



Olympian High School

"Where Champions are Made"

Course Syllabus

Digital Photography
2017-2018



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Digital Photography

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Course Rationale:

This is a one year course that fulfills the SUHSD Fine Arts requirement for graduation. This course also meets the US/CSU "F" requirement.

Pre-requisites:

Understanding of file management on the computer a plus, but not required.

Course Description:

This is a two-semester (one year) course. At the beginning level the basics of art will be covered in the following areas:

- 1) Photography Art appreciation and aesthetics
- 2) Photography Art vocabulary and criticism
- 3) Photography Art History
- 4) Art from different cultures
- 5) Studio art –introduction and development of techniques and skills.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To learn the vocabulary associated with Photography.
- 2) To learn how to appropriately critique works of Photography.
- 3) To explore the nature of creativity.
- 4) To learn to appreciate art from different cultures.
- 5) To develop knowledge of industry work skills and ethics.
- 6) To promote student awareness of art related career opportunities.

Course Goals and Olympian Academic Literacy Plan:

The course goals and objectives reflect R.O.P's goals as well as the Sweetwater Union High School District Content Standards. An emphasis will be placed on developing college readiness skills and this will be accomplished by promoting and supporting the **Habits of Mind and the Academic Literacy Plan** for success in college-level course-work.

Visual Arts Standard 1: Artistic Perception

Students will be able to understand and apply the structures and functions of the elements of art and principles of design. **Building intellectual perseverance** will be practiced persistently in class by pursuing the knowledge required to completely become involved in all aspects of elements of arts which will be evident in discussion, critiques, and in student work.

Visual Arts Standard 2: Creative Expression

Students will be able to understand and apply media, techniques, and processes through creative experiences that **foster problem-solving and reflective thinking** and promote originality, imagination, and creativity. Students in this class will be asked to commit to a strong work ethic by disciplining themselves to the idea of repetitive practice and sustained effort to be evident in their portfolio work that will demonstrate quality, breadth and concentration.

Visual Arts Standard 3: Historical and Cultural Context

Students will understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures. Students will develop **metacognitive** skill in which they will be encouraged to develop **their curiosity** about artwork from various societies, cultures and time periods.

Visual Arts standard 4: Aesthetic Valuing



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Students will choose and **evaluate a range of subject matter (content), symbols and ideas**. Students will be challenged to practice **intellectual humility** by being open minded to other artists and designers points of view and different art movements throughout different time periods.

Visual Arts Standard 5: Reflection and Assessment

Students will be able to reflect upon and assess the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of other artists according to a set of standards or criteria.

Visual Arts Standard 6: Connections, Relations, and Applications

Students will be able to make connections between the visual arts and other disciplines, and apply learning across all subject matters and careers. Throughout the semester students will be challenged to **apply their learned college readiness literacy skills** to a variety of situations and presentations made by the instructor and guest speakers from various art and design fields. College representative will also make presentations in class about possible career opportunities in the field of digital art, design and the fine arts.

College Readiness Skills:

The College Readiness Skills that will be addressed in this course will be: **1) Describing and summarizing** using discipline-specific academic language, **2) Analysis (Comparing and Contrasting)** in order to support inferences and draw conclusions, **3) Synthesis**, in order to develop new insights and **4) Evaluation** according to a set of standards or criteria.

Texts and Materials:

- **The Photographer's Eye: Composition and Design for Better Digital Photos** by Michael Freeman
- **Understanding Exposure: How to Shoot Great Photographs with a Film or Digital Camera** (Updated Edition)

Recommended Student Materials:

- 1 -Three-ring binder with college ruled paper (1" for notes and handouts), or section in binder if using it for several classes. (Art section in binder should be clearly marked with divider for quick access).
- 1 -9x12" Sketchbook, White Drawing Paper (50 sheets are sufficient for entire year, recommend spiral binding, please no newsprint paper).
- Several #2 Pencils, mechanical pencils are acceptable
- A good quality (non-color) eraser.

Optional Items

- A quality pencil sharpener (with canister to catch shavings preferred)
- USB flash drive to save work to. 4 or more gigabytes is suggested.

Art Room/Computer Lab Student Expectations:

This class is a production class that will require you to always behave in a responsible and mature manner. Because of the nature of this class (activity-based) it is important that every student understand and follow the rules and guidelines of this class.

Art Room Responsibilities, Rules and Guidelines

1. **Attendance;** demonstrations of techniques or labs are an important aspect of this class it is good attendance is important as demos are difficult to repeat, some labs will only occur once.
2. On time and prepared with required materials, homework and a positive attitude.
3. **Tardies;** students are expected to be on time every day, the school tardy policy will be followed; 3 tardies or more will result in an "F" in citizenship.
4. **Participation** in class, engage in discussions, critiques, teamwork, and volunteer often.



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5. **Being on task** and self-motivated is very important in this class, because this is an activity class you will have the freedom to move around the room to get materials out, use the sink, cut paper, etc. You should never waste time, or be disruptive to other students by being up and out of your desk needlessly. You will lose your freedom and possibly be dropped from the class if this becomes a problem.
6. **A clean art room** and work area is very important and every one is expected to participate in keeping their work space clean. In addition each week students will rotate clean up duty responsibilities and are expected to cooperate in a positive manner.
7. **Tools and Equipment** are very expensive and require proper care, therefore each student is expected to follow the directions given on the use and proper care of these tools and materials. **Safety rules and procedures are to be followed at all times, no exceptions!**
8. **Absolutely no gum or food in the lab or art room.**
9. **Technology- since we do have computers in the classroom there is a separate lab rules/guidelines sheet that you and your parent will have to read and sign.**

Discipline Consequences

Students are to follow all district, school and art classroom policies to create an environment conducive to learning. The following steps will be followed, although the teacher may skip a step depending on the severity of the infraction.

