

Photo Portfolio Course Expectations

Art Department | Burlington High School

Teacher: L. Djordjevic

Course Title and Number: Photo Portfolio (525), Semester II

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I. Course Overview

This class is an advanced study of photography that focuses on the building and creation of a photo portfolio. This class provides a more intense study of photography that is designed for students who want to concentrate their artistic and photographic efforts at a more advanced level. We will explore more sophisticated darkroom techniques including pushing and pulling film, split printing, negative alteration, and fiber-based printing. We will also focus on perfecting the print by learning the zone system. Much of this class will be seminar based, with a focus on constructive feedback and implementing personal and visual communication. Students will create an artist statement and execute that idea through their personal portfolio of photographs.

II. Successful Learning

- Respect one another, the classroom, the equipment, and your teacher
- Learn to give—and receive—constructive criticism
- Always ask questions when you are unsure of something
- Learn to enjoy the process of art-making (despite the inherent technical difficulties of photography)
- Don't be afraid to take risks and push your ideas conceptually
- Learn to use your camera lens as your “eye” and as a literal extension of your personal vision
- Make good use of your time—there is always something to do in photography class
- Apply a variety of problem-solving techniques
- Learn to speak clearly about your work and intentions
- Be hands-on—try it out for yourself!

III. Student Learning Expectations

As a student in this course, you will be expected to:

- Employ current technology to investigate, create, communicate, and produce.
- Apply a variety of problem-solving strategies. Photography is a very unforgiving process and you will need to find unique ways to solve photo-specific issues.
- Write effectively in your journal and during written critiques.
- Communicate orally. Find a way to say something constructive about every piece we are critiquing.
- Learn to critically “read” imagery. Images are a different form of expression than writing, but there are significant things being said in any piece of artwork.

- Obtain, evaluate, analyze, and apply data.
- Demonstrate self-control and respect for all individuals. Be respectful of others when speaking about their work, make sure to consider the effect of your statements on others.
- Pursue and participate in modes of artistic and creative expression during every class, every day.
- Exhibit responsible citizenship. This is especially important in the classroom and the darkroom chemistry. Please be gentle with our equipment.

IV. Expected Outcomes

By the completion of the Photography course, successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a substantial understanding of the process of the photographic medium
- Present projects in a professional manner
- Use work to communicate, both visually and orally
- Be able to use the camera (and the photograph) as an expressive tool
- Increase skills in developing effective compositions.
- Demonstrate proper maintenance of tools and materials. Take proper safety precautions.
- Analyze, discuss, and be inspired by the works of other artists (from our own and other times; from our own and other cultures).
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking.
- Exercise self-discipline, self-reliance, and self-motivation.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the roles art can play in your life and in the world.
- Communicate ideas and feelings through art.
- Collaborate on group projects. Help to foster a sense of community and collaboration.

V. Topics/ Content

Main Components:

1. The elements of art and how the principles of design are used to organize them
2. The importance of observation and reflection
3. Famous art, artists, and their historical importance and contexts
4. Visual communication and personal expression

Essential Questions:

What are the job opportunities available for professional photographers? How do I use the traditional camera in a non-traditional manner? How do I build a simple concept into a project? How do I create an artist statement? How do I do a personal edit/critique? What is non-traditional photography?

There will be at least one field trip to an art museum during the year.

This semester, you will be involved with the following topics:

The zone system

Pushing/pulling film

Negative Alteration

Split-printing

Fiber-based printing

Artist statement

Personal critique

Advanced editing process

VI. Assessing Progress

Types of Assessment:

- In-class exercises
- In-class projects
- Homework projects
- Sketchbook/Journal
- Presentations
- Written self-evaluations
- Written peer evaluations
- Midterm and Final Exams
- Critiques (oral communication): critique is possibly the single most important part of the art-making process. Not only does your understanding of your work help to enlighten your peers and myself, but it also helps you to substantiate the work that you have done. There is nothing more gratifying than successfully being able to explain, and defend, the work that you have done. Your participation in critiques is a must. I need to hear your opinion in order to grade you on this portion of the class.

Your grade will be based primarily on the portfolio of work (projects) for the quarter, your journal, class participation, and quizzes.

- *Projects: 60%*
- *Participation: 20%*
- *Written assignments: 10%*
- *Photo Binder: 10%*

Grading Criteria:

You will generally be graded on a combination of concept, design, technical quality, and participation (see the attached grading rubric).

- Research of ideas; concept development
- Technical proficiency of photographic protocol
- Professional presentation
- Comprehension confirmed through discussion and writing
- Class participation (attendance, timeliness, use of classroom time, written responses, oral

communication during critiques)

- Specific criteria for each assignment.

VII. Classroom Expectations

- Timeliness: Get to class on time, hand in work on time, and use your time effectively
- Take responsibility for the condition of your work area and the darkroom
- Attendance: since most of the work for this class is done during class time, attendance is especially noted in grading.
- Remain in the classroom until the bell rings (no wandering outside the door)
- Cell phone policy: cellphone use is prohibited during classtime (except for emergencies). Make sure your phone is set to silent and not vibrate mode and refrain from texting during classtime. Phones may be confiscated for ignoring this policy.

The rules in the student handbook apply.

IX. Plagiarism

No form of cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. For any infraction of cheating or plagiarism (including the first), the student will receive a zero on the assignment or assessment, and parents/guardians will be notified, as per the student handbook. The definition of plagiarism is “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own.” Please note that plagiarism includes all forms of stealing words or ideas – no copying from books, web sites, or each other.

Although art seems to exist outside of this topic, within this class your work must be your own. This means that I will not accept a photograph that has either been taken by (or printed by) another student. In addition, artwork is to be unique and original. Images produced by others (drawings, paintings, even photographs) are the property of those artists, and obviously cannot be claimed as your own. There are special circumstances that govern the use of “appropriated images”, and these we will discuss as issues present themselves, but before you turn in a project that includes them. In general, use of “pre- existing images” (those not created by your own hand) will not be tolerated.

VIII. Homework/Make-up Policy

Some assignments that are done outside of class may be categorized as “homework.” When this is the case, proper time should be given to complete the project and equipment turned in within the allotted timeframe.

Because of the nature of a studio course (where most of the work is completed during class time), if a student misses class for any reason they should check in with me to get caught up on what they missed and will still be responsible for the assignment (which will usually be on-going).

You will likely not be given extensions for work missed due to family vacations outside of the school calendar.

IX. Technology Policy

Students should refer to the acceptable use policy in the student handbook regarding

technology. The iPad should only be used for taking notes during lectures or during Instagram voting time. In addition, games and social networking apps are **not permitted during class time**. Cell phones are not permitted to be used in the classroom unless approved by the instructor. If you cannot handle having your phone or iPad on your person, it will be dropped in the **device daycare** box located on my desk.

X. Additional Information

Please feel free to contact me at school: the best way to reach me is by email (djordjevic@bpsk12.org) but you can also reach me by phone at 781.270.2912.

I can usually be found in one of my classrooms—room 219 or the darkroom—or in the connected art studios, mac labs, and office. If you are looking for me after school, I am usually in room 219.

What you will need:

Students are expected to purchase some course supplies (likely \$30-\$40 in the semester to print the final portfolio), and they are encouraged to provide their own 35mm SLR and/or DSLR camera if possible.