

# Photojournalism A Syllabus

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## Course Description

Students will learn the basics of 35 mm film and DSLR camera usage. Students will learn the basics of Photoshop as an editing program, film development and darkroom work. They will shoot a variety of assignments, gather caption information, print enlargements and meet deadlines. Some after-school time will be required so that they may cover activities that take place outside of the school day. Success in the course is dependent upon the photographer's ability to produce quality work in a set amount of time. This can be accomplished by any student with a desire to learn and act responsibly.

### Class Fee

There is a \$25 class fee due by Aug. 31. This must be paid through Skyward before cameras can be checked out. Please see me with questions or concerns.

### Resources

Students will utilize the textbook, handouts, websites, videos and more.

### Materials

- One SD card with 2G capacity (SanDisk, Lexar or Promaster)
- One flash drive
- Two-pocket folder for turning in materials
- Notebook or folder for notes and handouts
- One roll of paper towels or box of tissues
- Optional - DSLR camera

## GRADING POLICY

40 percent of the nine-weeks grades will be determined by daily work and 60 percent by major grades. Because this class produces journalistic work deadlines are critical. Each project will have grades for both timeliness and quality.

## MAKE-UP POLICY

In accordance with school policy, you have one day for every day you are absent to turn in make-up work before points are deducted for late work. Tests and quizzes must be arranged with me. It is your responsibility to ask for assignments.

## LATE WORK

Because we operate under journalistic guidelines deadlines are critical to this class. Late work will receive a 10-point deduction for each day it is late. Please make sure to communicate with me if you have extenuating circumstances.

## STUDENT CONTRACT

Students and parents will be required to read and sign a contract outlining expectations for student conduct and responsibility.

# Goals and Objectives

Students will:

1. identify, practice and master basic camera techniques.
  - a. operate different types of cameras, including 35 mm film and digital, and be able to identify their parts.
  - b. learn about various types of light meters and electronic strobes.
2. identify, practice and master effective photo composition and effective lighting.
  - a. apply composition principles including leading lines, framing, rule of thirds, action and center of visual interest.
  - b. students will recognize and utilize various lighting conditions.
  - c. students will learn to effectively crop photographs.
3. use photography for journalistic purposes.
  - a. plan photographs in relation to assignments from an instructor.
  - b. illustrate events with appropriate photos and captions.
  - c. produce a photo essay.
  - d. identify available supplemental services, including web pages, magazines, newspapers and professional photographers.
4. practice and master film processing.
  - a. use chemicals to develop film.
  - b. practice proper darkroom procedures, including use of the enlarger and chemicals for print development.
  - c. practice improving technical qualities of prints.

## PROCEDURES/RULES

- Be on time.
- Students may receive clearance to leave the room to shoot assignments. If this is abused it can be revoked.
- Parents should understand students' liability for any photographic equipment checked out to them. If equipment is damaged, lost or stolen when checked out to them, he/she is responsible for payment.
- Students should understand that there will be times when work outside of class will be necessary in order to complete a shooting assignment. There is always ample classroom time to complete the editing, developing and printing process, if time is used wisely.
- No food or drinks near the computers, into the film developing area or into the darkroom. The possibility of contamination due to the close contact with chemicals makes this an unsafe practice.
- Follow procedure for using photo equipment. Students who use Westlake supplies and facilities to take, edit, develop or print photos that are inappropriate for the school setting will be immediately referred to the assistant principal's office for disciplinary action.
- Clean up after yourself and respect the equipment and work of others.

**“You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved.”**

**-Ansel Adams**