

# ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY SYLLABUS

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Office Hours: 7:00-7:30 am and 4<sup>th</sup> period

## Class text

Photography the Ninth Edition by London, Stone, and Upton

## Digital Software Used

Adobe Creative Suite CS6

This class will cover all aspects of the photographic world, from traditional black and white fine art prints to digital masterpieces. Students will have the opportunity to express their creative abilities and explore the world of still images. It is designed for students to discover a new outlet for personal expression. Students will learn how to use 35 mm medium format and large format cameras, the chemistry and process of developing this film, as well as the artistic design to create a polished piece of artwork. Most of this equipment has historical value and is rarely used today. We will investigate many alternative processes that can create unique final prints. Students will use a Mac computer lab fully equipped with the Adobe Creative Suite in order to edit, manipulate, and enhance digital photographs. This is a product used by photographers around the world. Using this technology in digital photography, students will create work that imitates what can be found in professional portfolios. Students will learn the historical aspects of photography as well as understand the photography industry. It is important that students understand the history of the art, but also have a vision of the future of the photography world. Articulation is available with Washtenaw Community College.

## Grading

Portfolio Projects: 50-100 points each  
Blog: 25 points each  
Lab: 20 points per project  
Final Exam: Combination of portfolio and written exam worth 15% of final.  
Other assignments: 10-20 points each

## Requirements

Major Portfolio Projects

Students must complete a minimum of six projects each trimester. These projects will be a combination of digital and traditional film photography. One of the six final prints will need to be mounted gallery quality prints. They will need to be 8 x 10 or larger, not including the mount board. The six major projects in this course are intended to enable you to improve your photographs.

Generally each project includes at least three kinds of objectives: (1) subject matter communication (meaning), (2) aesthetics (composition), and (3) technical mastery (skill).

### Social Media

Students will also need to keep an online blog that will describe their work. Blogs will be linked at our class website for easy accessibility. Posts will be described in detail in the blog post handout. Grammar will not be the main focus for grading, but the writing will need to be clear and understandable.

### Homework

Your homework is to take pictures. You may also need to use time at home to post on your blog if you cannot finish this in class.

### Final Exam

At the end of each trimester you will have a project-based exam that will cover skills and techniques discussed throughout the trimester combined with a portfolio assessment.

### Other

I will have other small assignments that will help with improving skills in the lab and in Photoshop.

## **Working Creatively**

Never feel limited by an assignment. Generally, I have extra film and digital work is unlimited. Carry your camera. Carry film. Don't miss spontaneous opportunities. Use these opportunities for extra credit. I am looking for photography based on informed decisions, skill, and lots of creative inspiration. "Photography made easy," tends toward thoughtless cliché. Great work comes from a healthy combination of inspiration, planning, and commitment.

## **Class time and attendance**

Class time is used to clarify assignment objectives, discuss technical aspects of assignments, demonstrate procedures, and review outcomes. Since a limited number of projects cannot cover every important topic, some class sessions will cover other issues and the work of other photographers as well. In addition to technical matters, various theories of interpreting and evaluating photographs will be discussed.

## **Equipment**

I will provide you with a multitude of cameras, from 35 mm, medium format, large format, and digital. If you have your own camera/cameras that you would like to use that is great, but not required. I also have a multitude of other equipment you are welcome to check out such as tripods, lenses, flashes, and much more. Just sign it out on the equipment sign out sheet, and return it in good health. If I do not have something you think you need, talk to me about it. I may be able to get it.

## **Materials**

I supply all paper, film, chemistry, and other consumables. You will need to supply a portfolio to keep your work in. (Please ask if you want to know where to best get this.)

## **Assignment Deadlines**

Deadlines will be announced and discussed in class. I am very flexible but do have to enter grades at a certain time and become less flexible as that time approaches. If something goes wrong, talk to me about having the deadline extended in order to receive full credit. Do not discard wasted film or paper until the instructor sees it. Save all evidence, and contact the instructor and/or show it to the instructor, so that you understand the problem, and do not repeat the same error. You may call the instructor any time between 7am and 9pm. Cell# 734-649-8981 or email at [rodriada@salineschools.org](mailto:rodriada@salineschools.org). Please do not abuse this. Sometimes you can make the improvements or corrections on the next assignment's film to avoid getting behind.

## **Hang in there**

Murphy's law was written for photography. It's so simple to ruin a roll of film through no fault or by a moment of carelessness. Don't despair. Just do it over. There's no penalty to your grade so long as you prearrange a deadline extension (no extensions past the end of the trimester). Grieve but don't despair; it happens. Mistakes are great teachers when we are open to learn and improve from them.

## **Photography Club**

A part of being in this CTE course is being a part of the photography club. We will meet outside of normal school hours twice a month. These dates will be announced at the beginning of each month starting in October. If you cannot make these dates, come see me to make special arrangements.

## **Field Trips**

I am planning a multitude of field trips throughout the year both during the school day and outside of the school day. These are to be announced.