**Curriculum**

**8th Grade Photography**

**Course Overview**

This photography course introduces the basic skills and concepts of black and white photography. The mechanics of the 35mm SLR camera, exposure, film and print processing, and print finishing are studied. Students will develop concepts of two-dimensional composition, observation skills, and a visual vocabulary as it relates to photography. The course consists of demonstrations, lab. time, critiques, and an introduction to the history of photography. The process of taking the photograph and the role of the photographer will be considered, along with the photographic product and creative application of photography skills.

**Department Standards**

Students will be encouraged to develop an involvement in and appreciation of the Visual Arts.

Students will utilize and explore a variety of media and techniques.

Students will develop interpretive skills through exposure to and active investigation of social, historical and philosophical contexts.

Students will develop an understanding of Visual Arts from a local, national and international perspective.

**Benchmarks**:

Students will be able to use the camera, process film, print and present finished photographs successfully.

Students will understand and apply photographic techniques.

Students will develop a body of work that develops themes and skills in photography.

Students will develop a visual vocabulary and ability to use photography as a means of communication and expression.

**Performance Indicators**

Students should identify, understand and be able to use camera functions including aperture and shutter combinations. They should be able to successfully load and shoot a roll of film, and make thoughtful decisions regarding composition, depth of field and shutter speed.

Students should be able to load film into the developing tank successfully and process film using the correct sequence of chemicals. In the darkroom students should be able to use the enlarger and timers correctly and be able to produce quality contact sheets, test strips, and enlargements.

Students should develop a visual sensibility when photographing, and should understand the importance of the photographer's creative process. They should recognize strengths and weaknesses in their own images and in those of well-known photographers.

Students should develop a portfolio of prints which reflects their progress throughout the semester. They should thoughtfully record technical information and reflections in their photography notebook.Students should identify, understand and be able to use camera functions including aperture and shutter combinations. They should be able to successful load and shoot a roll of film, and make thoughtful decisions regarding composition, depth of field and shutter speed.

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Students should develop a visual sensibility when photographing, and should understand the importance of the photographer's creative process. They should recognize strengths and weaknesses in their own images and in those of well-known photographers.

Students should gain knowledge and understanding of the history of photography, and should recognize specific photography techniques, innovations and genres through their research project on a particular photographer.

Students should develop a portfolio of prints which reflects their progress throughout the semester. They should thoughtfully record technical information and reflections in their photography notebook.

In their Final Project, students should be able to present and discuss their chosen theme and body of work in a group critique, and should use appropriate vocabulary to describe their ideas and techniques.

**Assessments**

Photo Shoot Assignments:

Unusual angles: using the viewfinder to frame images creatively.

Depth of field: using aperture to create a range of images using shallow and deep depth of field.

Movement: using shutter speed when photographing movement to create blurred motion, frozen motion and panning.

Photography Notebook:

Recording information about camera mechanics, film development, darkroom procedures, and photo shoot assignments.

Critiques:

Each photo shoot assignment will culminate with a group presentation and critique. Students are expected to use relevant vocabulary and contribute to discussions.

Photo Shoot Assignments:

Light: using natural and artificial light as a subject matter.

Texture: using texture as a subject matter.

Portraits: the face and figure in portraiture using simple and complex compositions and double exposures.

Working with a theme: final project focusing on a chosen theme.

Research Project:

Research, written and visual documentation, and presentation in a group critique of a chosen photographer from the 19th, 20th or 21st Century.

Photography Notebook:

Recording information about camera mechanics, film development, darkroom procedures, photo shoot assignments, and photo research project.

Critiques:

Each photo shoot assignment will culminate with a group presentation and critique. Students are expected to use relevant vocabulary and contribute to discussions.

**Core Topics**

Camera mechanics

Loading and shooting film

Developing film

Darkroom procedures

Print finishing

Camera mechanics

Loading and shooting film

Developing film

Darkroom procedures

Filters and creative printing techniques

History of Photography research

Print finishing

**Specific Content**

Identifying and understanding parts of the 35mm SLR camera and their functions.

Understanding how film is exposed in the camera, successfully loading and shooting film.

Understanding how film is developed and following the correct processes and sequence for film developing.

Identifying parts of and using the enlarger in the darkroom. Understanding and using darkroom chemicals correctly. Creating contact sheets, test strips and prints with the correct exposure.

Successfully creating 5"x7" and 8"x10" enlargements that show a good tonal range.Identifying and understanding parts of the 35mm SLR camera and their functions.

Understanding how film is exposed in the camera, successfully loading and shooting film.

Understanding how film is developed and following the correct processes and sequence for film developing.

Identifying parts of and using the enlarger in the darkroom. Understanding and using darkroom chemicals correctly. Creating contact sheets, test strips and prints with the correct exposure.

Successfully creating 5"x7" and 8"x10" enlargements that show a good tonal range.

Using filters when printing to adjust print contrast.

Creative printing techniques including photograms, double exposures and solarized prints.

Understanding a basic history of photography and creating a research project that reflects visual and historical information.

**Resources**

Tasis libraries, Internet research, and CD-Rom art collections; reproductions of photographs; lectures and visual presentations; Tasis Visiting Artist Program; Fleming Gallery and Tasis Exhibition Program.

Selected Readings:

"Photography", Barbara London and John Upton

"Photography: A Concise History", Ian Jeffrey

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