Photography 1 — 2022-2023 Spring — Fred Kral — The Marin School

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Course Description

This class is an introduction to a wide range of topics in photography. The creative process and the making of digital images for the arts form the core of the course. Students are guided to hone their skills in producing impactful images, usually digital. On the technical side, students practice the operation of digital cameras and basic lighting techniques. They learn how to use digital editing techniques to enhance and alter their images. Students share and discuss their photography work frequently. Through visual aids and discussions, students gain familiarity with the critique process. Students explore the historical and contemporary art of photography as an effective form of communication used by professionals and non-professionals alike. Assignments demonstrate mastery of technical skills and creative expression. Students complete major projects. They regularly present and exhibit their work beyond the classroom.

Major Topics

After an introduction to the elements of art and the principles of design, the course surveys types of photography. The major topics are the *Art of Photography, Still Life Photography, Portraits, Landscapes/Architecture, Action Photography, Photojournalism, and Commercial Photography*. The Artistic Processes (see Assessment), including technical skills, are woven into the course. Students give input on what topics we study as a class and they choose their individual concentration in later projects.

Textbook, equipment, software, etc.

- Joyner, Hermon, Kathleen Monaghan, *Focus on Photography*, Second edition (2016). Optional.
- Laptop computer or the equivalent. Required.
  - *Chromebook:* A school Chromebook is mostly workable, but not a complete solution. Talk to the IT director or the teacher about how to proceed if you don't have a laptop.
- iPhone. Required.
  - *Android smartphone:* Talk to the IT director and the teacher about (1) borrowing an iPhone or (2) figuring out how an Android phone can be used to participate.
- DSLR camera or the equivalent. Required. School will lend 1 Canon DSLR per student (or 2).
- SD Memory card for the DSLR. Required. School has 1 MicroSD card/student to lend out.
  - *If lost, this is a sample replacement:* SanDisk Extreme Pro SDXC Card or MicroSDXC card with Adapter, $15 for 64GB.
- Smartphone to SD card reader Required. School has 1 card reader/student to lend out.
  - *If lost, this is a sample replacement:* Lightning to SD Card Camera Reader for iPhone, $10
- Halide Mark II - Pro Camera app for iPhone. Subscription, $12/year. Required.
  - *Android camera app:* Find an app with raw files, manual exposure & focus, macro.
- VSCO.co online photo editing and sharing account. Subscription, $30/year. Required.
- Adobe Lightroom Mobile installed on your smartphone. Use school Adobe ID. No cost. Required.
- Adobe Creative Suite/Photoshop installed on laptop. Use school Adobe ID. No cost. Required.

Assessment

The Artistic Processes: • *Creating* - Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work; • *Presenting* - Interpreting and sharing artistic work; • *Responding* - Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning; • *Connecting* - Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context (societal, cultural, and historical); are evaluated through the below assignments and their assessments.	Approximate percentages (course is graded using unweighted total points)
In-Class Work, Attendance, and Process: • *Making it:* (–2 points/absence beyond the first five) (–1 points/tardy beyond the first five). Tardy deductions apply after breaks and work outdoors. • *Joining in:* Practice safety first, always; Follow Handbook rules; Put away devices, except when required. Getting lost in off-topic device activities means not being present. If remote, camera on & follow remote rules. • *Working with:* Contributing positive energy and interest level during in-class work including discussing, using online resources, working on projects, using notes, reflecting, practicing, caring for equipment, taking and editing photos, sharing, producing art, participating in critiques, developing studio habits, photo assisting for other students, being photographed (if you agree), and volunteering during class. Students are expected to talk about art and photography every class and to share their work with other students visually and verbally. Assessed informally. Earned by students who joined in.	~30%
Products and Other Work: • **Homework completion:** explicit assignments, ongoing photo taking outside class, capturing ideas in written and photographic form. • **Beyond class**: Students are asked to take photos at TMS events and for the Yearbook. Students help with exhibitions, e.g. the Festival of the Arts. • **Activity/Assignment product completion:** small tasks, explicit assignments, weekly routine. • **Quizzes**: correctness of written responses.	~20%
Projects, Presentations, Exhibitions, Online Publishing, and Portfolio: Quality of images, written and graphical information, and delivery.	~30%
Final Assessments	20%
Commitment to learning: Taking on what is challenging to you, getting help, communicating with the teacher, engaging with the material, dedicating yourself to art, taking personally meaningful notes. Assessed informally.	If it raises course grade (worth no more than 15%)

Expected School-wide Learning Results (ESLRs):

1. Self-reliant learners. 2. Self-directed individuals. 3. Critical and creative thinkers. 4. Effective communicators. 5. Responsible members of society. The components of this course prepare students for achieving these results as part of their academic and non-academic education.

Safety policy

Only use equipment when and as instructed.

Safe learning environment policy

Each of us is responsible for creating a safer, more inclusive learning environment. Bias or discrimination do occur, whether intentional or unintentional. It is important that students and adults address unfairness and hostility on the basis of identity. All faculty and staff are committed to maintaining a safe and diverse campus where we can all be our authentic selves.

Equipment care policy

Please keep track of your own and the school's equipment. Care for its operation and maintenance. Follow the specific borrowing and care instructions explained elsewhere. Leave borrowed equipment in a better condition than you found it.

Late work policy

If you talk to me before an assignment is due, you can get an extension, though repeated instances may result in no extension given. Because I enter grades once per week, you can usually get credit for late or partial work up to that weekly deadline. Students can rework major projects as many times as needed until each grading period ends to demonstrate mastery of learning goals *as long as a satisfactory version of the project was turned in on time*.

Smartphone, computer, and device policy

Devices are not allowed in class, except by explicit permission to do class work.The more our work in this class involves devices, the larger responsibility you have to stay on track. Know that it is against the class and school policy to work on tasks that are not assigned or directly related to the course. When we use online platforms, you must follow the rules for that platform. Using technology to interact with anyone who is not in the class is not allowed. The Marin School supports the responsible use of technology. Always follow the rules of our school. See the Parent and Student Handbook.

Integrity

I encourage groups. As long as all of you contribute, you may work with others—not just students—unless instructed otherwise.
In the arts, you are encouraged to research and explore the styles of various artists when developing their own work. Make it your own and change it up to ensure your own personal voice shines through. Do not submit the work of others as your own. Cite references and follow the rules of this video: [Creativity, Copyright, and Fair Use](#).   When interacting online, practice the rules of TMS and of the platform you are on. Follow the guidelines of all online platforms that we use like Adobe and VSCO. See the Parent and Student Handbook for more information on integrity at TMS.

Please connect and let's have fun! — Fred