Mission Valley Regional Occupation Program

Digital Photography Course Syllabus

- Course Title: Digital Photography
- Instructor: Eric Stampfli
- CBEDS Title: Arts, Media, and Entertainment
- Date of Revision: August 2023
- Course Length: Year-long two semesters. Five credits each semester, one hour per day

Course Description:
In the MVROP Digital Photography Class we will begin by learning the basics of camera operation and how the photography process works. As we advance, we will focus primarily on storytelling and visual communication and how photography has become such a powerful medium. We will, through a series of lighting demos learn everything from still life and product photography to more complex lighting of people as well as special effects and fine art photography. We will study advanced camera controls as well as using Adobe Lightroom with an introduction to Adobe Photoshop. Through class critiques we will learn how to really look at an image and articulate its effectiveness. We will also discuss the several break away fields of the industry, Producing, Styling, and Retouching.

As an ROP (Regional Occupational Program) course, our examination of photography will be centered on building the technical and professional skills necessary to achieve success in the competitive world of professional photography. Through an examination of various genres of photography; such as photojournalism, advertising, editorial and fine art, we will give each student the skills and an in-depth view into the industry and required knowledge to produce and employ their new found talents in the creation of photographs for commerce and art.
*Please note: Photography is a UC A-G course. Photography is Eligible for college articulation credits.

Course Objectives:
• Develop an artistic voice

• Approach photography from a professional perspective.
• Shoot a variety of subjects in support of a range of visual communication objectives.
• Intelligently light a scene with available, artificial lighting or a mixture of both
• Use digital cameras and lighting equipment at an intermediate to advanced level
• Understand and be able to compose and shoot successful images
• Develop a body or work that illustrates that knowledge
• Perform basic to intermediate post production work in Photoshop and Lightroom

Expected SLO's:

Workplace Basic Skills
• Apply Skills Learned in Class
• Analyze information and make decisions
• Communication verbally and in writing
• Work Independently and as a team member
• Work reliably responsibly and ethically

Career Technical Skills
• Demonstrate occupational competencies
• Use appropriate technology
• Practice Occupational Safety Standards•
• Demonstrate an awareness of how a business and industry functions

Job Employment Skills
• Develop a plan and career goals
• Demonstrate an ability to use what you've learned here in other fields

Grading policy:

Photography assignments and projects	65%
Homework Quizzes and Class Work	25%
Participation and Work Ethic	10%

Classroom Materials:
• 1 USB Jump Drive or external hardrive

Makeup Work/ Late Work: All assignments are due on the assigned due date. Late work will result in a 30% reduction in your final grade. See me if there are special circumstances preventing you from submitting work on time.

Extra Help: I will be available to answer questions and address any concerns you might have after class or by appointment. You can also reach me by email at: estampfli@mvrop.org I will respond within 24 hours during the school week. I will not be available during lunch, unless an appointment is scheduled with me in advance.

Special Certificates and/ or Certifications: Students who receive a "C" grade or better will receive a Digital Photography 1 Certificate of Completion.

Attendance Policy: Mission Valley ROP's mission is to prepare students for employment, and career preparation via post-secondary educational opportunities. Just as in business and industry, where employees are expected to show up on time every day, Mission Valley ROP students are expected to be on time for class every day.

Make-up: Assignments will be given for excused absences only, which include medical, legal or bereavement circumstances. Failure to complete make-up assignments will adversely affect your grade. If you are tardy or miss a Mission Valley ROP class multiple times, you will lose units of credit and your grade will be adversely affected. Be advised that credits are earned by attendance only and cannot be made up.

Any student receiving a first semester grade of D- or lower will be dropped from the class.

Students must arrive on time to class. Talking on a cell phone or having a personal conversation outside the class is unproductive and will be considered a tardy. Tardiness reduces instructional time and is disruptive to the classroom. Tardies may prevent the student from receiving a course certificate.

