

Digital Photography Syllabus
Point Pleasant Borough High School 2016-2017

Instructor: Mrs. Mitreuter

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Room: A-3

Website: <http://ppbhsfinearts.weebly.com>

Course Description

This course will help students become well rounded in the fundamentals of digital photography. This class will be a “technical” art class: in other words, principles of art and design will be the focus, but these areas will be taught in the context of acquiring the technical skills needed to use digital equipment creatively. Anyone can take snapshots with a point and shoot camera; students in the class will go far beyond this to learn how to correctly use a digital SLR camera as a tool to express feelings and ideas, and how to compose a picture carefully so that it is meaningful to any viewer.

Four areas of instruction will be emphasized: compositional strategies, camera fundamentals, elements and principles of design, and photo editing and manipulation using Photoshop. Students will, generally, receive basic instruction, demonstration, and see samples of the desired outcomes, at the beginning of each period. They will be allowed to go outside and shoot assignments, based on what they are learning. The end of each class will be spent editing, critiquing and posting finished work to the classroom social networking site, Google Classroom.

In this class we will cover:

- History of Photography
- Compositional strategies
- Acquiring technical skill and understanding camera functions.
- Elements and Principles of Design
- Exploration of different subject matter
- Photo editing and creative manipulation using Adobe Photoshop
- Art criticism

Learning Outcomes

To successfully complete this course, students must:

- Show up to class on time, participate in class discussions/projects
- Pass course quizzes
- Complete assignments by given deadlines
- Cooperate with other students and staff to increase learning potential
- Take and edit photos successfully using digital cameras and photo editing software
- Thoughtfully analyze and critique one’s own work as well as that of peers
- Upload final edited photo with written critique to Google Drive/Google Classroom

Required Materials/Class Resources

***Folder** (*Please bring this in by September 12, 2015*)

Class Website

The class website can be found at <http://ppbhsfinearts.weebly.com>. It has been set up to provide valuable course information to both students and parents. The “Digital Photography Homepage” serves as a teacher blog, where I will post any important class updates, changed due dates, art contest information, etc.

Google Drive/Google Classroom

Google Drive is an online platform that provides a safe way for students and teachers to connect and collaborate. Students will log-in to their Google Drive each day to upload, edit, and submit photographs for a final grade. Students will use Google Classroom to see the day’s assignments as well as directly access all learning materials needed for each lesson such as teacher presentations, hand-outs, instructions, visual aids, etc. Students will use Google Classroom to share their work and ideas with fellow classmates.

Grading Policies:

Photo assignments will be graded using the rubric, found below.

Criteria	Grading Scale				
	5	4	3	2	1
Content – Photograph shows mastery of the skill/process/information learned during lesson.	5 Strong	4 Most	3 Partial	2 Limited	1 Inadequate
Technical Qualities – Photograph is correctly exposed, sharp and with correct white balance.	5 Strong	4 Most	3 Partial	2 Limited	1 Inadequate
Composition – Viewer’s eye is drawn to a clear subject; no distractions in the background, subject appropriately fills the frame, composition adds interest or drama.	5 Strong	4 Most	3 Partial	2 Limited	1 Inadequate
Photoshop Editing – Image shows skillful use of Photoshop tools, adjustments and filters. Image is edited so that overall image quality is enhanced. Image is properly sized/cropped/formatted.	5 Strong	4 Most	3 Partial	2 Limited	1 Inadequate
Creativity – Image shows thought and planning; shows a unique perspective; or has an emotional impact.	5 Strong	4 Most	3 Partial	2 Limited	1 Inadequate

Total pts: 25

Throughout this art class you will be graded in many different areas. Overall projects will be graded based on a rubric. This ensures equal grading to all students who work hard and complete the assignments. Weekly participation grades will be given. Other assignments such as reflective papers and critiques will be counted as quiz grades. Homework grades such as bringing in supplies, photo challenges, or researching will also count toward your overall grade. See grading outline below.

Final Projects	40% (see above rubric)
Class Participation	20%
Critiques/Papers	20%
Homework/Research	20%

Please check genesis for weekly grades.

Attendance & Policies

School policies will be followed at all times. Accurate attendance will be taken throughout our course. Students should follow rules regarding cell phones set forth by the school; cell phones will **not** be permitted in class.

Class Participation

Participation is graded based on students' ability to meet the following criteria:

- Good use of class time, always on task
- Appropriate conduct when out on photo assignments using hall pass (see rules above)
- Appropriate conduct on and Google Drive/Classroom (see rules above)
- Work is completed with care and maximum effort
- Student is attentive during lectures, taking notes when directed
- Student participates in class discussions and critiques

Missed Assignments

It is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to see me to make up missed work when absent. Missed presentations, lessons and assignments can always be accessed on the class website <http://ppbhsfinearts.weebly.com> and Google Classroom. Students are expected to find out what they have missed and look over all missed PowerPoint presentations, instructions etc. when they are absent. Time allowed to turn in missed work = number of days of excused absence. After that period of time, a missing/failing grade will be given. Students may make an appointment to come and see me before school, during school or after school if they need more time to complete work.

Contact Information

I often enter many student's artwork into competitions around the state, some of these offer awards and scholarships. I encourage all students to enter their work and continue to explore the arts. This is an essential class for students who are considering art as a major in college. Many of the assignments can be used for the student's portfolio for college entrance requirements.

Students are urged to come and speak with me in person whenever they can. Outside of class time, I can usually be found in one of my two classrooms: A-3 or A-12. Parents and students are also encouraged to e-mail me with any questions or concerns.

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