



2022 – 2023 Course Syllabus

Introduction to Digital Photography – Camera Composition

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Course Descriptions

This introductory digital course, Camera Composition, will help students understand the how and why behind certain photographs seeming just “look better than others. In this class, students will learn about the art of photography and enhance their approach to photography. This course will teach students how to shoot and develop photographs beyond the everyday snapshot. Students will explore the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design as they relate to the subject of Photography. Once students understand the visual language of photography (elements) and the corresponding conscious decision-making (principles) that go into planning and creating a photograph, they will be better able to explain why certain photographs are more visually appealing than others (constructive critique). They will also become capable of utilizing these design fundamentals towards improving their own photography.

Additionally, students will learn about the history of photography and photographic technology, and will be introduced to several significant, well-known photographers and their contributions to the history of photography. Students will become aware of the various careers within the field of photography and the categories of professional photography, including nature photography, commercial photography, fashion photography, sports photography, portraiture and even photography and photojournalism. By the end of this course, students will have designed and constructed a digital portfolio of their photography, which will showcase their photography assignments and allow them to observe and track their photography, which will showcase their photography assignments and allow them to observe and track their learning.

Course topics:

This course will cover the following topics:

1. Define photography
2. History of photography

3. Copyrights regarding photographs
4. Composition - Elements of art and design
5. Personal expression
6. Digital photography
7. Managing & editing photos using Padlet, PicCollage, Snapseed and Photopea
8. Commercial photography
9. How to participate in a critique

Class Expectations:

- Students are expected to respect self and others, take responsibility, be safe and caring and do your best every day.
- Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to be prepared to work with all of the materials necessary for class.
- Cooperate with other students and staff to increase learning potential.
- Take part in class discussion and critiques of photo presented in class.
- Be prepared with a pen/pencil and all your photography supplies
- Students are expected to keep up with assignments and effectively use all of class time.
- All work is due on the assigned due date unless special arrangements are made. It is your responsibility to make arrangements ahead of time.
- Students are expected to display their artwork. All artworks should be appropriate. Anything questionable will be referred to the administration.
- Students may be required to complete field work directly connected to curriculum work.
- Students will care for all classroom equipment. Tampering with equipment and supplies will result in loss of privileges. There will be *no food or drink allowed in class.*
- Students are to avoid shooting photos in or near other classrooms so they will not disrupt the teacher and learning of others.
- Students are to use laptops or iPads for class work only. Inappropriate use of the laptops or iPads (game playing, check TikTok, other off-task use) will result in having the laptop taken away for the day.
- If a student would like a different seating assignment, the student will ask the teacher.

Grading Information:

Formative assessments will be used to help you and your teacher understand where you are in your learning and what kinds of support you need before you have a summative assessment. They include things such as observations during class and lessons, photographs, digital skills assignments, writing assignments, narrative reflections, in class work and quizzes. Students will receive feedback, formal or informal on formative assessments.

Summative assessments will be used to show you and the teacher the level to which you have mastered a learning target or competency. They include things such as art projects, longer writing assignments, presentations and tests.

Final assessment (project/exam): This will be a culmination of all core art competencies. Your grade in this class will reflect your level of mastery of the material, equipment, and processes. Throughout the course this level of mastery will be evaluated through both formative and summative assessments.



INQUISITIVE
Wondering & Questioning
Exploring & investigating
Challenging assumptions



COLLABORATIVE
Co-operating appropriately
Giving & receiving feedback
Sharing the 'product'



PERSISTENT
Sticking with difficulty
Daring to be different
Tolerating uncertainty



DISCIPLINED
Crafting & improving
Reflecting critically
Developing techniques



IMAGINATIVE
Using intuition
Making connections
Playing with possibilities

Habits of work This class will be guided by the habits of work. Artists are inquisitive, work collaboratively, are persistent, disciplined, and imaginative.

Grading Plan:

Photo assignments and projects will be submitted to Google Classroom, unless instructed otherwise. Assignments and projects will be graded on their: quality, originality, relevance to the assignment, and the ability to communicate an idea or message. Editing photos is essential.

Plagiarism - (Cheating Policy) Academic honesty is a priority in my classroom. Cheating is defined as:

- Plagiarism: copying directly or paraphrasing text, images, etc. without giving credit to the artist.
- Copying or asking for answers from another student during an exam.
- Giving another student answers during an exam.
- Anyone other than the student completing the work for an assignment of the course.
- If any of these things occur, I will follow the policy set forth in the student handbook.

Grading Scale Percentage = Letter Grade

90-100 = A

80-90 = B

70-80 = C

60- 70 = D

50 - 0 = F

Required Materials

To successfully complete this course, you will need:

- Access to a fully charged cell phone
- The ability to download specific apps to your cell phone
- pen/pencil - a few different colors of ink, preferred.
- Lined paper
- Be present, be curious, Try.

Extra Help: If you need help with something we are doing in class, please see me before school, contact me through our Google Classroom or my district email. Maryjo-baniecki@scusd.edu