

PHOTOGRAPHY 1

Ms. Y's Course Description & Expectations

Sequoia High School — Room #153 & #155

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Course Description:

Photography I is an introductory course for students interested in learning the art of taking and developing photos and exploring career paths in photography. Students will learn how to compose, edit, and enhance their own photographs using cameras and a variety of professional software and equipment. While the primary focus will be on digital photography, students will also be exposed to a wide array of alternative processes including, cyanotypes, pinhole cameras, photograms, and introductory darkroom techniques. This is a project-based course where students create personally relevant and meaningful imagery on a wide variety of topics. These topics include portraiture, sports photography, composition, macro photography, abstraction, light painting, and documentary photography. Students will be to express and share their unique vision of the world through the medium of photography.

Learning Objectives:

What will we be doing this year? What are our goals? Let's take a look! Students will be able to...

- Create their own photographic images using digital camera, lenses, and other professional equipment
 - Utilize the manual settings on a camera to take photos in a wide array of styles using a variety of techniques
 - Edit and enhance images using software from the Adobe Suite
 - Experiment with alternative photographic processes
 - Understand and articulate the chemical processes central to the Darkroom
 - Demonstrate the ability to follow safety instructions with regard to the use of chemicals
 - Critically analyze problems and difficulties in the processes of developing photographs
 - Plan and execute complex photo shoots working in groups
 - Compose photographs using the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design
 - Recognize and articulate the strengths and weakness of their own work and that of their peers through individual and group critiques
 - Crop, mat, mount, and frame their work for exhibition
 - Present their work in a digitally, online, in art shows, and in a portfolio
 - Plan for success using the Studio Habits of Mind
 - Accept that making mistakes is a part of the artistic process and use those mistakes to revise and improve their artwork
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Visual Arts Studio Habits of Mind:

DEVELOP CRAFT	Learning to use tools, materials, artistic conventions; and learning to care for tools, materials, and space.
ENGAGE & PERSIST	Learning to embrace problems of relevance within the art world and/or of personal importance, to develop focus conducive to working and persevering at tasks.
ENVISION	Learning to picture mentally what cannot be directly observed and imagine possible next steps in making a piece.
EXPRESS	Learning to create works that convey an idea, a feeling, or a personal meaning.
OBSERVE	Learning to attend to visual contexts more closely than ordinary “looking” requires, and thereby to see things that otherwise might not be seen.
REFLECT	Learning to think and talk with others about an aspect of one’s work or working process, and, learning to judge one’s own work and working process and the work of others.
STRETCH & EXPLORE	Learning to reach beyond one’s capacities, to explore playfully without a preconceived plan, and to embrace the opportunity to learn from mistakes.
ART COMMUNITIES	Learning to interact as an artist with other artists i.e., in classrooms, in local arts organizations, and across the art field) and within the broader society.

Materials:

Camera use and lab time will be provided to you. You are welcome to use your own digital camera to complete assignments, but the camera must have MANUAL controls (you must be able to set the focus, aperture, and shutter speed manually (digital SLRs are the highly recommended because they allow for the most creative control, but are not required) and be able to record EXIF data (date, time, settings). You may also use your own film camera, but again it must have MANUAL controls.

Classroom Behavior & Expectations:

Initial Here: _____

- All Sequoia High School rules, policies, and dress codes must be adhered to at all times.
- Be on time: This means being seated with your supplies when the first bell rings. Because the majority of the work for this course will be done during class, you need to be on time and prepared to work. Students are expected to remain seated and working until dismissed.
- Be Prepared: Be attentive and engaged in class. Be mentally prepared and alert. Bring your materials to every class meeting.
- Exercise Respect & Safety in the Classroom: This means respect of other students and their artwork, teachers, and the equipment/computers/classroom/enlargers/cameras. We share a studio space with other students and should be considerate of the materials, time, and space that we all use. Any behavior that disrupts the learning environment will not be tolerated. Consequences for lack of respect/being disruptive will be detention, additional assignments,

lowering of studio performance grade or a referral. In addition, if you damage, lose or misuse any supplies or equipment you may be fined for the replacement or repair cost.

