California State University, Northridge
Summer Academic Enrichment Program

Photography & Photoshop

“To photograph truthfully and effectively is to see beneath the surfaces and record the qualities of nature and humanity which live or are latent in all things” – Ansel Adams

Course Overview:
Digital Photography is an introductory course in digital photography. As such, it does not require prior experience using digital cameras or computers. This class approaches digital photography from a practical viewpoint. While artistic elements are discussed, the primary focus of this course is to teach the student to effectively use a digital camera and utilize computer software to make the most out of his/her pictures. The goal of this class is to equip the student with the skills and resources necessary for him/her to successfully capture, edit, and manage digital photos on his/her own.

Course Description:
Class time is spent fulfilling the course objectives found below. Instruction is in the form of brief lectures and demonstrations. The teacher strongly believes that hands-on experience is necessary to learn this material. Because of this, the class is primarily project based, and a substantial amount of class time is allotted for students to work on assignments. During this time, the teacher provides individual assistance to students.

Homework is a critical component of the class because it allows the student to apply concepts learned in class. Homework is assigned periodically throughout the course and typically involves creating ten (10) images with a specified photographic technique or theme. The student is expected to follow the instructions of the assignment and complete it on time.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. Goal: To learn how to operate a modern digital camera.
   a. Objective: Become familiar with the student’s personal camera and learn how to use all of its functions.

2. Goal: To gain a rudimentary understanding of exposure.
   a. Objective: Become acquainted with the three variables that control exposure: shutter speed, aperture, and ISO.
   b. Objective: Achieve proper exposure by choosing appropriate camera settings.

3. Goal: To learn how to create strong compositions.
   a. Objective: Learn classic photography principles and techniques that result in visually-compelling photographs.

4. Goal: To manage a digital photo library.
   a. Objective: Use Apple iPhoto ® or an online photo management service to organize digital photos.
   b. Objective: Sort through a library containing thousands of images by using folders, facial recognition, and keywords.
c. **Objective**: Utilize valuable backup strategies and the importance of redundancy to prevent data loss.

5. **Goal**: To digitally edit photographs using computer software.
   a. **Objective**: Demonstrate proficiency with the basic image manipulation tools in Adobe Photoshop
   b. **Objective**: Master color correction, cropping, sharpening, digital composition, cloning, selections, masks, manipulation, and panoramas.
   c. **Objective**: Display: color correction; digital composition; manipulation; layers; coloration; filters; panoramas; HDR imaging; special effects ...

6. **Goal**: Learn various ways to share their photography with others.
   a. **Objective**: Share photographic images using websites, email, prints, slideshows, and physical albums.

7. **Goal**: Create a portfolio of their work.
   a. **Objective**: Create a collection of the student’s best work and present it to their peers and family members

**Course Materials Required:**
- Digital camera with batteries and memory card
- USB cable for student camera or card reader to import pictures to computer
- USB Drive with at least 4 GB of memory

**Course Grading**

**Homework and Classwork:**
Each student can expect an average of 10-20 minutes of homework each night.
Homework will not require Adobe Photoshop software, but will involve taking photographs and conducting research online.

**Quizzes and Tests:**
There will be no official quizzes or tests as the teacher will be checking in with each child during the class periods to conference with them regarding their individual progress and make sure they are mastering skills. The teacher will use informal assessments. Grades will be based on students participation and ability to meet deadlines as well as progress shown in writing. The final grade for the class will not be a letter grade, but rather a developmental level assigned based on a rubric explained below.

**Grading Policy:**
Students will receive a final score on their essay of either beginning, emerging, developing, capable, experienced, or exceptional.
The student is expected to participate in classroom discussions and to complete all
assigned projects on time. Work is graded for completeness and creativity while following the guidelines of the assignment.

**Absences:**
The student is expected to take initiative and contact the teacher as soon as s/he knows that s/he will be missing class. This will enable the teacher to make arrangements so s/he will not fall behind in the class.

**Computer Supervision:**
The teacher uses a program called “Apple Remote Desktop” to observe computers in the class. This allows the teacher to monitor the progress of the class and rapidly address difficulties that student may encounter. The student should keep this in mind while s/he is working in the computer lab.

**Classroom Behavior:**
The student is expected to demonstrate mature, polite behavior and extend courtesy to everyone at all times:

1. Actively participate, and respectful verbal and nonverbal interaction with all opinions must be shown at all times.
2. Since differing views will be expressed, the teacher and the student(s) will mutually maintain a safe environment for courteous dialogue.
3. Respect is to be shown for all CSUN property.
4. No food or beverages will be permitted in the classroom. Snacks must be eaten outside between the designated breaks.
5. Warnings for behavior / discipline problems will be given once. Any further problems will result in a phone call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and possible dismissal from the program.

**SAEP Electronics Policy**

**Cell phones, music players and headphones are not permitted to be used during class hours.**

a. Please put your cell phone on silent (NOT vibrate).

b. No texting is allowed during class.

You will be given one verbal warning if the above is not followed. Should a second warning be necessary, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held by the teacher until after class. If a third time occurs, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held in the SAEP office and MUST BE PICKED UP BY A PARENT.
Digital Photography

After reading through the syllabus, please sign and date and have your student return it to class. The signature constitutes your commitment to the class as we partner to make the next five weeks a life-long educational experience for your student.

Student/ Parent Agreement:
Please bring this signed and dated Digital Photography syllabus agreement to class along with your required materials (Digital camera with batteries and memory card, USB cable for student camera or card reader to import pictures to computer, and USB Drive with at last 4 GB of memory). Teacher will check for materials and the signed syllabus agreement in order to give participation points for the first week of class.

If you do not understand any portion of this syllabus, or if you have any questions regarding this class, please do not hesitate to email the teacher.

We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Student name ___________________________________________________

Student signature____________________________________________________

Date__________________

Parent/Guardian name _______________________________________________

Parent/Guardian signature_____________________________________________

Date__________________

Phone _____________________________________________________________