Classroom Rules and Student Responsibilities:

• Be on time and come prepared **– students must be in their seat when the bell rings and stay in seat unless dismissed for other activities

• Safety and responsibility – In this class you will be working with fragile as well as high voltage equipment, and you will be entrusted with more freedom than other classes. Any behavior that endangers others, school facilities and equipment can result in permanent removal from the class.

• Be respectful – Show respect to your peers and your teacher. This is a community of learners where respect is of utmost importance towards creating a safe learning environment.

• Cellular phones in class–School policy prohibits the use of cell phones in class. However, cell phones are allowed when authorized by teacher for educational use.

• Work together – Group work is a central feature of this course. Cooperation and team work is required to successfully complete certain assignments.

• Restroom breaks ** – Hall passes are required and are subject to teacher discretion.

• Food and drink – Because we work with electronics, food and drinks are prohibited at your table. If you do bring food you should sit at one of the tables in back that do not have electronics on them.
• Note: All students are expected to be familiar with and follow all Mission San Jose High School rules and policies

• Cheating and Plagiarism Policy Mission Valley ROP is committed to preparing students for the workforce. This preparation includes technical skills as well as business ethics. Mission Valley ROP does not condone cheating. Any student caught cheating on an exam or copying work from other students will be given one warning and a failing grade on that assignment. Any subsequent incident will result in failure of the class.

Please note: All submitted photographs must have been taken for the assigned project.

Photo Camera Loan Liability Agreement READ / SIGN / RETURN TO TEACHER Dear parents/guardians and students, this is a Photo Camera Loan Agreement between Mission Valley ROP and the student, parents/guardians. The camera loan policies will ensure the productivity of students during the schoolyear, and allow all students to have equal access to all equipment on a timely basis. Student, parents/guardians are responsible for the equipment at all times it is in his/her possession/on loan (during in class assignments or overnight assignments). Students and parents /guardians, please initial the checklist below indicating that you have read and understand the camera loan policy for the Photo Workshop class.1. _____ All DSLR cameras consist of a camera body, plus a separate lens.2. _____ Student will take good care of the camera on loan: Student will make sure camera does not fall, gets scratched, or damaged while camera is on student possession. 3. _____ If the camera is damaged, student, parents / guardian will cover the costs of parts, repair /labor.4. _____ Student, parents / guardians will replace the camera if it breaks, or it is lost during the loan period. The cost of the camera is the retail cost of the lost/broken camera body, PLUS, the cost of the camera lens (two separate costs). The depreciation cost of the classroom DSLR cameras (body only) range between $300 and $800. Lens costs range from $150 to $1000 (with depreciation). The cost of a POINT & SHOOT Digital Camera is $260.00 (currently in mint condition), the cost of Digital SLR's plus lens is $499.00 5. _____ If a camera is damaged during the loan period, the student must notify instructor immediately.6. _____ Student will return camera on the check-in date. Other students will share the same camera and depend on a timely return. Late check-ins will result in loss of camera check-out privileges. If student will be absent, the parents / guardians must check-in the camera for the student. •1st late camera check-in: Parent call, PLUS Referral. •2nd late camera check-in: Parent call. Referral. LOSS of camera loan privileges for the next photo shoot assignment. •3rd late camera check-in: Loss of camera loan privileges for the year (student will need to provide his/her own camera equipment for the remainder of the year). Parent phone call. Referral.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHECKING OUT A CAMERA.

_____ _____ _____

(Print) Student Last Name, First Name Signature DATE

_____ _____ _____(Print) Parent Last Name, First Name Signature DATE

1) Unit 1:
   Introductory Lesson

   a) Introductions, Course scope and objectives.
   b) Shooting color in a black & white world.
   c) Making Pictures as opposed to taking them
   d) The Digital Sketchbook
   e) Chat GPT Generated artwork

e) It’s not all post. Bring in 8x10 chromes
f) How Film is Made/How a Sensor Works
g) ISO, Aperture, Shutter Speeds

Outcomes:
• Students will understand the primary differences between Digital and traditional Photography
• Students will see how an artist approaches creating an image
• They will learn basic camera controls and understand their uses in the creative process.
• Students will understand the Exposure Triangle and adjusting it for the correct use

