

Digital Photography

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

Course Description

This course is for anyone interested in learning the basics of digital photography. Students will use their digital cameras to take pictures and modify the images using Adobe Photoshop. This is an art course that emphasizes better picture taking, 2-D design and creative image making. Each student will produce a portfolio of work that explores their interests in photography.

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.

Notebook

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 term 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

There will be some opportunities to take photos during class. However, students that do the best in this course take the majority of their photos outside of class. 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!

Course Content

- Better Picture Taking: Elements and Principles of Design, composition, lighting photo vocabulary and skills
- Digital Camera: How does it work?; Understanding DSLR camera settings
- Adobe Photoshop Tutorials
- Creative Process/Creativity Skills: Generating ideas; researching ideas, taking photos, editing photos, printing photos
- Matting and finishing work
- Portfolio: Online and printed
- Writing Artist Statements
- Displaying Work: Student Art Show
- Critiquing Work and Studio Thinking
- Historic/Contemporary Photography
- Photography as a career
- Possible Opportunities: Visit a photo gallery/exhibit

Grading Categories

Notebook (Formative Assessment Category 35%)

Students will need to keep a notebook (learning log) in the classroom to use each day the first half of the semester. Entries in the log might include such things as lecture notes, responses to in-class activities or answers to questions posed by the instructor. The student needs to date each entry and turn them into the instructor in-class every week according to the class calendar or date posted by the teacher. Notebooks should remain in the classroom with the teacher so that they are not lost; any make up work can be done on a separate piece of paper and added in during class. If a student is absent, they will need to make up the missed activity/lesson, write an entry and turn it into the instructor. A student will not receive credit for copying another student's learning log. 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. Most work can be made up at home if a student has a computer, Internet access and Photoshop. If a student does not have access to these things, they are welcome to come into the photo studio to make up work by arrangement at lunch, during a free period or selected days after school.

Portfolio of Photo Assignments (Summative Assessment Category 35%)

Students will be given the second half of the term to work in the Open Studio building a portfolio of their own work. In order to receive credit for work the work must be: 100% their photos; the photos must be NEW photos that were taken for the assignment (not photos a student took in the past); and the work should be appropriate for school. The printed 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. The instructor will support students in developing their own assignments and give a number of assignments that each student needs to complete. For each assignment, students will set their own objectives, do research, shoot photos, edit photos, print, mat and reflect. Once this cycle is complete, the student will need to upload all of these assignment parts to their website in order to receive credit. Students will receive a grade for each assignment according to the requirements outlined by the teacher on the sample portfolio page. Due dates for assignments will be given in class and posted on the class calendar on the class website. Students will need to pace themselves and make sure that they use their Open Studio time productively to stay on-track! For each assignment the student will print and mat a photo. This printed work will be presented at a show at the final exam. It is vital that students keep this printed work safe and secure in their cubby in the photo room until the last day of the term.

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).

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

During the last week of the term 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 presentation. This reflective activity is an authentic assessment of what the student learned during the course of the term and allows them to reflect on their work and synthesize the 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 as this is the end of the course! 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 also be asked to use their best critique skills to discuss a piece of artwork at the student art show as part of their final exam grade. 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 it for a grade. If a student is absent during the art show, they will need to get with the instructor immediately to make-up critique before the show comes down 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 Policy Highlights

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, we have sensitive technology and art work in the studio

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.

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. Please let the instructor know if you are concerned.

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 the incident. 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.

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.

Student/Guardian Agreement for 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:
