

Visual Communications

Photography

Syllabus
Kamiak High School
2016-2017

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Course Description

All of us have stories to tell, and in today's image-driven world, visual literacy is really important. In this course, we learn how to tell better stories visually using digital photography. We explore various principles of photography, including composition, balance, color, design elements, and lighting. We experiment with the technical as well as the creative, as we strive to become better storytellers. The course is very hands-on; positive participation and attendance are critical. *Completing this course with a grade of C or higher is one requirement for students wishing to take Advanced Visual Communications in future years.*

Required Materials

- 100-page Composition Book
- Regular classroom supplies (pen/pencil, notebook, paper, etc.)
- Headphones or earbuds, for individual tutorial-viewing
- Sno-Isle Library Card (for accessing online tutorials)

Helpful but not Required Materials

- Access to a digital SLR (DSLR) camera (any camera that is able to shoot in manual mode is fine). We have class cameras that can be checked out for class assignments & projects as well, but having your own would be advantageous
- Access to the latest versions of Adobe Photoshop & Lightroom (we use the latest versions in class)
- A cloud-based account, such as Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox, etc. (*all can be set up for free*) **NOTE: Every Mukilteo student has a school Google Docs & OneDrive account provided for them.**

Textbook(s) & Resources

Various texts, websites, articles, videos, guest speakers, etc. will be used for reference.

Attendance

A lot goes on during class, so regular attendance is really important. Being on time shows dedication, interest, and respect and is a critical employability skill as well, so please make every effort to arrive on time each day. Per building policy, *absences are defined as missing more than fifteen minutes of class.*

Bathroom Breaks & Leaving Class

When possible, please take care of these needs during passing time. If you do need to leave class, please ask. Usually (not always, but usually) it will be fine. Please take care to treat this privilege responsibly. Any time you are out of class, *you need to carry a building-approved hall pass.*

Electronic Devices

I totally understand the ubiquitous nature of cell phones, iPods, tablets, etc. (*that means, I get it...they're everywhere, and can be an important tool every day*). My policy on this is simple: Please make sure they are not a distraction. If the device becomes a distraction, I will ask that you lock it in the storage room. You may pick them up at the end of the period. If the problem persists, we'll need to conference with an administrator about the issue.

Homework Expectations

Many of the images you capture for your projects will be taken off-campus, on your own time. Other than taking (and making) images, homework will be very minimal. Much of what we do outside of capturing images can be completed during class.

Grading Procedures & Due Dates

Students will self-evaluate most major projects before submitting them to me, often using rubrics and/or checklists. Integrated into our photography and Photoshop projects will be assignments and opportunities for developing 21st Century Leadership Skills as well.

A final course (semester) grade is calculated using the following categories:

Assignments & Projects: 90% Leadership: 10%

Deadlines are a reality of life, even in creative fields, and our projects will have due dates. If you find that you need extra time on a project, please communicate with me in advance of the due date, and we'll work out a solution.

Your semester grade will consist of a cumulative total of both quarters.

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	4.0	B-	80-82%	2.7	D	60-69%	1.3
A-	90-92%	3.7	C+	77-79%	2.3	F	0-59%	0.0
B+	87-89%	3.3	C	73-76%	2.0			
B	83-86%	3.0	C-	70-72%	1.7			

Classroom Expectations

We have lots of systems, procedures, and expensive equipment so please behave responsibly and in accordance with the expectations found the Kamiak High School student handbook.

Trust is a valuable thing to possess, and our class works amazingly well when there's mutual trust between all of us. I trust you'll make appropriate business/classroom behavior decisions, but if necessary, appropriate disciplinary actions will be in effect.

Please use equipment appropriately. This is a biggie. Equipment abuse may result in civil/criminal consequences along with school consequences. Please inform me immediately if equipment malfunctions. Cheating will also not be tolerated. The Kamiak High School cheating policy will be in effect.

Extra Help

I am usually available before & after school from 6:50-7:20 and from 2:00-2:30 Mon, Tue, & Thurs (I am not available on Wednesdays). Earlier/later times can also be scheduled. Please confirm with me if you have any questions.

I check my e-mail daily, and that is the best way to get in touch with me. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Mike Rodriguez