

# **ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

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Class Website: <http://dhsphotoclass.weebly.com/>

## **Course Description**

This course is for students that have completed Digital Photography and want to continue improving their digital photography skills and producing creative photographs. Students will learn additional techniques for editing, manipulating and finishing their photographs and produce a portfolio of work that addresses a focused interest in photography. Students who are seriously interested in photography are encouraged to repeat this course for credit.

## **Things you must have for this class ASAP**

### **Signed Student/Guardian Agreement**

Think of this syllabus as an agreement between the student, teacher and guardian about what is expected to be successful in this class. The syllabus needs to be signed by both the student and guardian and returned to the teacher within the first week of class.

### **Digital Camera w/extra batteries**

You MUST have a digital camera for this course! If you do not have one, talk to me now about how to go about checking a camera out from the school. If you are planning on using a camera that your family shares, you need to make sure that you will have full access to the camera the semester. If you have any questions about a camera you are thinking about using or purchasing, please ask. Make sure that you have a set of back-up batteries for your camera or the charger that goes to your battery; keep these with your camera. I cannot work on your camera; any broken cameras will be your responsibility to get fixed. Please be mindful to keep your camera safe if you bring it to school as cameras have a tendency to get stolen. If you need to bring your camera to school, you are welcome to lock it up in the photo room to keep it safe. Please consider putting your name and phone number on your camera or case in the event it gets lost.

### **File Storage (optional)**

A flash drive or hard drive is not required but many student find having one helpful during this class. You can save your photo files to the school computers, however having a way to back up your work for safe keeping or to transport your photos between home and school can be useful. If you have one, start bringing it to class. If you want to purchase one, you can get one for \$5-\$50 at stores with electronics like Walmart and Office Depot.

## **Things you need to do to be successful in this class:**

### **Work like a “real” artist/photographer: look, think, camera!**

For most of this class you will be working like a “real” artist/photographer coming up with your own body of work. Working artist/photographers are constantly looking around during their daily lives and coming up with ideas. During this semester you need to start looking around more, thinking about what you are seeing and have your camera with you!

### **Take pictures and get them to class**

Except for a couple of days, you WILL NOT be allowed to take any pictures during class time or use images from the Internet; Class time will be used only for working on manipulating photos that you have already taken. You are responsible for taking pictures and getting them to class so that you have something your excited to work on in the studio! How can you remind yourself?!

### **Attend and work every class session**

Except for taking photos, all of the work for this class will be done in the photo studio, so you need to be here to do the work! If you are unable to attend a class session, please let me know ahead of time so we can discuss a plan for you to make it up and continue to be successful. Students that are most successful stay focussed on photography during every class session!

## **Content of this course**

- Shooting Assignments with a Prompt
- Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Tutorials
- Experimental Photography- alternative ways to print, create and display photos
- Photographic Process: Generating ideas; Taking/scanning photos; Manipulating photos; Printing photos; Displaying and Critiquing work
- Studio Thinking: What makes an image successful? How do you develop ideas? How do you record your process?
- Portfolio and Artist Statement
- Historic/Contemporary Photography
- Possible Community Photography Professionals
- Possible Field Trips: Photo galleries; Photo studios; Library; Shooting On-location
- Photography as a career
- Extra Credit Opportunities: Attend the end-of-the-semester art show; visit a photo gallery/exhibit and do a write up

## Grading Scale

Each summative assignment will be graded for applicable standards using the rubric below. Students may receive ½ points. Students may revise and resubmit work to show they have increased their mastery of the standard at any point up until the last day of the course. Please ask the instructor if you want additional feedback on how to improve your grade at any point. Exemplars will be provided to students to help them understand what proficiency looks like as well as performance above and below.

