

Photography 1

Issaquah High School | 2019-2020
Instructor | Ms. Karen Kirsch (“Ms. K”)

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“Photography teaches you how to see.” - Berenice Abbott

Course Description

In this semester-long course, we will explore the fundamentals of **digital and film photography**. Students will realize the use of camera controls, such as **aperture** (aka “f-stop”), **shutter**, and **ISO**. Other topics of study will include elements of **composition**, the **history** of photography and its influences, and digital **post processing** techniques using Adobe Photoshop. Students will also learn how to develop and process their own black and white film in the **darkroom**.




Credit: Visual Arts // Career + Technical Education (“CTE”)

Fees: \$35 class fee will be paid [online](#) or to the bookkeeper at the beginning of the semester. Plus additional \$5-10 for individual photo materials.

Materials

- Google Drive Account to be shared with Ms. K (we will go over this in class)
- Designated notebook to take notes, store handouts, and stay organized
- A curious + learning attitude
- Cameras will be checked out during class time

Note: You are NOT expected to purchase any new camera gear for this course. However, it may be helpful to borrow a camera. Here are some options that will work for this class:

| Equipment | SLR | - | “Point + Shoot” | Details |
|------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| 35mm Film Camera |  | OR- |  | Any 35mm camera you can find that works. Ask family + friends if you can borrow one for the semester. I have some for students to use in class, however it would be nice to have your own at home. |
| Digital |  | |  | Any digital camera that you can borrow from friends or family will work just fine. I do have some in class available to check out for 3 days at a time and a class set to be used during class. This camera can be your cellphone for SOME assignments. |

Tardy Policy

We follow the IHS student handbook. If you walk in after the bell has rung, you are tardy. If you leave class early without permission, you are tardy. No exceptions.

Absence Policy

Consistent attendance in this course is particularly important for your success since many projects require specialized materials that are only available to students present in class. See IHS student handbook for further details.

Class Expectations - We are H.E.R.E.

1. Be honest, engaged, respectful and empathetic.
2. Come to class on time + prepared.
3. Stay present + curious.**
4. Consume food and drinks in the hallway (water in bottles w/ tight lids are ok).

****Note:** Technology is cool. It even helps us artists advance our work sometimes. **BUT!** We will not deny that phones and devices are distracting and can compromise our ability to be present in class. AND SO - **All cell phones and other electronic devices used during class time WITHOUT instructor approval will be confiscated.****

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

We are here to learn, explore, and create. This class should be challenging and fun. However, if you choose to cause a problem for yourself or others, there will be consequences. All decisions will be at the discretion of the instructor (that's me - Ms. K).

- 1st time - Warning
- 2nd time - Email Home
- 3rd time - Removal from class and referral submitted to administration

Explanation of Classwork

In class assignments and quizzes will be given in order to lead you (the student) toward the overall objectives for each unit, including concepts, terms, techniques, functions, etc.

Explanation of Critiques

This course will use critiques in order to advance your ability to view, interpret, and discuss photography. During critiques, you will talk about your own work (in progress or finished). Participate by being prepared to show and speak about your choices, your techniques, and your point of view. Your peers will offer helpful advice and their own points of view. The purpose of critique is to explore and stay curious about your own work.

Explanation of Projects (aka “Homework”)

Major projects will be assigned to develop your photographic, artistic, and technical skills. They will give you an in-depth understanding of specific techniques, tools, and styles used in the photography world. **YOU are expected to take original and new photos outside of class.** This will contribute to your success and will allow you to be better prepared to take advantage of computer lab and darkroom time at school. Practice makes progress. The more you have to work with the better your projects will turn out, so take a lot of pictures!

Explanation of Work Ethic + Professionalism

You will receive points for your work ethic and professionalism automatically at the beginning of the semester. Full credit will remain if you spend the entire class time focused on assigned tasks and putting forth effort in your work. If you spend your time on anything other than assignments for this class (a.k.a. sleeping, being on your phone, playing computer games, hanging out on the internet, chatting with peers excessively, leaving for unexplained long periods of time, etc.) points will be deducted and could result in further consequences.