Unit 2:

2) Introductory Lesson
   a) Color Temperature White Balance
   b) Types of Light: Ambient, Reflective, & Incident
   c) How a Light Meter works Shoot White Paper and Black
   d) Introduction to the Zone System
   e) Different Types of Metering: Zone, Spot, evaluative
   f) Brackets

Outcomes:
• Students will understand the importance of white balance
• Students will learn the different types of light and how they affect the process
• Students will be introduced to the Zone V and how it affects our captures
• Student will learn the different types of metering and when each is appropriate

Unit 3:

1) Introductory Lesson

a) Manual vs Auto Focus. Controlling focus
b) AI Servo and Focus Lock
c) Processing and Shooting Raw Images
d) Adjusting Tone and Color in Photoshop
e) Cooking images in Lightroom, Photoshop
f) Processing images in Proprietary software and Capture One.

Outcomes:
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• Students will learn the different file formats available as well as ICC Profiles
• Students will take an in depth look at Composition and helpful tools for engaging the viewer
• Learn the different camera supports and when to use.

Unit 4:

1) Introductory Lesson
    a) Learning to control natural light
    b) White Trash Light/Creating our own lighting kits for pennies on the dollar
    c) Studio Strobes
    d) Hot Lights and LED's
    e) Light Modifiers
    f) Using artificial lighting with product and still life
    g) Selections and using PSD for spot corrections

Outcomes:
• Students will learn how to control and modify natural light
• Students will be shown simple and cost-effective home lighting they can make themselves
• Students will be introduced to strobe lighting and using professional light modifiers
• Students will be introduced to product and still life photography

Unit 5:

1) Introductory Lesson
    a) Printing our Work
    b) Working with ICC Profiles and Soft Proofing

c) Color Grading and Presets
d) Displaying our work
e) 8 bit vs 16 bit
f) Building a Web Site: WIX

Outcomes:
• Students will learn strategies for getting good print results
• Students will learn how to use ICC Profiles and how to find and download
• Students will be introduced to Color Grading and Presets
• Students will be instructed how to build a photo site on Wix

Unit 6:

1) Introductory Lesson
    a) Natural Light on People
    b) Fill Light and Modifiers best times of day
    c) Strobe Lighting People Different Light Different look
    d) Lighting Diagrams
    e) Lighting for FX
    f) Green Screen Photography

Outcomes:
• Students will learn how to control and modify natural light with People
• Students will learn the best and most appropriate light for different subjects
• Students will create lighting diagrams and learn to follow them
• Students will be introduced creative lighting effects for people.

Unit 7:

2) Introductory Lesson
    a) Retouching Still Photography
    b) Retouching People and Faces
    c) Retouching Hair
    d) Burning and Dodging for effect
    e) Blending textures into backgrounds
    f) Vignettes

Outcomes:
• Students will learn to retouch still photography
• Students will learn to retouch friends. How much is too much
• Students will practice tricks for improving and adding depth to hair
• Students will be introduced to vignettes to create focus.

Unit 8:
1) Introductory Lesson
    a) Shooting HDR
    b) Creating a Photo Composite
    c) Shooting to size
    d) Selecting and layering in Photoshop
    e) Blending Layers

Outcomes:
• Students will learn how to select individual items in Photoshop
• Students will learn to combine them to tell a complex story
• Students will learn how to work with layer masks and blending
• Students will learn to tell a theme based story

Unit 9:
1) Introductory Lesson
    a) Learn the different rolls within the industry
    b) Computational Photography and the Future
    c) Best settings for Camera Phone
    d) Internal software vs Mini Lightroom and others

Outcomes:
• Students will learn how to assemble a body of images for impact
• Students will learn to design a layout that best highlights them
• Students will create investigate different fields within the industry
• Students will understand the differences between computational and traditional photography and where things are going in the future.

Unit 10:
1) Introductory Lesson
    a) Prepare our work for presentation
    b) Use student and instructor critiques to improve final portfolio
    c) Portfolio Presentation