

Middle School Photography: Drawing with Light

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Middle School Photography: Drawing with Light

Students see photographs every day on television, on the Internet, and in magazines and newspapers. What makes a great photograph? How did the artist capture a story? What makes a great picture? What are careers in photography? In this course, students learn and apply fundamental skills to use a camera and take photographs of animals, people, and landscapes. Students gain an understanding of how photography can be a means of documentation or high art. Students examine photographic careers and explore self-reflection to progress their creative growth as they develop a photographic portfolio. This course helps students select subjects, take a photograph, and print and display memories!

Required Materials

- A digital camera or camera phone

COURSE METHODOLOGY

- This is an inquiry-based course. Students will generate knowledge through online readings, asynchronous discussions with students and their instructor, interactions with online tutorials, and online and hands-on simulations.
- The instructor will act as a guide, a facilitator, an events planner, and a resource advisor. He/she will always be available through course message.
- The student must actively construct and acquire knowledge by being intrinsically motivated to succeed. To succeed, students must participate and complete all readings and activities. This course requires the student's active participation.
- Both formal and informal assessment methods will be used in the course. Informal assessment will include an evaluation of the quality and timeliness of participation in class activities. Formal assessment may include multiple-choice quizzes, tests, discussion board participation, and written assignments. A final exam will be given at the end of the course.

COURSE PARTICIPATION OBJECTIVES

This course for which you are registered is a college preparatory, academically rigorous course that covers an entire semester's worth of material. As such, it is important that you adhere to the following guidelines as you manage your time and commit to successfully completing all required coursework:

1. The requirements for this course are equivalent to completion of minimum of 90+ hours of class instruction at a traditional on-site high school
2. Assignments must be submitted for each unit as they are completed so that the teacher may review and assess your performance. Do not hold your work, you must submit each unit's homework as it is completed, demonstrating weekly assignment completions
3. You must log in regularly to your course to demonstrate continued participation, and completion of all course requirements, including assignments, assessments and discussion forums
4. You must complete your individual work and any incident of suspected cheating, plagiarism or collaboration on assignments violates the academic integrity expectations outlined at the time of your enrollment and can result in failure of the course or further action as deemed appropriate

Citizenship

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner that reflects sound ethics, honor, and good citizenship. It is the student's responsibility to maintain academic honesty and integrity and to manifest their commitment to the goals of NUVHS through their conduct and behavior. Students are expected to abide by all NUVHS policies and regulations. Any form of academic dishonesty, or inappropriate conduct by students or applicants may result in penalties ranging from warning to dismissal, as deemed appropriate by NUVHS.

Communication

Throughout this course students will need to be in close contact with their instructor and fellow students. Students are expected to communicate via course message and electronic discussion boards. Therefore, students should plan on checking their course messages at least three times a week and participate in the discussion boards during the weeks they are live.

Instructors strongly encourage and welcome open communication. Clear, consistent, and proactive communication will ensure a successful experience in this course. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor immediately if and when a personal situation occurs that affects his/her performance in this class. Being proactive with communication will result in a quick solution to any problems that may occur.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1 – Part 1: Introduction to Photography

In this unit, we will begin our exploration of digital photography. We will learn about some of the early history of photography and some basics on how cameras work. We will discuss what basic equipment is needed for photography and we will talk about how to get digital images from a camera to a computer.

Learning Objectives

- Define photography.
- Discuss the early history of photography.
- Discuss how cameras work.
- Discuss how to transfer images from a camera to a computer.

Activities

Unit 1 – Part 1 Photography Project #1	Homework	25 points
Unit 1 – Part 1 Review Assignment #1	Homework	15 points
Unit 1 – Part 1 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 1 – Part 1 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 1 – Part 1 Quiz	Quiz	10 points

Unit 1 – Part 2: Meeting Your Camera

“A picture is worth a thousand words.”

Photographs play an important role in our world today. We photograph to preserve memories, document events, and create artistic works. This course introduces students to the basics of photography, including camera functions and photo composition. Students will learn what it takes to create a good photograph and how to improve photographs of animals, people, and vacations. They will also begin working with their photographs using photo-editing software. Through a variety of assigned projects, students will engage their creativity by photographing a range of subjects and learning to see the world through the lens of their cameras.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the basic functions and features of point-and-shoot cameras.
- Discuss some of the common risks to digital cameras.
- Discuss how to care for your camera so that it will continue to work effectively.

Activities

Unit 1 – Part 2 Photography Project #1	Homework	25 points
Unit 1 – Part 2 Photography Project #2	Homework	25 points
Unit 1 – Part 2 Review Assignment #1	Homework	10 points
Unit 1 – Part 2 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 1 – Part 2 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 1 – Part 2 Quiz	Quiz	10 points

Unit 2: Choosing a Subject

In this unit, we will discuss how photographers choose a subject. We'll discuss what makes a good subject for a photograph and some of the rules of design that photographers may use in their photographs. We'll also identify and discuss some of the different types of photographs.

