

# Middle School Photography: Course Syllabus



## Middle School Photography

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

"A picture is worth a thousand words."

Photographs play an important role in our world today. We photograph to preserve memories, document events, and create artistic works. This course introduces students to the basics of photography, including camera functions and photo composition. Students will learn what it takes to create a good photograph and how to improve photographs of animals, people, and vacations. They will also begin working with their photographs using photo-editing software. Through a variety of assigned projects, students will engage their creativity by photographing a range of subjects and learning to see the world through the lens of their cameras.

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### *Unit 1: Introduction to Photography*

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Define photography.**
- \* **Discuss the early history of photography.**
- \* **Discuss how cameras work.**
- \* **Discuss how to transfer images from a camera to a computer.**

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b>Introduction to Photography: Photography Project #1</b>	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
<b>Introduction to Photography: Review Assignment #1</b>	<i>Homework</i>	15 points
<b>Introduction to Photography: Discussion Question 1</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<b>Introduction to Photography: Discussion Question 2</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<b>Introduction to Photography: Unit 1 Quiz</b>	<i>Quiz</i>	10 points

### ***Unit 2: Meeting Your Camera***

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Discuss the basic functions and features of point-and-shoot cameras.**
- \* **Discuss some of the common risks to digital cameras.**
- \* **Discuss how to care for your camera so that it will continue to work effectively.**

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b>Meeting Your Camera: Photography Project #1</b>	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
<b>Meeting Your Camera: Photography Project #2</b>	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
<b>Meeting Your Camera: Review Assignment #1</b>	<i>Homework</i>	10 points

Meeting Your Camera: Discussion Question 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Meeting Your Camera: Discussion Question 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Meeting Your Camera: Unit 2 Quiz	<i>Quiz</i>	10 points

### *Unit 3: Choosing a Subject*

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Understand some of the differences between good photographs and great photographs.**
- \* **Discuss the purpose of photographs.**
- \* **Discuss the elements of art and design.**

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

Choosing a Subject: Photography Project #1	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
Choosing a Subject: Photography Project #2	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
Choosing a Subject: Discussion Question 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Choosing a Subject: Discussion Question 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points

**Choosing a Subject:  
Unit 3 Quiz**

*Quiz*

10 points

***Unit 4: Elements of Composition***

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Learn about different ways to focus photographs.
- \* Define and discuss the *rule of thirds*.
- \* Understand and use the technique of *framing* in photographs.
- \* Discuss portrait and landscape orientations of photographs.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b>Elements of Composition: Photography Project #1</b>	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
<b>Elements of Composition: Photography Project #2</b>	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
<b>Elements of Composition: Discussion Question 1</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<b>Elements of Composition: Discussion Question 2</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<b>Elements of Composition: Unit 4 Quiz</b>	<i>Quiz</i>	10 points

***Unit 5: Backgrounds & Foregrounds***

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Define *foreground, middleground, and background.***
- \* **Learn how framing (from Unit 4) can be used in the foreground of an image.**
- \* **Discuss some of the problems that can occur in foregrounds and backgrounds. These problems can affect the quality of a photograph.**
- \* **Study some of the techniques and methods that can be used to draw attention to the subject of the photograph.**
- \* **Discuss how using the foreground, middleground, and background can add depth to a photograph.**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b>Backgrounds &amp; Foregrounds: Photography Project #1</b>	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
<b>Backgrounds &amp; Foregrounds: Photography Project #2</b>	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
<b>Backgrounds &amp; Foregrounds: Photography Project #3</b>	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
<b>Backgrounds &amp; Foregrounds: Discussion Question 1</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<b>Backgrounds &amp; Foregrounds: Discussion Question 2</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<b>Backgrounds &amp; Foregrounds: Unit 5 Quiz</b>	<i>Quiz</i>	10 points

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.**
- \* **Take a course exam based on material from the first five units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)**

**ASSIGNMENT:**

<b>Middle School Photography Midterm Exam</b>	<i><b>Exam</b></i>	<b>50 points</b>
<b>Midterm Discussion Assignment</b>	<i><b>Discussion</b></i>	5 points

***Unit 6: Managing & Editing Photos*****Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Discuss the common file types used to save digital images.**
- \* **Discuss the advantages and disadvantages (good and bad points) of different file types.**
- \* **Discuss the importance of photo management.**
- \* **Discuss common photo-editing functions.**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b>Managing &amp; Editing Photos: Photography Project #1</b>	<i><b>Homework</b></i>	25 points
<b>Managing &amp; Editing Photos: Photography Project #2</b>	<i><b>Homework</b></i>	25 points
<b>Managing &amp; Editing Photos:</b>		

Discussion Question 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Managing & Editing Photos: Discussion Question 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Managing & Editing Photos: Unit 6 Quiz	<i>Quiz</i>	10 points

### *Unit 7: Vacation Photos*

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Discuss how to prepare to photograph a vacation.
- \* Identify some common vacation photographs.
- \* Discuss some of the problems that people have when photographing vacations.
- \* Discuss tips for improving classic vacation photographs.
- \* Think about how to use these vacation photograph tips in your hometown.

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

Vacation Photos: Photography Project #1	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
Vacation Photos: Photography Project #2	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
Vacation Photos: Discussion Question 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Vacation Photos: Discussion Question 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points

**Vacation Photos:  
Unit 7 Quiz**

*Quiz*

10 points

***Unit 8: The Wild Side***

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Identify common problems found in photographs of animals.
- \* Discuss some tips for taking better animal photographs.
- \* Discuss how to photograph birds.
- \* Discuss how to photograph pets.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**The Wild Side:  
Photography Project #1**

*Homework*

25 points

**The Wild Side:  
Photography Project #2**

*Homework*

25 points

**The Wild Side:  
Discussion Question 1**

*Discussion*

5 points

**The Wild Side:  
Discussion Question 2**

*Discussion*

5 points

**The Wild Side:  
Unit 8 Quiz**

*Quiz*

10 points

***Unit 9: Photographing People***



**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Discuss how lighting can affect photographs of people.
- \* Discuss tips for improving images of people.
- \* Identify some of the pros and cons of posed and candid photographs.
- \* Discuss self-portraits and how to create unique self-images.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Photographing People: Photography Project #1	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
Photographing People: Photography Project #2	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
Photographing People: Photography Project #3	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
Photographing People: Discussion Question 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Photographing People: Discussion Question 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Photographing People: Unit 9 Quiz	<i>Quiz</i>	10 points

***Unit 10: Photographer Etiquette & Display*****Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Define photography.

- \* Discuss the early history of photography.
- \* Discuss how cameras work.
- \* Discuss how to transfer images from a camera to a computer.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Photographer Etiquette & Display: Review Assignment #1	<i>Homework</i>	20 points
Photographer Etiquette & Display: Photography Project #1	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
Photographer Etiquette & Display: Discussion Question 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Photographer Etiquette & Display: Discussion Question 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Photographer Etiquette & Display: Unit 10 Quiz	<i>Quiz</i>	10 points

***Middle School Photography Final Exam*****Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- \* Take a course exam based on material from units six to ten in this course – the last five units. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

**ASSIGNMENT:**

Middle School Photography Final Exam	<i>Exam</i>	50 points
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**Class Reflection Discussion  
Assignment**

*Discussion*

10 points

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