- **Responsibility:** You are responsible for your growth as an artist. Use your studio time to explore, learn, be inspired, and awaken your curiosity and creativity.
- **Accountability for Equipment:** Please be aware that if you damage equipment because you were goofing off, using it inappropriately, deliberately damaging it, or in the instance that it has gone missing; you may be held accountable for it.
- **Attitude:** Be prepared to embrace the creative process and to learn from each other and share the studio. Your success in the course will rely on your efforts and desire to learn new material, and your respect for our precious (and expensive) equipment and resources. You will also be expected to behave in a professional and ethical manner. Understand that rudeness and disrespect will not be tolerated. Be prepared to come to class every day with a positive attitude, showing patience, tolerance, respect, and cooperation.
- You are not to leave the classroom without asking permission, signing out, and taking a pass.
- Historically I have not allowed hats and hoods in the classroom, but I am trying out allowing them this year on the caveat (under the specific understanding) that I must be able to see your eyes and face during class, otherwise the hat or hood must be removed.
- There are rules, expectations, routines, and procedures specific to different areas of this course, like the darkroom, taking photos on campus how to turn assignments in online, etc. We will go over these points as they come up, but really everything falls under these 4 simple rules:



Food & Drink Policy:

Initial Here: _____

NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED IN THE LAB AT ANY TIME. We work with a lot of expensive electronic equipment so it is too great a risk to allow any food or drink in the lab lest it destroy equipment that has been purchased by the school for the benefit of all students. There are also numerous hazardous chemicals in this room that will seriously harm you if you ingest them. Beverages that are in resealable containers such as bottles, thermoses, etc. are allowed. You will be docked points for eating and/or drinking inside the classroom. Consider this your warning.

Cell Phone & Computer Usage:

Initial Here: _____

Cell phones affect your ability to thoroughly engage in the course material and the class activities. Cellphone are not to be used during the class period AT ALL unless you are instructed to do so. Using your phone to check time, text, play games or for any other reason is unacceptable and

inappropriate. Constant cell phone usage issues will result in referrals to the front office and detention.

A lot of your photography work will require the use of a computer, but you need to use your computer appropriately. Inappropriate tech usage (for example: randomly surfing the net, shopping, playing games, etc.) will affect your ability to be successful in the course as it affects your ability to engage in your assignments & class activities. It also affects your ability to be aware of what is being taught and what is going on in the classroom and keep up with the pace of the course.

Keep in mind that the majority of students that fall behind in their assignments and struggle in Photo due so because they are either 1) chronically absent, 2) chronically late, or 3) are wasting their time on their phones or using their computers for non-photo related activities. If you use your time well in class then you should rarely have work to do outside of class.

Adobe Creative Suite Software:

We use Adobe's Creative Suite extensively in Photo. A free subscription for the ENTIRE Creative Suite is supplied to you FREE as long as you are enrolled in Photo. You may download the Suite and Adobe's programs on your own computer to work on your photos outside of class. Please be aware that while MOST computers support the Adobe Creative Suite, NOT ALL computers have the processing capabilities to support it. Whether or not your computer supports Adobe will depend upon the type of computer you have. (For example: all Apple desktop and laptop computers support Adobe but Chromebooks DO NOT SUPPORT ADOBE.)

Darkroom:

Initial Here: _____

The Darkroom is back this year! After being shuttered for 3 years during Covid it is finally back up and running! There are a few important and special rules and provisions about the Darkroom that are in place for health and safety and are completely NON-NEGOTIABLE. Any students found breaking these provisions will lose all access to the Darkroom and will immediately be referred to the office for next steps. This is a serious matter... tantamount to passing power tool safety tests in Woodshop.

- All safety requirements must be strictly adhered to at all times!
 - There are numerous dangerous chemicals and lots of fragile equipment that we will be working with so horseplay is absolutely NOT TOLERATED.
 - Safety tests must be passed with 100% before being allowed to work in the Darkroom
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Grading Policy:

Initial Here: _____

Evaluation of Student Work is Based on the Following:

California State Visual Arts & Media Arts Content Standards	Mastery of Techniques, Concepts, & Equipment
Visual Arts Studio Habits of Mind	Improvement in Skill Mastery
Elements of Art	Creativity & Originality
Principles of Design	Effort & Participation
Creative Problem Solving	Engagement

Assignments and project are graded on a standard point scale. "A" work is outstanding and exceeds expectations. It demonstrates divergent/creative thought, excellent technique, is insightful, and communicates a strong individual student "voice." "B" work is good. It demonstrates potential in technique and creativity. "C" work fulfills most requirements. "D" and "F" work does not meet requirements, is not school appropriate, and/or is incomplete. 10% will be deducted for being late. Late work is only accepted for a week after the original due date. Extra credit points are given sparingly and when they are, it is for going above and beyond the expectations and/or possessing a "wow" factor.