Learning Objectives

- Understand some of the differences between good photographs and great photographs.
- Discuss the purpose of photographs.
- Discuss the elements of art and design.

Activities

Unit 2 Photography Project #1	Homework	25 points
Unit 2 Photography Project #2	Homework	25 points
Unit 2 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 2 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 2 Quiz	Quiz	10 points

Unit 3: Elements of Composition

In this unit, we'll learn more about composing good photographs. Composing a photograph means that we think about the items we are taking a picture of and try to arrange those items in a way that people will like when they see the photograph. Photographers use many different techniques to compose their photographs, including the rule of thirds and framing.

Learning Objectives

- Learn about different ways to focus photographs.
- Define and discuss the rule of thirds.
- Understand and use the technique of framing in photographs.
- Discuss portrait and landscape orientations of photographs.

Activities

Unit 3 Photography Project #1	Homework	25 points
Unit 3 Photography Project #2	Homework	25 points
Unit 3 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 3 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 3 Quiz	Quiz	10 points

Unit 4: Background and Foregrounds

When photographers create a photograph, they look at a three-dimensional scene or object and have to figure out how to turn that into a two-dimensional image. This is not always easy to do. To add depth to images and to prevent them from looking flat, photographers often work with three different parts of an image: the foreground, middle ground, and background. In this unit, we'll learn more about these three areas of a photograph and how they can work together to prevent images from looking flat and can, instead, give the photo depth and greater dimension.

Learning Objectives

- Define foreground, middleground, and background.
- Learn how framing (from Unit 3) can be used in the foreground of an image.
- Discuss some of the problems that can occur in foregrounds and backgrounds. These problems can affect the quality of a photograph.
- Study some of the techniques and methods that can be used to draw attention to the subject of the photograph.
- Discuss how using the foreground, middleground, and background can add depth to a photograph.

Activities

Unit 4 Photography Project #1	Homework	25 points
Unit 4 Photography Project #2	Homework	25 points
Unit 4 Photography Project #3	Homework	25 points
Unit 4 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 4 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 4 Quiz	Quiz	10 points

Unit 4: Background and Foregrounds (Continued)**Midterm Exam Objectives**

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Midterm Exam Activities

Midterm Discussion	Discussion	5 points
Midterm Exam	Exam	50 points

Unit 5 – Part 1: Managing and Editing Photos

In this unit, you will learn more about managing and editing photos once they are transferred to a computer. We'll discuss the common types of files that are used to save digital images and the good and bad points of each. We'll also learn more about managing the digital files and common photo-editing functions.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the common file types used to save digital images.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages (good and bad points) of different file types.
- Discuss the importance of photo management.
- Discuss common photo-editing functions.

Activities

Unit 5 – Part 1 Photography Project #1	Homework	25 points
Unit 5 – Part 1 Photography Project #2	Homework	25 points
Unit 5 – Part 1 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 5 – Part 1 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 5 – Part 1 Quiz	Quiz	10 points

Unit 5 – Part 2: Vacation Photos

If you've ever sat through a slideshow of someone's vacation photographs, you probably already know that not everyone takes good shots of their travels. We want to capture the beauty, excitement, fun, and unique aspects of the places that we travel to as well as the personality of the people that we travel with. But, often these characteristics just don't appear when we print the photographs. In this unit, we'll learn more about how to improve our vacation photographs so that the next time you show someone photos of your travels, you'll wow them with the photographs that you took.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss how to prepare to photograph a vacation.
- Identify some common vacation photographs.
- Discuss some of the problems that people have when photographing vacations.
- Discuss tips for improving classic vacation photographs.
- Think about how to use these vacation photograph tips in your hometown.

Activities

Unit 5 – Part 2 Photography Project #1	Homework	25 points
Unit 5 – Part 2 Photography Project #2	Homework	25 points
Unit 5 – Part 2 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 5 – Part 2 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 5 – Part 2 Quiz	Quiz	10 points

Unit 6: The Wild Side

In this unit, we will learn more about photographing animals. We'll discuss some of the common problems that photographers have when photographing animals and discuss some tips for avoiding these problems. We'll also spend some time learning about photographing birds and pets.

Learning Objectives

- Identify common problems found in photographs of animals.
- Discuss some tips for taking better animal photographs.
- Discuss how to photograph birds.
- Discuss how to photograph pets.

