

Course Syllabus

Instructor

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Digital Photography 1

Duration

9 weeks - .5 credit

Grades

9th - 12th

Course Description

Prerequisites: *None*

Do you like to take pictures? Do you want to learn how to take great pictures? Digital Photo I will teach you the proper use of a camera (Digital – primarily phone or “point and shoot”) and how to compose great photos. You will also learn techniques for fixing and manipulating your images. This is not an Instagram or Snapchat picture taking class. Students do not need to have their own cameras, but are more than welcome to use their own.

Course Delivery

With the integration of technology into the classroom, course information (assignment sheets, grade sheets, due dates, course materials) will be delivered in several ways:

In Person

Through face to face interactions. This includes live demos, direct instruction, and conversations as you work in the studio. It is the student’s responsibility to ask questions when they don’t understand or need help.

Online

Through the use of Google and a Course Wiki page, course material may be “flipped”, meaning that some materials that would be traditionally delivered in the lecture format may be delivered through YouTube videos or other means.

Google Classroom

All materials for class that used to be handed out on paper (i.e. assignment sheets, grade sheets, critique forms, etc.) will be distributed electronically. In addition, one of the features of Classroom is that a calendar is created that students can access with due dates on it. It is the responsibility of the student to check the Google Classroom site and be aware of due dates and course materials.

ASPEN

Grades will be posted in ASPEN. If you see any discrepancies in your grade please alert Mr. McVitty ASAP! If you see an “M” (Missing grade) in ASPEN that means that your assignment is missing and you have an opportunity to make up the work. An “M” calculates as a zero until the work is made up. If the grade is a zero, then you have missed a deadline, did not make prior arrangements, or failed to make up work in a timely manner. A grade of zero is non negotiable.

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Classroom Expectations & Rules

Be on time

- You need to be to class on time. If you are going to be late get a pass. You will be written up for being late more than once.

NO!

- The following things will not be tolerated in class: No Food, No Drinks (Without a nurses note), and Absolutely no Texting! If you are caught with any of these things you will be written up.

You are expected to be courteous

- You need to show respect to get respect. You need to use proper manners in class. Ask for things, do not presume to tell me or anyone else in class what you are or aren't going to do. Respect other students in the room and the projects that are out in the room. Help each other out when possible. Seats are assigned at the beginning of class. It is up to the class as to whether you will get to choose your own seats. You may listen to music from an MP3 or iPod as long as you are using headphones and you are not texting.

You are expected to be responsible

- You, and only you, are responsible for the grades that you receive, the work that you do or do not do, work that you miss due to absence, and maintaining your storage and workspace. You are also responsible for your behavior.

You are responsible for the digital content provided in this course

- Course information is located on the Google Classroom page along with due dates and links to course materials. The course will be delivered in person and digitally. You are responsible to complete all assignments.
- If you miss a day of class, information will be provided through Classroom. If you are having trouble accessing the information you need to talk to me immediately.

You are expected to communicate with Mr. McVitty

- If you are having trouble meeting a deadline for an assignment you need to talk to me prior to the deadline. **If you talk to me before the deadline we can work on renegotiating the deadline. If you do not talk to me prior to the deadline a zero will be entered.**

You are expected to be unique and self expressive with your projects

- Your work needs to be your own. NO copyrighted or trademarked images may be incorporated in any project.

You are expected to push yourself

- Not doing work or just doing the minimum is not disrespectful to me it is disrespectful of yourself. You owe it to yourself to push yourself so that your abilities improve. **MISTAKES ARE ALLOWED! Learn from them!**

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Classroom Expectations & Rules (Continued)

Expectations of the Student

- TAKE PICTURES and have them stored in correct locations by assigned deadlines
- Be on top of assignments and due dates to turn things in on time. (Information available in Google Classroom)
- Independently access information for class from multiple sources (Google Classroom, Google Drive, Class Wiki, ASPEN)
- Communicate questions, issues or concerns to Mr. McVitty in a timely manner. ASK FOR HELP!

Course Information/Materials* (Expectations of the Teacher):

- Google Classroom - Note sheets, assignment sheets, rubrics, agendas, due dates, etc.
- Course Website - Additional information for the course (as available)
- Google Drive - File storage, file sharing

*If a student does not understand how these are being used it is the responsibility of the student to ask for/get help from Mr. McVitty.

Due Dates and Extensions

- Due dates are communicated far in advance to allow students to get images, retake images and work on their images. Due dates are put into Google Classroom and can also be viewed in Google Calendars.
- If an issue arises while working on taking images or completing work students are encouraged to contact Mr. McVitty to negotiate an extension to the assignment. Extensions are granted on a case by case basis.
- Extensions must be negotiated in a timely manner (the night before a deadline is not acceptable).
- If a student **DOES NOT NEGOTIATE AN EXTENSION** to an assignment and **THE WORK IS NOT IN THE CORRECT FOLDER OR TURNED IN**, in Google Classroom **NO CREDIT WILL BE AWARDED**.

