:Cr3A.I).

Priority Standard: Presenting/Producing 4.A: Analyze, select, and curate artifacts and/or artworks for presentation and preservation (VA:Pr4A.I).

Priority Standard: Presenting/Producing 6.A: Analyze and describe the impact that an exhibition or collection has on personal awareness of social, cultural, or political beliefs and understandings (VA:Pr6A.I)

Priority Standard: Responding 7.A: Hypothesize ways in which art influences perception and understanding of human experiences (VA: Re7A.I).

Priority Standard: Responding 7.B: Analyze how one's understanding of the world is affected by experiencing visual imagery (VA: Re7B.I).

Priority Standard: Responding 8.A: Interpret an artwork or collection of works, supported by relevant and sufficient evidence found in the work and its various contexts (VA: Re8A.I).

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Unit 5: Analyzing Photographs

In this unit, students will identify, describe and analyze a variety of photographs from historical and professional photographers. Students will also evaluate peers' photographs as well as their own.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
- Form follows function. Formal qualities (what is physically present and manipulated-- i.e. line, shape, color, balance, etc.) are determined by an artwork's purpose and/or meaning. What form something takes is dependent on its purpose. - Artists harness their chosen media as a means of personal expression, transforming materials into powerful visual statements. - The essence of an artwork—its emotion, story, or meaning—is not inherent but is skillfully infused by the artist's intent and technique. - Artistic growth comes through practice—techniques evolve and deepen through repetition, refinement, and exploration. - Artists create in response to their world, drawing inspiration from events, culture, and personal experiences. - Every artist has an intention behind their work; understanding these choices is essential before forming critiques or interpretations. - Both the meaning and the use of media in art are subjective, but artists must be able to thoughtfully justify their creative decisions.	- How are the elements and principles of design chosen in an informed manner? - How does media choice aid in the success of an artwork? - What methods of construction are best for a specific project? - How should an artist present their artwork? - How should one respond to another person's artwork?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
- Photographers make unique choices when creating images. - Photographers use images to communicate messages.	- Identify and describe compositional and technical skills in a photograph. - Analyze choices made by photographers in the creation of their photographs. - Answer written prompts about specific photographs using course vocabulary. - Verbally critique peer photographs. - Respond to self-evaluation questions about their own photographs.

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Unit 5: Analyzing Photographs

Missouri Learning Standards

Priority Standard: Responding 7.A: Hypothesize ways in which art influences perception and understanding of human experiences (VA: Re7A.I).

Priority Standard: Responding 7.B: Analyze how one's understanding of the world is affected by experiencing visual imagery (VA: Re7B.I).

Priority Standard: Responding 8.A: Interpret an artwork or collection of works, supported by relevant and sufficient evidence found in the work and its various contexts (VA: Re8A.I).

Priority Standard: Responding 9.A: Establish relevant criteria in order to evaluate a work of art or collection of works (VA:Re9A.I).

Priority Standard: Connecting 10.A: Document the process of developing ideas from early stages to fully elaborated ideas (VA:Cn10A.I).

Priority Standard: Connecting 11.A: Describe how knowledge of culture, traditions, and history may influence personal responses to art (VA:Cn11A.I).