

# DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Grade 9-12 elective

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will help you become well rounded in the fundamentals of digital photography. Five areas of instruction will be emphasized: principles of photocomposition, lighting and flash, controlling your camera, problem solving, various tips and techniques specific to different kinds of photography, post-processing using Adobe Photoshop, and exploring careers in photography. Projects and activities are specifically designed to help you gain experience *making* pictures and not merely *taking* pictures. This is a hands-on oriented class where you will apply what you learn from classroom instruction and demonstration to real-world situations including but not limited to portraiture, landscape, action, still life, architectural, macro, and fine art photography.

## EXPECTATIONS:

**1. ARRIVE ON TIME AND BE READY TO WORK:** Class begins and ends on time. Please be in your seats ready to begin the warm up activity with the bell. Use work time productively. Bring everything you will need to use your work time productively.

**2. DO MORE THAN BELONG...PARTICIPATE:** You can make this class more interesting by seeking out and sharing new insights into photography. Please participate! Ask questions! We are all on the path to becoming better at photography; *no one is smarter than all of us—please share your thoughts with us.*

**3. REACH OUT TO OTHERS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT:** Titans love, respect, and protect one another. Please participate in a courteous manner. Raise hands, listen to each other, keep an open mind, and refrain from belittling the views of others. Part of becoming a better photographer comes from seeking outside opinions and critiques. Fruitful discussion and critiques require a safe learning environment where one can express any idea without fear of being put down or callously criticized. This doesn't eliminate debate or disagreement. On the contrary, in a respect-filled environment, productive discussion, debate, and disagreement can occur without harsh words or hurt feelings. We must remember that it is good to challenge ideas and receive constructive criticism for growth in photography, but it is wrong to assault someone's ideas or work. Seek to understand others and afford them the same opportunity to learn. **In other words, be a team player.**

**4. HAVE A GREAT ATTITUDE THAT OTHERS WILL CATCH:** You can choose each day your attitude. Attitude can make all the difference. Refrain from moaning and whining. Have a can-do attitude. Part of your evaluation will include your willingness to embrace to explore each exercise and activity.

**5. LEAVE THINGS BETTER THAN YOU FOUND THEM:** Part of community is to make it a better place. Our room is a busy place all day; please help keep the room ready for the next class. Please take special care of the equipment that we are entrusted with so it will be ready for the next student and will last us years to come.

## SUPPLIES:

It is my goal for you to leave Digital Photography with an Introductory "cookbook" that will keep you interested and exploring digital photography for years to come, maybe even a lifetime. With that said, you will benefit from having the following:

- Binder (1") or folder with plenty of paper.
- PPLD Library Card Number and Pin (For free access to [www.lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com))
- Access to Microsoft onedrive using your D20 login ([ld@msa.asd20.org](mailto:ld@msa.asd20.org))

## **RULES OF CONDUCT AND CLASS PROCEDURES:**

As part of this class, you will have greater access and opportunities to be outside the classroom in order to complete specific projects and/or activities...this puts you in greater view of the rest of the school. It is therefore that much more important to use your time wisely and follow the school rules. Others will report to me the good, the bad, and the ugly... so don't lose the privilege of working outside the class. Here are some guidelines for leaving class:

1. Ask permission to leave and sign out. Be ready to show your work upon return.
2. 15 minute check ins
3. Go with a buddy and be in plain view at all times
4. Check out and in with security when exiting the building
5. Cameras don't go where privacy is expected (locker rooms, bathrooms, etc)
6. You cannot pull other students out of other classes.
7. Junior high and the Elementary campuses are off limits.

Any behavior or circumstance, not explicitly covered by the above, will be dealt with according to the guidelines found in the school handbook. Such items include the dress code, persistent misbehavior, and any other matters that may need attention throughout the year.

## **LEGALITIES AND SAFETY.**

Be careful of what and where you shoot. This probably goes without saying, but you are expected to follow local, state, and federal laws to complete your projects. Especially since September 11<sup>th</sup> in the US, people can sometimes get freaky when they see someone shooting photos outside their building...also as a general rule you're probably taking your chances any time you shoot pictures of government buildings, airports, military bases, etc. Gain permissions ahead of time to shoot photos on private property or to use a tripod in locations where prohibited (like museums, aquariums, public buildings, etc). You should also avoid any risky behavior that puts you or others in harm's way. *The bottom line, if your work reflects something that was clearly dangerous, immoral, or against the law, it won't be graded.*

## **PLAGIARISM:**

Turning in work (including photos) that is the work of others is plagiarism and will be subjected to established high school policies for plagiarism that may include receiving no credit for the assignment and/or a referral to administration.

## **PHOTOS.**

The Classical Academy retains the right to use any photos created and submitted in fulfillment of a requirement for the Digital Photography class in any of the school publications (i.e. yearbooks, newspaper, newsletters, website, etc), either electronically or in print. The same photos may also be retained and used for educational purposes in future Digital Photography classes. Photos of non-TCA minors (friends under 18) require their parental consent for use in projects.

## **GRADING.**

Points will be earned in a number of ways—the majority coming from completion of assignments, projects, quizzes, participation, and maintaining a portfolio of your work. Generally, you can take the number of points you earn and divide by the number of points possible to figure out your grade.

## **EQUIPMENT USE.**

As part of the class, you will have to use expensive equipment such as cameras and/or computers to complete assignments. You and your parents will have to sign an agreement accepting responsibility for any checked out equipment that you use. **You may also use your own equipment – and I can lock it up during the school day if you chose to use it here.**

## DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY – CLASS RESPONSIBILITIES ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FOR \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print your name)

Please sign and return by \_\_\_\_\_.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (Please both students and parents initial each)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ I understand the expectations of me in the digital photography class as they are contained in this syllabus and I agree to follow the guidelines of the class including the policies and procedures for leaving the classroom to complete coursework.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ I have read the **Journalism Equipment Contract** and understand that I will be working with specialized equipment and will be held responsible if equipment is lost, broken, or damaged while checked out under my name. Repair and/or replacement fees may be levied in the event of damage or loss due to negligence or abuse of the equipment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**EQUIPMENT SURVEY:** Because school equipment is limited and there is a great interest in the class, please indicated if you son/daughter has access to the following equipment at home. Your completion of this equipment survey will assist me in planning for the class. Thanks!

*Check all that may apply...*

\_\_\_\_\_ DSLR Camera. If so, what model? \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Specialty lenses and/or filters for the DSLR camera?

\_\_\_\_\_ Standard Camera or Cell-Phone Camera.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adobe Photoshop or Lightroom software

\_\_\_\_\_ Tripod

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# JOURNALISM EQUIPMENT CONTRACT

The TCA owns fairly expensive cameras and other specialized publications equipment ranging from \$200.00 to \$1,000.00. Students are expected to be responsible for school-owned equipment used for class: digital cameras, lenses, film cards, batteries, card readers, scanners, camera bags, computers, etc. It is imperative that we ensure the safety of our equipment to make sure that our program can run smoothly.

## **These rules apply to use of a journalism camera or other equipment:**

- All equipment is to be transported in appropriate cases.
- No school equipment is to be left in the student locker, backpack, or automobile.
- Checkout of cameras and other equipment is for ONE 24-hour period unless approved in advance by the adviser.
- **Equipment must be returned to Mr. Lahn by 1<sup>st</sup> period.**
- Should damage occur to the equipment or some part of the equipment be lost, the student will incur responsibility for repair or replacement of the equipment. Camera repairs typically begin at \$150.00 per/item.