Estimated Semester Grade Breakdown



| | |
|------------|-----|
| Classwork | 25% |
| Final Exam | 5% |
| Portfolio | 5% |
| Projects | 50% |
| Work Ethic | 15% |

General Procedures

- **TURNING IN WORK:** All assignments will be uploaded to your Google Drive and SHARED with me (Ms. K). Please, do not email them.
 - Always back up work to your personal folder on the school server -or- a jump drive. Never save to the desktop, seating charts will be changed.
 - Always rotate your photos to be viewed correctly. Points will be deducted if not (and yes, no matter how amazing the photo is).
- **LATE WORK POLICY:** All projects will be accepted without penalty if turned in BEFORE grades are due (mid-quarter + end of quarter). If turned in after grades are posted, work will be accepted for ½ credit up until the end of the semester. The class website is always up to date with due dates and upcoming assignments. [Bookmark it!](#)

- **MAKE UP WORK:** It is up to **YOU** to make arrangements with me (your teacher) to make up work and lectures missed. [CHECK THE WEBSITE!](#) COMMUNICATE!
- **LEAVING CLASS:** To leave class, just ask and sign out. Only two people can be gone from the classroom at a time (with exceptions for supervised photoshoots). If you're gone for more than 10 minutes, you will receive lunch detention and/or lose privileges to leave class. If you need more than 10 minutes, **come back** to class and explain.
- **ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTERGRITY:** **It is expected that you are creating work that is new and unique to YOU.** There is no tolerance for plagiarism in this community. You must cite or reference any text, image, or piece music you use from another source. Any work turned in that is not your own will receive a ZERO and a phone call will be made to your parent/guardian(s) explaining why a zero was given. *Please refer to the student handbook for IHS policy for more details.*
 - **What else does this mean?**
 - Your photos must be taken at the time or after a project is assigned. You may not use photos you have taken previously. Ask me why, personally, if you need a more detailed explanation.
 - You are expected to produce work that is of high quality in all circumstances. All assignments need to be school appropriate. Projects with prohibited content (e.g. drugs, profanity, or alcohol) will be reported to administration and will not be accepted for a grade.
- **SENSITIVE SUBJECT MATTER:** As a student, you will probably come across artists who dealt with sensitive subject matter such as war, religions, emotional issues, nudity, and more in your studies. This class will address these subject matters from a historical context. We will never advocate any particular philosophy concerning these subjects. We are respectful to ALL students' backgrounds, life experiences, cultural traditions, and current interests. Please address any reservations or concerns to me (Ms. K).
- **CHECKING OUT EQUIPMENT:** Through the semester we will be using school photography equipment. We are SO lucky! We must be responsible stewards in taking care of this equipment. In order to use this equipment during class activities, or borrow cameras for shooting assignment, please read and sign the form below. Share this form with your parent or guardian and get their signature, too. This will display you and your family's understanding of your responsibility.
- **LEADERSHIP:** In addition to classroom opportunities, students are also encouraged to join the [Technology Student Association \(TSA\)](#). The Photography TSA Club meets after school with Advisers Mrs. Johns and Ms. Kirsch on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

I _____ (printed student name) understand that I will treat all equipment in photography 1 with care. Any equipment I break or lose will be replaced or fixed by me. If I lose or break anything, I will be fined the cost of repairing or replacing the material I used:

\$450 Nikon DLSR Camera Body
\$250 18-55mm Nikon Lens
\$250 55-200mm Nikon Lens
\$40 Camera Bag
\$250 35mm SRL Film Camera Body
\$100 SLR Lens
\$1300 Beseler Enlarger

In addition, I understand that I will receive detention for being disrespectful with class equipment, and that a second infraction will result in a loss of equipment privileges. Furthermore, by signing this document I am confirming I understand the requirements and expectations as listed in this Photography 1 Course Syllabus.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

****This signed page AND paid course fee is due Monday September 9th****