

## Photography 1 Syllabus, Spring 2018

**Dearest friends, photographers, and Vikings** – in electing to join our merry band of shutterbugs, you are committing yourself to high expectations and our rockstar code of honor. You may in turn expect certain things of me and the class. The following outlines what this class is about and what it requires.

**Class Purpose:** to further your capacity to create and appreciate photography and art; to help you build a strong work portfolio; and to enable you to compete in arts contests and gain entry to the arts program of your choice. **Inglemoor hosts the Washington State High School Photo Contest every year. Last year we WON it.** We're here to compete.

**Learning:** In complete two billion percent alignment with the Essential Academic Learning Requirements of mad scientists, artists, rockstars and Washington State (<http://www.k12.wa.us/Arts/Standards/pubdocs/VisualArtsStandards.pdf>), you lucky people will learn the following:

- The fundamental principles of cameras, optics and image capture
- How to ~~not look like an idiot when taking photos~~ competently use cameras to achieve your vision
- How to be responsible and take care of equipment so you live happier, richer and longer lives
- How to look for good images (not of your feet, traffic signs or the flowers in your yard)
- Art elements and design principles to help compose good images
- Various techniques to process and refine images
- How to discuss aesthetic and technical aspects of photography
- How to use observations, notes, critical thinking and reflection to improve your work
- How to print and mat your work for professional display and sales
- A taste of photo history and the work of photographers past and present

### Requirements for success:

- **The time, creative effort and ability** to get up, get out and find or *make* interesting subjects to photograph. The real work and learning of this class is done outside of classtime. The best equipment, technique and intentions will not save a dull last-minute subject, just as the best musical instrument and score will not sound good if you don't practice playing it. This is a performance class, just like band – everyone in class will see your work, and you will be representing Inglemoor in public competitions. You want your images to stand out as work you can be proud of.
- **Perseverance.** Try try again. Expect to reshoot lots as you build up your portfolio.
- **Notes.** Pay attention – listen, watch, read and write down, because you're going to have to retain a lot of info. Document your own processes. Handouts are good references that will help you – *if you use them*.
- **Bring your photos to work on every day.** A flash/thumb drive is extremely helpful for digital images.
- **Contribute to class discussions and critiques.**
- **Respect** – for each other and our work, and for equipment, classroom, and time we share.
- **Play team.** Share your thoughts and work, work together, don't disrupt others, and be responsible for the cleanliness, safety, care and maintenance of our class environment and equipment.
- **"Everyone needs deadlines"** – Walt Disney.  
If you miss a deadline due to absence, check with me upon your return to discuss a reasonable timeframe for submitting your work. Some deadlines you must meet even if you are or have been absent, no matter what – notably the gallery & museum visit deadline and the final portfolio deadline. If you have any legitimate concerns, talk to me when they arise, not on the due date. See those dinosaurs? Do you want to feel like them? No, you don't – trust me.  
(Some words of this comic have been changed to protect the innocent.)



**Final due date for gallery and museum visits (10% of grade):  
Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> in my inbox or shared via Google Drive by  
midnight. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Grades:** available on the school website and updated every week or two.

- ≈ **50% Proofsheets (photograph assignments):** You are required to take 24 photographs per week pertaining to the current assignment to earn a C score; for an A you simply don't stop until you've got some good solid photos and effort to show. Photo assignments may be redone or added to up to the final deadline to increase success and scores. Due at the start of class on the due date. **Late = -15%**. Past final deadline, 0.
- ≈ **15% Portfolio:** based on the quantity and quality of your best photos, both in taking and editing them.
- ≈ **5% Perfectly matting two of your best prints**
- ≈ **15% Class participation:** Pay attention and use your class time to learn and work on photography. This grade will drop if you're distracted (e.g. on your phone), distracting, disruptive, or wasting time.
- ≈ **5% Written assignments**
- ≈ **5% Fine Art Museum visit** – see below
- ≈ **5% Fine Art Gallery visit** – In Inglemoor art courses, you must show enough interest and initiative to do some learning on your own, in the form of visiting **BOTH** a fine art gallery **AND** a fine art museum. Pay attention to the visit form guidelines! Early (in by Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>) +5%. **ABSOLUTE LAST DAY ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT: FRIDAY June 8<sup>th</sup>** (HINT: be safe and get them handed in earlier).
- **I have no burning desire or time to drop everything and work harder to grade and enter late assignments to make up for your procrastination. If your privileges depend upon your grades, get things in on time.**