Your grade will comprise of approximately the following:

Assignments	35%
Major Projects	55%
Quizzes & Tests	15%

Absence Policy:

Initial Here: _____

It is your responsibility to make up any work you miss. Generally, for excused absences, you have one additional day to turn in work for each class you were absent. Long term absences are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Chronic absenteeism for unexcused absences will not receive extensions on projects or delayed deadlines.

Late Policy:

Initial Here: _____

Work is considered late if it is submitted after the posted deadline on Canvas. 10% will be deducted from the assignment's final score for being late. Refer to the tables below for late work deadlines. (For example: The latest that an assignment originally due during the 1st Progress Report

Period will be accepted is October 11. Assignments from the 1st Progress Report Period will not be accepted late or otherwise after October 11.)

1st SEMESTER LATE WORK DEADLINES		
Grading Period	Grading Period Dates	Last Day Late Work is Accepted For This Grading Period
1st Progress Report Period	August 14 - September 13	October 11
2nd Progress Report Period	September 16 - October 11	November 8
3rd Progress Report Period	October 15 - November 8	December 6
4th Progress Report Period	November 12 - December 19	December 6

2nd SEMESTER LATE WORK DEADLINES		
Grading Period	Grading Period Dates	Last Day Late Work is Accepted For This Grading Period
1st Progress Report Period	January 7 - February 14	March 21
2nd Progress Report Period	February 24 - March 21	May 2
3rd Progress Report Period	March 24 - May 2	May 16
4th Progress Report Period	May 5 - June 5	May 16

Revision Policy:

Initial Here: _____

If you are unhappy with an assignment, or your grade on a project, you may ask if you can revise or redo the project for partial or full credit. Ms.Y's response to this request will be on a case-by-case basis. You have until the end of the current Late Period to submit revisions. See deadlines as laid out above.

Flex Time:

Almost every Thursday and Friday students have the opportunity to sign up for studyhall (AKA Flex Time) in a class period of their choosing. Please note that you need to sign up for your classes by Wednesday at midnight. If you do not sign up then the school will automatically assign you to a classroom.

Flex Time in Photo will allow you time to take photos using school equipment and/or work on your photos using the Adobe software. Specific flex times will be set aside as make up days for specific

shoots and darkroom usage. Pay attention to when these special days are available or talk to the teacher specifically to schedule additional worktime in the studio.

Flex time is particularly useful in Photo as most students don't have easy access to these tools outside of school. I strongly recommend that you schedule Flex Time in Photo if you are absent or behind in your assignments. Do not rely on lunch to make up your assignments as this is the teacher's break time and may or may not be available. If you plan on coming in at lunch, be sure to talk to Ms.Y ahead of time.

Academic Honesty:

Initial Here: _____

Cheating, plagiarism, copying work or photos from others, letting others copy your work, stealing photos off the internet, and tampering with electronic information are all strictly forbidden. They are in no way, shape, or form acceptable under any circumstance. All work must be your own. If you are caught cheating (i.e. using or "borrowing" someone else's work or imagery, whether that's from another student or from the web) you will receive a ZERO, forfeit the ability to redo the assignment, and be referred for DISCIPLINARY ACTION. Your parents, counselors, and administrators will be notified of your offense.

An Important Word About Transfer Students:

Initial Here: _____

If you are registered for the course at the beginning of the semester and attend the first day, then this will not apply to you, but if you transfer into the course after the first day of class then this information is CRITICAL for your success.

Like most courses, assignments in Photo are intended to get harder throughout the semester. With that being said, in order for you to be successful in Photo you need to master a set of basic skills at the beginning of the first semester. These skills involve: learning classroom routines & expectations, camera techniques, downloading photos, learning specific Adobe software, workflow, and photo submission. These skills are taught the first 8 weeks of class and cannot be skipped, even if you enroll into the course late. EVERY STUDENT that enrolls in Photo is expected to complete these introductory assignments. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. These assignments and skills are critical for your success in Photo.

If you transfer into the course you will need to MEET WITH MS.Y to obtain a list of MANDATORY ASSIGNMENT that must be completed IN ADDITION to the current course assignments.

Transfer students are not accepted after Sequoia's schedule change request window has closed 1st semester and are highly discouraged after the first 3 weeks of the semester due to the amount of makeup work that must be completed. Transfer students are not accepted 2nd semester unless you are transferring in from another school and have currently been taking Photo at your prior school for the entire 1st semester. Registering for Flex Time is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED if you are a transfer student and need time and/or help catching up.