**4 – Exemplary:** Thoroughly achieved this standard, meeting or possibly exceeding the expectation.

**3 – Proficient:** Met the requirement at the expected level.

**2 – Developing:** Partially meets, some parts incomplete, missing or lacking detail.

**1 – Emerging:** Minimally meets, lacking completion, missing elements, didn't follow directions

**0 – No Evidence:** Didn't do the assignment, didn't turn in, didn't follow directions.

| 4 Point Scale Score | Percentage Score |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 4.0                 | 100%             |
| 3.5                 | 95%              |
| 3.0                 | 90%              |
| 2.5                 | 80%              |
| 2.0                 | 70%              |
| 1.5                 | 65%              |
| 1.0                 | 60%              |
| Below 1.0           | 50%              |

## Grading Categories

### **Process Log (Formative Assessment Category 35%)**

During the first half of the course, students will need to make a post on their website every Friday. These entries might include such things as reflections on work, activity notes, responses to in-class activities or answers to questions posed by the instructor at the end of class. The student needs to post in-class according to the class calendar; they are due at the end of the class session. It is important that the student write these according to the schedule, and not go back and do them weeks later, as to have the most authentic responses about their thinking about their artwork. If a student gets so far behind they may not be able to remember well enough to respond adequately to turn these in. If a student is absent, they will need to make up what they missed, write the blog entry and make the instructor aware of the new post. Students can use the class website in order to see what they need to do to make up the missed class session or talk with the instructor. Some work can be made up at home if a student has a computer, Internet access and Photoshop/Lightroom. If a student does not have access to these things, they are welcome to come into the photo studio to make up work at lunch, during a free period or selected days after school.

### **Portfolio (Summative Assessment Category 35%)**

Students will be given the second half of the term to work in the open studio building a portfolio of 100% their own work. The portfolio must have a connection that the student may define any way they choose. The instructor will give a range of the number of pieces the student needs to complete for their portfolio. These photographs should be the very best examples of what the student is capable of and reflect the amount of time given in the studio to complete quality work. For each assignment students will be expected to shoot photos outside of class. The purpose of these shooting sessions is for student to be continuously taking new photos throughout the course. For each shooting that is required, the student needs to take 20 NEW photos that they can potentially use for their portfolio and bring them to class on the due date. Students will receive full credit for bringing in a minimum of 20 NEW photos. "NEW" photos are defined as photos the student took since the last shooting session that they turned into the instructor and were taken specifically for that assignment. Students may not receive additional credit for exceeding the requirement or for turning in photos twice from the same shooting session. However, shooting more than 20 photos in each shooting session will help students be successful in putting together a stellar portfolio so it is highly recommended to shoot beyond the requirement. The photos can be of any subject the student is interested in for their portfolio that is school appropriate. The photos that students turn in must be taken solely by the student, if this is not possible please discuss your concern with the instructor prior to turning them in. If you are absent the day photos are due, please bring them to the next class session you attend. After shooting, the student will be expected to edit several photos from each session as well as print and mat the best photograph for their printed portfolio. In addition to this production work, the student will be required to

write reflections about their thinking behind the process. All of these elements will need to be posted on the student's webpage by the due dates indicated on the class calendar posted on the class website. Further details for grading and requirements can be found on the teacher's example webpage. The instructor will continually check-in with students' progress to make sure that they are on-track to finish and give feedback to help students improve their work. Students are EXPECTED to keep their portfolio work safe and accessible until the presentation of the printed portfolio at the final exam class session (I recommend in their cubby in the photo classroom until the final exam presentation)!!!

### **Participation/Behavior/Late Work (Professional and Positive Behavior Expectations 10%)**

Students will be monitored and graded on the Professional and Positive Behavior Expectations Rubric at week 9 and 18 during the semester. Students will be expected to work toward content mastery of the Standards taught in this course and their professional and positive behavior is imperative to help reach this end. Students will be assessed in the areas of Responsibility (I come to class ready to learn), Respect (I actively and respectfully participate in class) and Perseverance (I demonstrate perseverance in my thinking, my products and my attitude). I will not round a grade, increase a grade or give extra credit opportunities after the semester has ended.

