

# Photography I – Emerald Ridge High School

Mr. Meyerhoff, Periods 1, 2 and 5  
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course goal of Photography I is to present an overview of the history of photography, camera handling, principles of lighting and composition, correct care and handling of the digital camera, photo journalism, and presentation.

## ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS/ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How can I synthesize and present information using technology in a meaningful way?
- What is the benefit of digital imaging and image manipulation to society?
- How can I use digital imaging techniques to further my career in a technological workplace?
- To provide students with the skills to transition into more advanced study and/or work in the photographic industry.

## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

This class will incorporate the Photography Lab and computers. A lot of independent work will be required. It may be necessary for your student to work some extra hours in the lab or in the field to show mastery of all subject material. Students will have access to some of the school's digital camera equipment.

Access to the PSD Network and the World Wide Web is required for this class.

A notebook is required for class materials and a portfolio of work will be required.

## UNITS

- Safety
- History
- Introduction to Cameras
- Fundamentals of Photography
- Student Leadership
- Career Information
- Types of Photography
- Photographic Business Management
- Presentations
- Digital Images
- Digital Darkroom Techniques

## ASSESSMENTS

- Project based assessments using rubrics
- Tests and quizzes

## GRADING

- Self Management/Leadership 10%
- Productivity 10%
- Tutorials and Daily Work 20%
- Projects and Tests 60%

## GRADING CONTINUED

A student who successfully completes this course will have shown mastery in each of the following areas: digital image manipulation, photography basics and history, elements of composition, the use of digital cameras and scanning. Each student will follow an individual pathway through this course. As a result, there are always a wide variety of activities going on in the lab at any one time.

In addition to the digital photography instruction, there will be seminars on the ethics of technology, job skills needed to thrive in a technological marketplace, teaming, communication skills, networking, and developing effective presentations. Grades are based on quality of work, effort, improvement and citizenship.

Grading for this course is based on quality of work, effort, improvement, citizenship and overall programming performance. Late work must be negotiated **before** due date.

### **Grading Scale**

We will use the Puyallup SD grading scale as indicated in the Teacher Access Center website.

### **Mr. Meyerhoff's Grading System**

- A** Produces **markedly superior work** and consistently demonstrates a high understanding of the objectives of the course.
- B** Masters skills thoroughly: usually demonstrates a good understanding of objectives of the course.
- C** Demonstrates satisfactory achievement of the course objectives. Shows mastery of course objectives.
- D** In exceptional situations, a passing grade of "D" will be awarded. This will only be for extenuating circumstances and all students are expected to show mastery of the skills in this class.
- F** Course work is unfinished. Student has not completed all required work to receive credit for course and/or demonstrates little or no understanding of course objectives.

Only the final grade is recorded on a student's official transcript. Grades reported show progress to date in each course and are an indication of overall course performance.

### **Working throughout the semester**

Many students believe that they deserve an "A" just because they do the minimum amount of work required. This is not one of my beliefs. Here are some of my comments on working throughout the **entire** semester/year:

1. The photography grading system states that an "A" means: "Produces markedly superior work and **consistently** demonstrates a high understanding of the objectives of the course."
2. It would be nice if everyone earned an "A" but that is not realistic. Only the best students who consistently show markedly superior work will receive "A's."
3. I rarely give extra credit. I feel that you must have all of the work completed to earn anything "extra." Most of the time, those who need or want extra credit are those students who have not worked as hard as they could have.
4. Do not put things off until the last minute. For many of these assignments you will have a great deal of time to work. Do not put it off. Use effective time management skills. If you are having trouble with an assignment, you need to contact me well before the due date. Do not wait until the due date to get help.
5. I believe that students must work hard through **the entire semester**. There are roughly 18 weeks in the semester. Do not expect to slack off until the final weeks and then worry about what you could do to raise your grade. The grade is for the entire semester, not just the final four weeks.
6. Those students who put a great deal of effort into doing their best will do well in this course.

**All major assignments must be completed with a passing grade in order to receive credit for this course.**

It may be necessary for you to resubmit an assignment if you do not earn a passing grade the first time.

## ***Late Work Policy***

All major assignments must be completed in order to earn a passing grade for the semester. Late work will be accepted, though there will be a penalty for turning in your work late (exceptional circumstances will be considered if necessary).