Camera Sign Out Procedures

As it is necessary that students need access to a digital camera for the digital photography course this agreement is necessary for students to be able to sign out district cameras for use in completing assignments. Students will be required to sign the camera out each day on a sign out sheet for that particular camera/piece of equipment. The student must bring the camera/equipment back the following day to check for damage. A student may use a camera for more than one consecutive day; however, they must return the camera every day to be checked for damage. If a student fails to bring the camera in for a check the following consequences will occur:

First time – warning

Second time – warning

Third time – detention

Fourth time – second detention and loss of sign out privileges for the remainder of the quarter.

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Camera Sign Out Procedures (Continued)

As with a textbook, students and their parents are financially responsible for the repair or replacement of a lost or damaged camera. By signing below both the student and parent/guardian acknowledge their financial responsibility to repair or replace a lost or damaged camera.

Additionally, if a student continually signs out a school camera but fails to turn in negatives/originals for three shooting assignments the student will no longer be allowed to sign out a camera regardless of student need.

Your Course Grade

Your grade in this course is based on the two main components in creating any work of art: the Process and the Product. The Process will account for 50% of your grade. The Product will account for the other 50% of your grade. The following explains each component:

The Process (50%)

Performance Grade (25%)

- The first half of your Process grade will be based on your work ethic, the degree to which you show commitment to your tasks, your behavior in the classroom, your efficiency, how responsibly you conduct yourself, your ability to budget your time, your degree of organization, how well you cooperate, having your work handed in on time, clean up, etc. A record of your performance is kept everyday in the attendance folder. You receive 5 points for walking into class that day. Points are lost during class due to different performance codes (See sample attendance sheet in your course folder).

Written Performance Grade (25%).

- The second half of your Process grade is based on written assignments in class. This grade will primarily be made up of your production log checks every week and the grade sheet that accompanies each assignment. Critiques (if applicable), tests and quizzes will also be recorded in this section.

The Product (50%)

Project Grade (50%)

- Your product, or project, represents the culmination of the entire process. It shows how well you have been able to use certain requirements and guidelines to come up with creative solutions to a problem. This portion of your grade includes any project you complete during the course. This may include assignments completed in class or out of class. If you are absent YOU are responsible for finding out what you missed. Materials are located on the Google Classroom page along with due dates and links to course materials.

Final Exam

You will have a final exam that focuses on the projects that you completed as well as terms and concepts covered during the course. It will consist of two parts: Part 1 - a mini portfolio of your best work, and Part 2 - a traditional exam.

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Grade Calculation

Quarter Grade

To calculate your grade for the quarter use the following formula:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Performance points/Possible Performance points} \times .25 \\ + \text{Written Performance points/Possible Written Performance points} \times .25 \\ + \text{Project points/Possible Project points} \times .5 \\ \hline \text{Quarter Grade} \end{array}$$

Course Grade

Your overall grade for the course (F1) is based on the following values: Quarter Grade= 80%, Final Exam (E1)= 20%

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Quarter Grade} \times .8 \\ + \text{Final Exam} \times .2 \\ \hline \text{Quarter Grade} \end{array}$$

Course Outline

The following is a list of the assignments that you will be completing during this course. Each assignment contains a brief description of the assignment/project.

-Introduction-

Snapshot or Not

What makes a picture a photograph and not a snapshot?

Being an Artist

What does it mean to be an artists? How does taking an Art class benefit you in your high school career?

The Elements & Principles of Art

You will be introduced to the elements and principles of art. These are the tools and rules that any artist uses to create strong pieces

A Brief History of Photography

You will be introduced to the medium of photography and how it has evolved from the Camera Obscura in the Renaissance to today's digital cameras.

Critique Writing

How do you speak intelligently about a photograph? You will be required to write critiques for several projects in this course. We will practice writing a critique so that I can provide you with feedback that you can use for future critiques. Critiques will be graded, with feedback, and returned as a tool for you to advance your critique writing skills. **If you can demonstrate your understanding of the critique process by writing two perfect critiques you will not be required to write anymore critique for this class.**

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Ethics & Legalities

In today's world, how do you function as an ethical photographer who operates in a legal manner?

Organizing and Maintaining Digital Photographs

You will be given a structure to organize and maintain the files for the course that will keep you from losing any originals as well as keep things organized.

-Shooting Assignments-

Elements & Principles Shooting Assignment

Your first shooting assignment will be to capture an image of the Elements & Principles of Art. These images will set a benchmark of your photo skills and be used throughout the beginning of the course.

Composition Shooting Assignment

You will be focusing on compositional techniques using your camera.

Lighting Shooting Assignment

You will be using directional lighting to enhance your compositions in the camera.

Portrait Shooting Assignment

You will be focusing on capturing images of people and the human form.

'Scapes' Shooting Assignment

You will be setting out to capture strong compositions that focus on landscapes and cityscapes for the subject matter.

****Note:** You may be working on multiple projects at any one time. I will be guiding you through the time management for this class. If you fall behind on one project, it may affect the others. If you miss class be prepared to have to make up the work at home. You will also be required to take your images for the class outside of school.