### **Artist Statement and Art Show Critique (Final Exam Category 20%)**

During the last week of the semester student will have completed their portfolios and spend time writing an artist statement about their portfolio work that will accompany their work at the final exam. This reflective activity is an authentic assessment of what the student learned during the course of the semester and allows them to reflect on their work and synthesize their results. The students will have ample time to write, edit and print their artist statements in class with support from the teacher and peers. If a student is not able to complete their artist statement in class, it is their responsibility to have it printed and ready to hang up when they arrive at the final exam; artist statements not presented at the final exam will not be accepted. If a student needs extra help or accommodations to complete the artist statement please talk with the instructor to arrange these. The artist statement will be graded by the instructor during the final exam using the rubric provided to the students. Students will be able to take their artist statements with them after the final exam to keep with their portfolios and share with people interested in their work.

Students will be asked to use their best critique skills to discuss a piece of artwork at the student art show. This activity will provide the student the authentic opportunity to discuss real art and get feedback about their artwork. The critique will happen during class and students will have the opportunity to get feedback about their critiques from the teacher if requested before submitting for a grade. If a student is absent during the art show, they will need to get with the instructor to participate in the make-up critique the week after the show or do an alternative assignment with real work out in the community.

## **Classroom Culture**

Enjoy Making Art!  
Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Positive, Be Respectful

Be a teacher, Be a good listener  
Ask questions

## **Class Policies**

*This course adheres to the policies that are listed in the DHS Student Handbook.*

### **No Devices Zone!**

I need you to be engaged in your learning. You may not use your device in the classroom. You may step out in the hall if you need to use your device. Keep your device off and away. If you violate this rule I will follow the procedure in the Student Handbook.

### **Eating and drinking**

Very carefully, please

### **Leaving Class**

If you are going beyond the art commons you MUST have a pass.  
Not during instruction. If you leave without permission you will lose this privilege and get an office referral.

### **Prompt to Class**

It is your responsibility to be prompt to class. As my classroom may be far from your other classes, plan accordingly. Do not knock on the window or door to let you in after class started, please go around. Please refer to the Student Handbook for the tardy policy.

## Other Course Concerns

### **Content of your photos**

There is a lot of great art that is not school appropriate, however here you must make school appropriate art. Definitely no: guns, nudity, violence, smoking, alcohol or drugs in any context. Not sure if your idea is; ASK!

### **Art history disclaimer**

In the study of art, students may be exposed to images of nudes or other sensitive subjects. Students will not be intentionally subjected to this type of material, but may experience it as an integral part of the curriculum. Students will be instructed as to how to deal with this imagery appropriately.

### **Plagiarism**

Yes, there is plagiarism in art. Your art must be your own ideas. I will give you a zero if I catch you plagiarizing and report you to the office. At no time in this class will you be aloud to use images from the Internet! All photos must be your own!!

### **Computers**

We will be using computers in this course. The computers are provided for you ONLY for the purpose of making art. Consequences for inappropriate use of the computers are written in the school handbook. I reserve the right to suspend your use of the computer and provide an alternative assignment(s) for you to complete this course.

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### **Skills USA**

Consider joining the DHS chapter of Skills USA. You can learn more about photography as a career and have fun competing against other student photographers in Colorado. Mr. Smith is the sponsor. The club meets at lunch in his room a couple of times per month.

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### **Student/Guardian Agreement for Advanced Digital Photography** *(Return signed by the end of the first weeks of class!)*

- ✓ We have read the entire course syllabus and we understand the content of the course and what is required to be successful. Also, we have asked the instructor any clarifying questions or concerns we may have at this time and agree to ask if anything comes up.
- ✓ We understand that the student must own a digital camera or check one out from the school. We understand if we are planning to check out a camera that we must return a separate signed permission form for the camera.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian Signature

*Questions, concerns or anything else I need to know to help you or your student do their best in this class:*