

Photography

Lexington High School

Welcome to photography! You will get a very dynamic experience in this course. Photography is highly visual, but you will be expected to explain, critique and analyze your work and the work of your peers and industry professionals. This class is an opportunity to tell stories through photos and showcase your creativity. Be prepared for an intense class with many opportunities to be successful, express yourself and have work published.

Course Description

Photography is a hands-on application course in digital photography for printed and online publication. Special emphasis is on taking photos to be used for the school yearbook, website, and LTV. Students will master skills in all aspects of photography, including composition, technical quality, storytelling ability and timeliness. Students also will learn basic photo manipulation using Adobe Photoshop. Students enrolled in this course agree to possible use, display and/or reproduction of all photos taken for class assignments or photos taken using school equipment.

Class policies

Each student is required to participate daily in class discussions, lectures and critiques. It is expected that students in this course complete their daily assignments and participate fully in classroom activities. Students must come to class prepared to work and learn. It is particularly important for students to learn the proper usage for the cameras and other equipment, as you must use them to complete your assignments, but will not be allowed to use them unless you have passed the equipment exam.

All students will be assigned photo shoots. Some photo assignments will take place during the regular school day on campus; **many will not**. Instead of typical homework assignments, the out-of-class work for photography requires attending activities to take pictures. Most of the photo assignments will take place on the LHS campus during athletic practices and games, school dances, performances and other events. These assignments will be divided equally among all students in the class. Showing up on time and doing a good job for the photo shoots is a major part of your grade. Additionally, there will be a number of projects completed throughout the course. These projects can be completed during class time, as resources are limited and cameras are not always available for use after school. In the event that you need to check out a camera, you can do so, given that proper planning has taken place. If you are sick or have an emergency that requires you to miss a photo assignment, **you are responsible for finding a replacement in time to shoot the**

event. If you cannot find a student replacement, you should contact Mrs. Brockmoller prior to the event. Meeting deadlines and taking pictures assigned to you is a large part of your grade. Your grade will be based on your ability to meet deadlines, work with your peers, demonstrate understanding of the skills taught, analysis of your work and your conduct. Your individual projects will be evaluated on: technical criteria (camera techniques, computer editing and print quality), craftsmanship (this can be digital or in print, depending on the assignment), application of Principles of Design and image content and its relevance to the assignment criteria. Failure to behave appropriately and use time effectively in class WILL negatively impact your grade for this course. All students will be expected to follow school policies. When you are outside taking pictures, you are representing the communications program. Poor decisions on your part could lead to loss of privileges, disciplinary action or removal from class. Think about your actions! The use of a laptop is a privilege. These machines are to be used for uploading photos, doing class activities and assignments. The computers are not to be used at any time for games, unrelated social networking, downloading music or any activities that violate the LHS technology agreement. Photos taken with LHS equipment and/or for class assignments are property of LHS and posting them to a social networking site or sharing copies with others is a violation of copyright. Do not make the mistake of giving others your photos or uploading them to Facebook unless you are instructed to do so. You'll have plenty of opportunities to share your photos via The Minuteman, lexschools.org, LTV and hopefully in local galleries and photo exhibits as well.

Grading

Quarterly grading

Formative Assessments- 30%

Summative Assessments- 60%

Citizenship (based on Schoolwide agreements) 10%

1st Semester: Quarter 1 = 45% / Quarter 2 = 45% / 1st Semester Test = 10%

2nd Semester: Quarter 3 = 45% / Quarter 4 = 45% / 2nd Semester Test = 10%

Camera use

You will have access to LHS cameras for all assignments. If you have access to a high quality camera from another source, you may be able to use it for some or all of your photo shoots. All cameras in my room will be locked at all times and checked out only with a specific checkout process. To use the LHS cameras you will be required to sign a separate user agreement (attached) and you must first pass the equipment exam.

Helpful hints

Anytime you have questions, just ask. Be willing to try new things. Respect your classmates and all school property. Follow directions. If you want to get ahead in this class, be willing to take pictures. If you are part of a class or activity on campus and something “interesting” is happening, call down to 401 or come by the room to check out a camera. An open mind and positive attitude will help you succeed and enjoy this class all year.

EQUIPMENT CHECKOUT CONTRACT

Lexington High School Student Agreement

1. You accept full responsibility for the safe and speedy return of the equipment.
2. Equipment must be returned in the same condition it was in when you checked out. All equipment will be in good working order when you check it out.
3. All equipment must be signed out through the Check In/Out form and must be checked back in to Mrs. Brockmoller.
4. You must know how to use the camera or other piece of equipment you are checking out. A competency test will be required for the camera.
5. All camera neck straps must be used to prevent dropping the equipment. Never carry a camera without the neck strap being around your neck. Repair bills on dropped or bumped cameras are usually over \$300 and you are responsible for any damage to the camera while in your possession.
6. Never attempt to repair equipment yourself and never remove any parts.
7. Never use force to turn or wind any lens on a camera. Any amount of force will probably seriously damage contacts. The same applies to memory cards, especially the DSLR cameras.
8. Do not get water, beverages, dirt, or your lunch on the camera. Always replace the lens cover when not in use.
9. Do not lend any of the camera equipment to anyone else. It is checked out only to you and you are responsible.
10. Do not use the self-timers on the cameras without special permission. Incorrect use of the self-timer often results in a jammed shutter.
11. Camera equipment must be in your immediate possession at all times. Do not leave equipment in lockers or automobiles. If you lose it, you buy it.
12. Cameras and other equipment are checked out on a daily basis. If you need to photograph an after-school event, you must check the camera out during YOUR class meeting period or after school. The camera **MUST** be returned **BEFORE SCHOOL** the

following day. If you are absent the following day, you still must return the camera, via a parent or guardian.

If you cannot follow the terms of this contract, do not check out the equipment. If you violate the terms of this contract, you will lose the privilege of checking out equipment. Unauthorized use of equipment will be treated as theft and violators will be turned over to school administrators.

STUDENT

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Parent Agreement

I agree to assume financial responsibility for the equipment my son/daughter has checked out. I will pay for any repairs needed, due to negligence, when the equipment is in my son or daughter's control. I also agree to pay for, or replace with comparable equipment, any items lost or stolen while in my child's care.

I have read the attached syllabus for this course. I understand the requirements that my student will be required to meet. I acknowledge the additional responsibility that this course carries and I recognize that my student will be required to spend time after school completing their assignments.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____