Activities

Unit 6 Photography Project #1	Homework	25 points
Unit 6 Photography Project #2	Homework	25 points
Unit 6 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 6 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 6 Quiz	Quiz	10 points

Unit 7: Photographing People

In this unit, we will learn more about photographing people, including how to create self-portraits. We'll study some tips for improving photographs of people, including working with light. In addition, we'll discuss the choice of posed versus candid (non-posed, natural) photographs. Finally, we'll look at creating self-portraits and some creative ways of capturing your own image in digital form.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss how lighting can affect photographs of people.
- Discuss tips for improving images of people.
- Identify some of the pros and cons of posed and candid photographs.
- Discuss self-portraits and how to create unique self-images.

Activities

Unit 7 Photography Project #1	Homework	25 points
Unit 7 Photography Project #2	Homework	25 points
Unit 7 Photography Project #3	Homework	25 points
Unit 7 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 7 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 7 Quiz	Quiz	10 points

Unit 8: Photographer Etiquette and Display

In this unit, we will learn more about the rules and laws that photographers should follow. Although you may be taking pictures only for fun, you should still be polite and respectful to other people and follow the laws that relate to photography. We will also discuss how to print your digital images and how to display them once you have printed them.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss photography etiquette.
- Understand and discuss some of the laws that influence and affect photography.
- Understand and explain to someone else how to print a photo.
- Discuss displaying your photography.

Activities

Unit 8 Review Assignment #1	Homework	20 points
Unit 8 Photography Project #1	Homework	25 points
Unit 8 Discussion Part 1	Discussion	5 points
Unit 8 Discussion Part 2	Discussion	5 points
Unit 8 Quiz	Quiz	10 points

Unit 8: Photographer Etiquette and Display (Continued)**Final Exam Objectives**

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last four units.
(Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Final Exam Activities

Class Reflection Discussion	Discussion	10 points
Final Exam	Exam	50 points

HOW YOU WILL BE GRADED

For critical thinking questions, there are no right or wrong answers. For example, a question on your thoughts on why you think people are shy is a pretty open-ended type of question. Grades will be based on the depth of personal insight you present. **Do not simply agree or disagree** with an insight question. We are looking for critical thinking and possibly a related personal experience with the question.

It is important to provide detailed answers for insight/opinion questions.

For review questions, you should produce a more academic answer. For example, "What two categories are norms divided into?" This type of direct question requires a specific answer. Please use full sentences and proper grammar.

When submitting paragraphs, use these guidelines.

1. The first, second or last sentence contains the main idea and key words from the question or assigned topic.
2. Paragraph contains one to three explanatory sentences.
3. Paragraph contains two to four sentences about specific details related to question.
4. Details are colorful, interesting and appropriate.
5. Paragraph ends with a good closing sentence that refers to the main idea without repeating it.
6. Free of spelling and grammatical errors.

GRADE SCALE

The following grading scale will be used to determine your final letter grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage Earned
A	95%+
A-	90% - 94.9%
B+	87% - 89.9%
B	84% - 86.9%
B-	80% - 83.9%
C+	77% - 79.9%
C	74% - 76.9%
C-	70% - 73.9%
D+	67% - 69.9%
D	64% - 66.9%
D -	60% - 63.9%
F	59% and lower

SUPPORT

At NUVHS you will have access to multiple support teams. Who you contact will depend on the questions you have. Always start by contacting your teacher through the Message Center in the course. Your teacher should be able to answer your question, but if they can't, then they will direct you to another support team. If you have questions about any of the course content, your grades, or course policies, you should contact your instructor.

For questions about your enrollment, transcripts, or general school-wide policies, you can contact **NUVHS Student Services** at info@nuvhs.org or by phone at 866.366.8847. For example, if you would like to withdraw from your course, you should contact Student Services. Please note that a refund for your course can only be obtained if you drop within the first seven days of enrolling in the course.

For help with login/password issues, or other technical issues specific to the Blackboard website, you can contact the team at [National University Blackboard Learn](#). They can also be reached by phone at (888) 892-9095.

EXPECTED SCHOOL-WIDE LEARNING RESULTS (ESLRs)**Engaged Learners**

- Demonstrate self-directed learning skills such as time management, and personal responsibility through the completion of course requirements
- Develop an understanding of their own preferred learning styles to enhance their overall academic potential
- Incorporate effective and relevant internet and multimedia resources in their learning process to broaden their knowledge base

Critical Thinkers

- Effectively analyze and articulate sound opinions on a variety of complex concepts
- Illustrate a variety of problem-solving strategies that strengthen college preparation and workforce readiness
- Formulate a framework for applying a variety of technology and internet-based research to enhance information literacy and collaborative thinking

Effective Communicators

- Demonstrate awareness and sensitivity to tone and voice in multiple forms of communication
- Express concepts and ideas in a variety of forms
- Enhance communication skills through the use of media rich or other technology resources

Global Citizens

- Appreciate the value of diversity
- Understand the range of local and international issues facing today's global community
- Demonstrate awareness of the importance of cultural sensitivity and social responsibility in the 21st century