

Photography I Course Expectations

Art Department | Burlington High School

Teacher: L. Djordjevic

Course Title and Number: Photography I (521)

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I. Course Overview

This class explores the basics of traditional black and white photographic printing as well as digital photographic processes using Adobe Photoshop. We will examine both the aesthetic and technical aspects of the photographic process through several method based assignments. The uses of metering, lighting, composition, and technical aspects of the camera will be reviewed during class to give students a basic understanding of the art of photography.

We will explore traditional formats of photography and get to know the mechanics of the 35mm film camera. In addition, we will briefly investigate more “alternative” methods of photography, such as the Pinhole camera. Digital photography, using DSLR cameras along with Adobe Photoshop will be studied in depth.

II. Successful Learning

- Respect one another, the classroom, the equipment, and your teacher
- Learn to give—and receive—constructive criticism
- Always ask questions when you are unsure of something
- Learn to enjoy the process of art-making (despite the inherent technical difficulties of photography)
- Don't be afraid to take risks and push your ideas conceptually
- Learn to use your camera lens as your “eye” and as a literal extension of your personal vision
- Make good use of your time—there is always something to do in photography class
- Apply a variety of problem-solving techniques
- Learn to speak clearly about your work and intentions
- Be hands-on—try it out for yourself!

III. Student Learning Expectations

- Employ current technology to investigate, create, communicate, and produce
- Apply a variety of problem-solving strategies
- Write effectively
- Communicate orally
- Read critically
- Obtain, evaluate, analyze, and apply data
- Demonstrate self-control and respect for all individuals
- Pursue and participate in modes of artistic and creative expression
- Exhibit responsible citizenship

IV. Expected Outcomes

- Demonstrate a substantial understanding of the process of the photographic medium
- Present projects in a professional manner
- Use work to communicate, both visually and orally
- Be able to use the camera (and the photograph) as an expressive tool

V. Topics/Content

The following is a general description of the course content. Content is sequential, building gradually in complexity as the term progresses.

Course expectations:

- Basic darkroom methods/materials(protocol)
- Historical background (photogram, pinhole images)
- Pattern/texture
- Still-life
- Portraiture
- Assemblage panoramas
- Compositional techniques
- Digital photography
- Melding technology with the medium
- Written critiques/responses

VI. Assessing Progress

- In-class projects
- *Written responses (personal and peer reviews)*
- Timeliness
- Critiques (oral communication): critique is possibly the single most important part of the art-making process. Not only does your understanding of your work help to enlighten your peers and myself, but it also helps you to substantiate the work that you have done. There is nothing more gratifying than successfully being able to explain, and defend, the work that you have done. Your participation in critiques is a must. I need to hear your opinion in order to grade you on this portion of the class.

Your grade will be based primarily on the portfolio of work (projects) for the quarter, your journal (instagram), class participation, and quizzes.

- **Projects: 60%**
- **Participation: 20%**
- **Written assignments (including homework and written critiques): 10%**
- **Photo Binder: 10%**

Projects (60%) Your projects will be graded on an individual basis, meaning that I will give you the expectations prior to each project given. What I ALWAYS expect are the following:

- Neat craftsmanship
- Mounted perfectly (yes perfectly!) when asked to do so. Don't worry-I'll teach you how to do it.
- Clean prints free from scratches/dust/fingerprints

Keeping a binder (10%) (You need to get a hold of a binder and plastic sheets. I will provide a hole punch) The binder should include the following sections:

- Class Notes
- Including the syllabus
- I will take an email of notes (not copied) if you prefer to take digital notes.
- Quizzes
- Negatives/Contact sheets
- Test prints
- I will expect your prints to include the times/light intensity/enlarger used written on the back
- Critiques/Journal

VII. Classroom Expectations

- Timeliness: Get to class on time, hand in work on time, and use your time effectively
- Take responsibility for the condition of your work area and the darkroom
- Attendance: since most of the work for this class is done during class time, attendance is especially noted in grading.
- Remain in the classroom until the bell rings (no wandering outside the door)
- Cell phone policy: cellphone use is prohibited during classtime (except for emergencies). Make sure your phone is set to silent and not vibrate mode and refrain from texting during classtime. Phones may be confiscated for ignoring this policy.

VIII. Homework/Make-up Policy

Some assignments that are done outside of class may be categorized as “homework.” When this is the case, proper time should be given to complete the project and equipment turned in within the allotted timeframe.

Because of the nature of a studio course (where most of the work is completed during class time), if a student misses class for any reason they should check in with me to get caught up on what they missed and will still be responsible for the assignment (which will usually be on- going).

IX. Plagiarism

No form of cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. For any infraction of cheating or plagiarism (including the first), the student will receive a zero on the assignment or assessment, and parents/guardians will be notified, as per the student handbook. The definition of plagiarism is “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own.” Please note that plagiarism includes all forms of stealing words or ideas – no copying from books, web sites, or each other.

Although art seems to exist outside of this topic, within this class your work must be your own. This means that I will not accept a photograph that has either been taken by (or printed by) another student. In addition, artwork is to be unique and original. Images produced by others (drawings, paintings, even photographs) are the property of those artists, and obviously cannot be claimed as your own. There are special circumstances that govern the use of “appropriated images”, and these we will discuss as issues present themselves, but before you turn in a project that includes them. In general, use of “pre-existing images” (those not created by your own hand) will not be tolerated.

X. Technology Policy

Students should refer to the acceptable use policy in the student handbook regarding technology. The iPad should only be used for taking notes during lectures or during Instagram voting time. In addition, games, social networking apps, and streaming (Netflix/Hulu/etc.) are **not permitted during class time**. Cell phones are not permitted to be used in the classroom unless approved by the instructor. If you cannot handle having your phone or iPad on your person, it will be dropped in one of the **device daycare** pockets hanging behind the door.

X. Additional Information

Please feel free to contact me at school: the best way to reach me is by email (djordjevic@bpsk12.org) but you can also reach me by phone at 781.270.2912.

I can usually be found in one of my classrooms—room 219 or the darkroom—or in the connected art studios, mac labs, and office. If you are looking for me after school, I am usually in room 219.

What you will need: Students are expected to purchase some course supplies (\$25 per year), and are encouraged to provide their own 35mm SLR and or DSLR camera if possible.

Please bring in a check for \$25 made payable to Burlington High School. This is for your box of photographic paper. The school matches your check and purchases the all of the film, darkroom chemistry, and printing paper and inks for the digital lab. Please have a parent see me if there is a problem.

- Binder (this binder is a graded portion of the class and should be organized using subject dividers). I have a few extra binders if you need one.
- Plastic sheets
- Master lock for photo locker (this locker will hold valuable supplies and should be protected with a combination lock)