1. Verbal Warning
2. 10 minute lunch detention with teacher (to begin 15 minutes into lunch hour...after getting your lunch)
3. 15-20 minute detention with teacher/ call home to parent
4. Referral to counselor or Assistant Principal, call home to parent
5. Parent Conference

*If student fails to show up to a detention a referral will be written for follow up with the assistant principal.



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Course Outline, Homework Policy, and Assessments:

- 1) **Lectures**- will be given often. Students will be expected to take notes and make quick sketches of slides or illustrations. Students will use these notes for study and reference during discussion, critiques and self-assessment or reflection.
- 2) **Tests**- There will be a final at the end of the semester that will be a culmination of the entire semester. These will usually include multiple choice, true/false, and fill in written form answers. When art/design history is included slide identification will be used. **All tests and quizzes must be made up within two days of an excused absence.** It is the students' responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor for make-up.
- 3) **Studio Projects**- Are designed to familiarize the student with a particular concept and provide some of the necessary practice to acquire a specific skill. These projects have specific deadlines which must be met to receive a satisfactory grade.
- 4) **Writing Reflections/Journal**- one entry per week. Students will be asked to write about various topics to include self-reflection and analysis of their own work and the work of others. Academic language will be expected.
- 5) **Portfolio Review/Presentation**- will occur at Mid-Term then again at Finals, The mid-term review will consist of a small group of 3-4 student review with the instructor, the rubrics will be given prior to the review. The final portfolio review will be student directed and will allow for participation and critique by the entire class.

Grading Policy: The following factors will be considered for evaluation:

- 1) Quantity of work accomplished (deadline oriented)
- 2) Quality of work accomplished, (was there any growth and development in skills and knowledge)
- 3) Quizzes/tests
- 4) Sketchbook and Journal assignments
- 5) Class participation and cooperation.
- 6) Class attendance and punctuality.
- 7) Category Weights
 - a. 50% Projects
 - b. 20% Tests
 - c. 10% Written Work
 - d. 10% Participation
 - e. 10% Final
- 8) **INCOMPLETE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

Grading Scale: Students grades will be based on their level of achievement as measured through the Visual Arts State Standards.

- A** (90%-100%) **Advanced**- works above and beyond the standards.
B (80%-89%) **Proficient**- meets the standards.
C (70%-79%) **Basic**- Progressing towards meeting the standards.
D (60%-69%) **Below Basic**- Below the standards.
F (59% or below) **Far Below Basic**- Displays minimal to no progress towards meeting the standards.

Student Support

Olympian High School's student support is based on the following beliefs:

1. All students can achieve at high levels
2. Not all students learn at the same rate
3. All learning targets are clear and transparent
4. All assessments/projects meet district standards
5. Deep understanding or higher levels of proficiency are achieved only as a result of trial, practice and adjustments based on feedback and more practice.
6. Students learn more when their school/teacher offers timely, directive and systematic interventions that guarantee them additional time and support when they experience difficulty.
7. Re-teaching and re-assessment opportunities provide student access to mastery (and teaches perseverance).

Students will be supported in this process of this class with access to the computers in room 358 during lunch and before and after school Monday to Friday, and the computer lab in room 211 on Wednesdays during lunch on regular and block days (dependent on teacher availability). On these days there will be a teacher proficient in the applications taught in their class to support the student achievement in the class.



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Students are responsible for keeping all work returned to them until the end of the semester for portfolio review. Any project or paper without a name will only be kept until the end of each grading period, then it will be thrown away. Students are also responsible for having projects completed and turned in at the time it is due. Missing assignments due to technological failure or the failure of equipment on campus (e.g., computers breaking down due to various parts failing, the inability to log into a computer that the work a student has kept their work on, file being erased, etc.)



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Course Schedule

<p>Semester One 7/23rd – 8/15th</p> <p>Introduction to Photography</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. types of Photography 2. Introduction to critiques 3. ISO, Shutter Speed and Aperture <p>Introduction to Photoshop</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Tools <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Hue/Saturation ii. Levels iii. Curves iv. Erasure and magic wand <p>8/18th – 9/12th</p> <p>The Elements of Art</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Line 2. Shape 3. Form 4. Value <p>10/6th – 12/12th</p> <p>The Elements of Art</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Color (two weeks on color) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Color wheel <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Traditional ii. Computer/screen 2. Space 3. Texture <p>Mid Semester Portfolio Review</p> <p>Semester Two 1/12th – 2/20th</p> <p>The Principles of Design:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Balance 2. Unity 3. Contrast 4. Emphasis <p>2/23rd – 3/13th</p> <p>The Principles of Design – Unity, Contrast and Emphasis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Pattern 6. Movement/Rhythm <p>4/13th – 6/5th</p> <p>Art Shows/Competition and Portfolio Preparation and Review.</p>	<p>Academic Literacy Skills 7 – 14th – 8/22nd - Describe</p> <p>8/25th – 10/24th – Summary</p> <p>10/27th – 12/5th – Relate/Apply</p> <p>1/5th – 2/13th – Analysis</p> <p>2/17th – 4/24th – Synthesis</p> <p>4/27th – 6/5th - Evaluation</p>
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