#### Time Management:

- If you are tardy, in order to avoid an unexcused absence **that I will never change**, you must turn in a slip of paper with your name written clearly on it, as well as the time you entered class.
- Sign out **and** let me know when you need to leave the room. Failure to sign out/in, 15+ minutes out of class, or cutting out before the bell rings will count as an unexcused absence.
- Absences: You are responsible for finding out what assignments etc. you missed – check online, check with friends, check with me.
- This is a working photo studio, not a café – it's for learning amazingly cool photography, mostly through the **ongoing process** of examining, discussing, shooting and processing photos. There's no such thing as "I'm all done", "not enough time", or study hall for other classes' homework. Sitting around chatting, playing on the computers or standing by the door for the last five minutes of class is not acceptable.
- Wasting time on your phone etc. is highly recommended if you want to fail at life (and photo). So unplug. Tune in. Live a little larger than a 5" screen. Learn how to make a beautiful big fat print that will never run out of battery power.
- A photo studio is not a playground. Throwing things, horseplay or mindlessly abusing equipment will earn you fabulous extra school time opportunities, possible fines, and take a chunk out of your grade.

**Cheating** will be dealt with according to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#). This includes (but is not limited to):

1. Turning in work that is not completely your own and done within the course of the class. Photos taken prior to the start of the course are not accepted for assignments (but may be entered in contests.)
2. Faking or helping someone fake a gallery or museum visit; copying responses from someone else's visit form; going with someone else and choosing the same artwork to talk about and collaborating on responses.
3. Cheating on quizzes and copying other's work – duh.

#### Classroom Photo/Video Notes:

1. We will all take a thousand silly photos of each other while figuring this photo thing out – expect to be photographed. However, sharing or publishing photos or videos taken during class without the subjects' approval is a poor idea. Play nice.

#### What you can expect from me:

- I will be in class on time, ready to instruct.
- I will treat you with respect and listen to your concerns.
- I will be fair, and help and encourage all I can.
- I am by nature a good-humored person. (In my own imagination? In my own tyrannical and ruthless way?) IF you let me continue to be so, I will now and then bring cookies or some such. The things I have no tolerance for are wasting time, throwing things, unsafe or bullying behavior, stealing and vandalism, cutting out of class early, and being under the influence of drugs. Sorry if this cramps your style, but deal with it.

**→Info For Adult-Type Units Pestered For Money And Signatures:****Required Fees & Materials:**

- **→ YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR OWN CAMERA.** The school has little in the way of loaners. Your main camera should be a camera if at all possible: not a camera-phone, iPod, etc. (though these may be used in addition to cameras). Talk to me ASAP if this is a concern so we can determine whether this class will be a good fit.
- **→ A required \$40 class fee** for the basic costs of processing, printing and matting photos. Please make checks payable to Inglemoor High School or IHS. You can also pay online (<https://www.nsd.org/Page/32181> - on the Inglemoor homepage, hover over the Parent menu tab and click on the Cashier/Payments link).
- **A card reader** is cheap and essential for saving your photos onto a computer/hard drive at home.
- **A thumb drive/portable storage device** is super-handy; the bigger the better.
- **→ Required Outside of Class Activity** (besides shooting photos): Visiting **both** a fine art gallery **and** a fine art museum is worth 10% of the class grade. Students have until June 8<sup>th</sup> to turn in the assignments, which will not be accepted beyond this point for any reason. If you/your student has a busy schedule, figure out opportunities now.

**→ If your student is behind, do not ground her:** instead, throw her out of the house with a camera and make her go on a photo adventure.

**→ Know more than your student wants you to!** ParentVUE (<https://siswebpv.nsd.org>: there's a link under the Parents tab on the Inglemoor homepage) is your one-stop shopping center for gradebook, assignment, calendar and class info for all your student's classes. A lot of new tools this year should make it super-useful. My website ([flieschool.com](http://flieschool.com)) also has all the resources you/your student needs for my classes.

Having been pestered with looking over and signing many of these forms myself, **I THANK YOU** for taking time to help your student and myself make this the best class possible.

Sincerely,  
Rob Flye

Questions, thoughts and brilliant ideas always welcome.