- 1 class day late: highest possible grade = 85%
- 2 class days late: highest possible grade = 75%
- 3 class days late: highest possible grade = 65%
- 4 or more class days late: highest possible grade = 50%

## ***Productivity Policy***

There are many assignments in this course, and you will have very little time where you are not working on a project. I expect that you are going to spend 90 minutes each day working productively in this class. If not, your grade will be lowered. Each assignment and presentation will also include a productivity grade that will be based on your effort and contributions to the class and your group. This grade will be worth roughly 10-20% of your semester grade, enough to have a large impact on your final grade. I will attempt to keep track of days that are not productive to document your productivity. There will be no arguing over comments from substitutes during the semester.

You will do fine if you are productively working on your photography projects. There should be no excuses for sitting around, unnecessarily browsing the Internet (not for class work), or doing other work during class time. For those of you who work hard every day, you have nothing to worry about.

# **CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT**

## ***Class Expectations***

Hard work, regular and on-time attendance, a positive attitude, and a willingness to try new things is expected from every student. Students will respect each other's right to learn, the equipment around them, and the rules of the classroom. Any unethical or destructive behavior can be grounds for dismissal from the class. The Digital Photography Lab is a no food and drink zone.

The goal is to make this class a fun and safe environment for students to explore the limits of technology. It is our hope that students will leave this class with the confidence necessary to be productive in a technological workplace.

Students are held to the highest ethical standards in this course. We will explore how technology has changed our lives and how it will continue to do so. Many decisions about technological and personal ethics will be pursued.

## ***Use of the Equipment***

Emerald Ridge High School, the Puyallup School District and the Career and Technical Education department here at ERHS have put a lot of money into the technology at this school. Your instructors have invested a huge amount of time maintaining the labs and equipment. The equipment in this course gets a great deal of use throughout the year. We need to be able to trust that the equipment will be maintained and will be available for others to use. If there is an accident, please contact the instructor immediately. Theft of the equipment will not be tolerated and could result in dismissal from this course and/or a failing grade.

## ***Parents may help by:***

Parents are encouraged to ask their student about their work in this class – students should be proud to show their creations to you. Provide a means for your student to work in the lab after school or to photography shooting locations if you do not have access at home. Please let me know if there are any special provisions that your student may need to help him/her achieve success in the class.

## ***Attendance***

### **I strictly adhere to Emerald Ridge High School's attendance policy**

Refer to the Puyallup SD Rules and Regulations for Senior High Schools in for more on the attendance policies.

Attendance Slips: Students must bring a slip to class after being tardy or absent. Absences are not excused without a proper note or call to the attendance office from your parents. If you have an unexcused absence, you are responsible for bringing me the slip when the absence has been excused. Excessive unexcused absences may result in loss of credit.

Important: After missing ten (10) minutes of class you are considered to have an unexcused absence. If you arrive after the bell but before ten minutes, you are tardy. Multiple tardies can lead to conferences with your parents and advisor, detention, suspension and/or lowering of your grade (participation points).

### ***Question of the day – Photo of the Day***

Prompt attendance is important in this class and in any workplace environment. Employers will expect that you arrive to your job on time, or there will be consequences. At the beginning of each class period, students who arrive to class on time (prior to the bell ringing) will be asked a Question of the Day or the class will discuss a Photo of the Day. These questions and discussions are worth points each day and will be used as review for course material. Students who are tardy or absent (excused or unexcused) are NOT eligible to receive these points for answering the question of the day.

### ***Course Web Page***

Students and parents can access the class web page by pointing their web browser to:

**<http://dphoto.erhs.org>**

This web page will include all assignments, student work, and access to grades when updated.

## **TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF ASSIGNMENTS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY I**

### **First Semester, emphasis=basics of digital imaging:**

- Intro to digital photography
- Employment opportunities in the digital imaging world
- Digital photography terminology
- Introduction to Adobe PhotoShop
- Photogenic Drawings - PhotoGrams
- Adobe PhotoShop skills assignments
- Recognizing Color
- Basics of photography
- Elements of Composition – the key to quality photographs
- Close-up Assignments – looking for details
- Personal Collages
- History of photography Presentation
- Comic Strip photo assignment
- Cultural Collage

### **Second Semester, emphasis=digital photo, applying your knowledge:**

- Photos involving a theme
- Shutter Speed Assignments
- Photo Painting
- Depth of Field
- Wall of Fame
- Monthly Themes
- Retouching a damaged photograph
- Art Show submissions
- Photo I Portfolio
- Multiples of Me