Need Extra Help?

I am here to help you as best I can! I WANT YOU TO BE SUCCESSFUL! The more you communicate with me, the better I am able to help you. There are multiples ways we can

connect. You are always free to talk to me during class, flex, or lunch. You can also contact me via email at LYurkovich@seq.org Please be aware that email is only read and returned during business hours. Emails are responded to in the order that they are received. I will return your email as quickly as I am able to. For students, the fastest way to get a response from me is to simply talk to me in person.

Looking to the Future...

The past few years have been highly unusual, as I'm sure you know! We are living in a time full of adversity. The very basis of how we live our lives has been challenged on every level, but with great change, comes great opportunity, and we have the exciting opportunity to reimagine and redesign education and our classroom. School will look very different. We will need to work together and be flexible as issues arise and as situations change both at school and the community at large. I am beyond excited to share the magic of photography with you! It's going to be a great year.

Upwards and onwards!

Ms.Y

P.S. Don't forget to initial all 10 spots requiring initials, sign on the next page, answer the questions, and have your parents/guardians sign before you submit your Course Description for points!

Please Detach & Return to Your Teacher

Parent/Student Sign-off:

Please print and sign your name on the following page. By signing this document, you are stating that you understand the classroom rules and expectations. Take this document home and have your parents or guardians print and sign their names below as well, indicating that they are also aware of the rules and expectations of the course. If your student lives in two different households, please, have your parent/guardian in each household sign off below.

Student Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student E-mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent E-mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent E-mail: _____

1) Is there anything that I should know about you that would help me understand you better and cater to your needs as a student better? If so, please explain. (Parents and guardians, please feel free to add to your student's response.)

2) Does your student have access to a digital camera? If so, please specify.

CAMERA CHECKOUT STUDENT CONTRACT OF LIABILITY

Student Name: _____ **ID#:** _____

Upon signing this contract, you agree to treat the school-provided cameras with the utmost respect and care. Each camera can only be checked out for one day at a time. It is your responsibility to make sure it is in fine working order when you first check it out, and report any damage BEFORE you take it home. If new damage is found when you return the camera, you will be held responsible unless said damage has been noted prior to your checking it out.

1. A student must have a signed contract on file before they are allowed to request checking out a camera.
2. Parents must email the instructor at lyurkovich@seq.org acknowledging that they are aware and comfortable with their student taking a camera home for a specific date.
3. Equipment must be returned in the same condition it was checked out in. You are responsible for paying for any damages incurred while the camera is in your possession.
4. All camera neck straps must be used to prevent dropping the equipment. Never carry a camera without the neck strap being around your neck.
5. The teacher chooses and assigns the camera that your student will take home.
6. Never attempt to repair equipment yourself or remove any parts.
7. Never use force on any part of the camera; any amount of force will probably seriously damage internal parts.
8. Do not get water, beverages, dirt, or food on the camera. Keep the camera in its bag when it is not in use. Do not take the camera anywhere it was not intended to go.
9. Do not lend any of the camera equipment to anyone else; it is checked out to you and only you.
10. Camera equipment should be in your immediate possession at all times, or in a very safe place. If you lose it, you buy it.
11. All camera equipment is returned at the beginning of the next class period. If you are ill or not coming to school on the day your equipment is to be returned, it is still your responsibility to get it back on time.
12. If you cannot follow the terms of this contract, do not check out equipment.

Your signature affirms that you have read this contract and promise to return the school camera in the EXACT condition it was in when you checked it out. You agree to be responsible for any damage caused to the camera during your check-out period and will incur all costs of fixing or replacing any parts necessary to restore the camera to its original (upon being checked out) condition. All cameras that belong to Sequoia's Photography Department cost at least \$900. Any camera bag that contains an extra flash, extra lens, cords, extra batteries, lens filters, or battery chargers cost extra. If you do not follow these rules, you forfeit the right to check out school cameras. If you return the camera late, you will receive a warning, the second time you return the camera late you lose the privilege of checking out cameras.

This signed contract is an agreement between you and the Sequoia High School Photography Department. By signing below, you agree to all above terms and to be solely responsible for the school camera you will be checking out.

I have read and understood the above contract and will follow the stated rules.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____ **Period** _____

Parent Name (Printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

NOTE: This form is optional, but until it is signed your student will be barred from borrowing school equipment.