

Photography 1 Syllabus, Fall 2019 (Clean Radio Edit)

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. If you're smart you'll keep this so you know what's up.

Class Purpose: to further your capacity to create and appreciate photography and art; to help you build a strong portfolio; and to enable you to compete in arts contests and programs of your choice. Oh yeah – and to have fun.

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

- The fundamentals of cameras, optics and image capture
- 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 deal with setbacks, problem solve, and persevere to improve your process, work ethic and 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 class time. 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 competition. You want your images to stand out as work you can be proud of.
- **Perseverance.** Try try again. Expect to photograph and re-photograph lots as you build up your portfolio.
- **Pay attention.** Pull your head out of your phone and watch; listen. It will make your life way easier.
- **Bring your photos to work on every day.** A flash/thumb drive is extremely helpful for digital images.
- **Respect** – for each other and our work, and for equipment, classroom, and time we share.
- **Contribute to class discussions and critiques.**
- **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.

I have no desire or time to drop everything and work harder to grade late assignments to make up for your procrastination. If your privileges depend upon your grades, get things in on time. Grading late work, *if* I decide to give some credit for it, is at the very bottom of my pile of things to do. See those dinosaurs? Do you want to feel like them? No, you do not. Trust me – I've been there. (Some words of this comic have been changed to protect the innocent.)



BE SAFE: If it is not yours, don't mess with it. If you don't know what it's for or what it does, don't mess with it. If you don't know what chemical it is and its proper use and handling then DO NOT EVEN THINK ABOUT TOUCHING IT IN ANY WAY. Photo equipment is neither cheap nor idiot-proof, and ignorant and unsafe handling of chemicals can cause long-term health issues, fire, burns, blindness and even death. THIS IS A PERFECTLY SAFE STUDIO, but again, nothing is idiot-proof. Be careful. Do not be complacent about safety.

Grades: Be prepared to accept the consequences of your actions, attendance, and inactions. If you care about your GPA, your effort should show it.

- **≈ 50% Photograph assignments:** You are required to take a minimum of 24 photographs per week pertaining to the current assignment to *potentially* earn a C score; for an A you don't stop until you've got some good solid photos and effort to show. Photo assignments may be redone or added to until the end of the semester 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. **I often do not enter this grade unless it is different than the current overall grade** and I want parental-type peoples to have a warning, and you to realize (and fix) the error of your ways (or benefit from all the work that you've done that's not showing up yet in the gradebook).
- **≈ 5% easy written assignments and maybe some quizzes.** (Quizzes are mostly extra credit!)
- **≈ 5% Fine Art Museum visit AND 5% Fine Art Gallery visit** – In Inglemoor art courses we ask you to go out and see art in person, in the form of visiting **BOTH** a fine art gallery **AND** a fine art museum (two separate places). One visit is due by Tuesday November 12th and the other by Friday January 10th. If you get them both in by 11/12 then you will get +10% for both. Late = -50% credit!
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Time Management:

- **If you are tardy**, in order to avoid an unexcused absence, 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 even a few seconds before the bell rings will count as an unexcused absence.
- **Absences:** Check online, check with friends, check with me to find out what you missed.
- 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. Unplug. Tune in. Live a little larger than a 5" screen. Learn how to make a big beautiful print that will never run out of battery power.
- **Viking Time** is a chance to get help, get in a little more studio or lab time, and enjoy a little more photo awesomeness before you have to go back to your Muggle classes. There might even be snacks.
- A photo studio is not a playground. Throwing things, horseplay or mindlessly abusing equipment will earn you fabulous extra school time opportunities, possible (scary large) 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.

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 (and I will use run-on sentences and small fonts to fit words on a page).
- I am (was?) by nature a good-humored person (in my own tyrannical, draconian, ruthless way). IF you do not cause me grief, 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.

IF YOU DO NOT EARN A PASSING GRADE OR THE GRADE YOU WANT by the end of the semester, and are not a Senior in your final semester, you have the opportunity to change your grade. Contract with me for the work you need to do to earn your desired grade, do the work when you can, and then turn it in. When you have shown that you have earned a better grade I will do the necessary paperwork to change it on your transcript.

→ Info For Adult-Type Units Pestered For Money And Signatures:

Required Fees & Materials:

→ **YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR OWN DIGITAL CAMERA.** The school has very little in the way of loaners. Your main camera should be a camera if at all possible, and not a camera phone. Camera phones are getting better all the time, but are no fun to learn with and pose challenges. If you intend to take the class using only a camera phone, **YOU MUST BE ABLE TO DOWNLOAD FULL RESOLUTION IMAGES TO A COMPUTER.** Do not think you can do this – TRY IT OUT AND MAKE SURE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

→ **A \$40 class fee** for the basic costs of processing, printing and matting photos and is due Friday September 13th. Please make checks payable to Inglemoor High School or IHS. Your student/you can also pay online (<https://inglemoor.nsd.org/resources/payments>).

→ **Know more than your student wants you to! ParentVUE** (there's a link under the Resources tab on the Inglemoor homepage) **is the main way I communicate student progress**, and is your one-stop shopping center for gradebook and class info for all your student's classes. **I strongly recommend you check regularly.**

→ **My website (flieschool.com)** has the handouts and resources needed for my classes. If you ever want to know what's going on in classes, what the assignments are, etc., go there.

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.

→ **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.

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 anataidae 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. **Failure to return equipment or to bring it to class when needed 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, idiot-proof, etc. Use extra caution with equipment at beaches and in areas with dust, sand and/or water – especially saltwater. Do not take equipment out in canoes or small boats.
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 lens caps 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.

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 and safety 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 _____