The fine print: People lacking the energy to get out of the house and look for awesomeness should get their game on before taking photography. Taking notes will help prevent you from looking stupid. Photography can be ridiculous filmy-wilmy timey-wimey-eating fun; there is no known cure. Tip #1: Give yourself room to learn – like any sport or musical instrument, making photos of worth takes practice. Not thoroughly cleaning up after yourself can lead to bad cleanup karma, where you will be cursed to clean up 1000x more later in life for each little thing you neglect now. (The funny thing is, you think I'm kidding). Take good care of your photo gear and it will take good care of you; take good care of your parents' and my photo gear and you will live longer. Meet photo deadlines, or basically – run. Tip #2: Your life, this class, and your photography will only be what *you make* them – what you want, *work to make*. Ignoring fine print is known to make photo students anatidaean in the Ooduckowania Prime star system. Keep shooting. You may at first think that this class is taught by a madman with a box, but there's something you'd better understand. It's important, and one day your life may depend on it: I am definitely a madman with a box. Oh, and p.s.? – I'm totally going to use you as my little test subjects – bwa-ha-ha . . . . .

**Photo Equipment Check-Out Contract**

**Purpose:** To help provide you a richer learning experience, the school and teacher have invested in equipment for you to use and in some cases borrow. You must demonstrate respect for others' property, take responsibility for its care, and abide by the policy below to help ensure fair and continued access to resources. There is no magic budget of other peoples' money to repair or replace items damaged, lost or stolen due to you. You have to understand that if you let something happen to equipment in your charge, the repair or replacement money will come out of **your very own pocket**. Hopefully being aware of this will make you careful enough to prevent problems from arising.

**Contract Rules:**

1. **You assume personal liability for the safe and prompt return of all checked-out equipment.**
2. **All equipment checked out for after-school use is due back the next class day by classtime. Failure to comply will result in a suspension or loss of check-out privileges and may incur fines.**
3. If equipment is checked out to a group of students for a class exercise and damaged, etc., if no one student is determined responsible then the whole group will equally share the burden of repair/replacement.
4. Equipment is to be used only by you (or your class group at school).
5. Keep gear clean and dry, and handle with care – it is not waterproof, shockproof, etc. Avoid taking gear to beaches without the teacher signing off. Use extra caution with equipment in areas with dust, sand and/or water – especially saltwater. Do not take equipment out in canoes/boats (WA state ferries are okay).
6. Use the neck or wrist strap on cameras to help prevent dropping them, and keep lens caps on when not in use.
7. **GENTLY CLIP lenscaps in place** – do not try to shove them onto a lens like a cork into a bottle.
8. Do not lose lens caps or other small items!
9. **Do not try to force buttons, levers, knobs, or other parts on equipment!**
10. Do not try to clean delicate sensors/lens surfaces or try to repair equipment; these actions often make things worse.
11. Take cautions to prevent theft. Avoid leaving gear in lockers, cars, or anywhere unattended. If gear is stolen or otherwise lost/destroyed due to others, you must file a police report or take other appropriate action to help make them held liable, rather than you. Students have had gear stolen from their cars and had to pay – don't let it be you!
12. Use common sense.

**Replacement and repair costs:** usually run over \$100 for cameras & lenses (sometimes *far* over) rather than under.

**Failure to comply:** If after one week the equipment is not returned or replacement/repair of damaged/lost items is not underway or paid for, and contacting you and your parent/guardian has produced no results, a police report will be filed. Overdue, lost or damaged equipment that is not promptly returned and paid for may also result in loss of credit, withheld grades and diplomas.

**I reserve final say on loaning out my personal property, and may not check out more expensive items without students first demonstrating trustworthiness with their own gear or less expensive items.**

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**Syllabus Signature for photography classes: Please sign, get signed and cut off/return** this section to show that both you and your parent/guardian understand the requirements for success in this class as outlined in the syllabus and agree to abide by the equipment check-out contract.

I and my parent/guardian realize the value of the photography equipment used in class and offered for loan. By signing this, I and my parent/guardian agree to promptly pay for any damages (excluding only normal wear) that occur to equipment while checked out to me, and to pay replacement costs as necessary if equipment is damaged beyond repair, lost, or stolen, no matter what the reason or circumstance. I further agree to do my utmost to repay my parent/guardian as soon as possible if my parent/guardian has to cover the cost of my damages.

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Per. \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_