



## Course Overview

This independent AP class is a studio based visual arts class encompassing digital photography and related software applications (Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop). Students enrolled must show a high level of motivation, independence, and ability to work on their own, both in and outside of class. The advanced level of this class means students will be learning college foundation-level artwork while in high school.

Students are required to investigate the three aspects of the AP portfolio, which includes *Quality*, *Breadth*, and *Concentration*. Students will experiment with concepts and decision making in order to demonstrate a mastery of a large range of technical abilities, problem solving skills, and idea formation. Principles of design, articulated through the elements of art, help guide students through the decision-making and visual communication process, and these principles will help students develop a personal style and voice in their photographs. Thinking and articulating ideas both in writing and in verbal critiques or discussions with the teacher and peers is another class component.

## Portfolio Sections

1. *Quality* - 5 examples that show a student's very best photographic work. Evidence is shown of high technical quality, composition, idea formation, and craftsmanship. These photographs can be chosen from class assignments as well as personal projects. The photographs do not have to have a theme or be connected in any way.

In the quality section, photographs should be:

- consistently of high quality
- imaginative, inventive, and show confident articulation of the principles of design
- accomplish the use of the elements of design guided by the principles
- composed with a purpose
- obvious evidence of thinking
- fairly complex with visual or conceptual ideas
- technically correct
- engaging and show experimentation or risk taking

2. *Concentration* - 12 examples that illustrate a student's individual interest united by an underlying theme, depth, and artistic concern. Photographs should show evidence of personal growth and discovery as the student explores a theme, concept or idea that is meaningful to him or her. It is important that this be a theme that is chosen early in the school year and investigated for a long period of time.

3. *Breadth* - 12 examples of 2D design not directly related to the student's concentration. These should document the student's experience with a variety of concepts and approaches that demonstrate his or her abilities with techniques, problem solving, and ideation. These photographs should show an understanding of the principles of design, which are: unity/variety, balance/emphasis/contrast, rhythm, repetition, proportion/scale, figure/ground relationship.

## Essential Skills

The student will:

- Identify, analyze, and apply criteria for making visual judgments
- Create photography that engages the viewer
- Use Lightroom or Photoshop to edit photographs
- Use Photoshop to alter and retouch photographs
- Analyze and explain how the principles of design make a photograph successful

## **Class Activities**

Based on the AP scoring guidelines, the students will view past portfolios and determine a possible 1 through 5 score. The College Board website will be introduced, and students will view sample portfolios. Class activities include:

- Identify works of art that stimulate or engage the viewer
- Analyze and practice techniques and styles of photography
- Critique photographs based on composition, subject matter, and technical skill as an individual, with groups, and with instructor
- Identify and emulate successful photographic strategies
- Identify works of art that inform or sell products
- Identify works that communicate or record events, stories or history
- Explore alternative strategies for artistic expression

## **Major Assignments**

- Idea journal
- Photographer presentation
- Levitation photographs
- High and low key photography
- Long exposures
- Block poster
- Abstract photographs
- Diverse spaces photo series
- Quality of light
- Ambiguity photography
- Dreamscapes
- Typography Poster
- Mood photography
- Story telling
- Breaking the pattern
- Ironic juxtaposition
- Emphasis by placement
- Emphasis by color
- Surrealism photography

## **Plagiarism/Ethics**

Plagiarism is the copying of another person's ideas and artwork. In essence, it is stealing and violating the right of the artist who created the work. Photography especially demands that one avoids appropriating any image off the Internet. Using a collection of various images as inspiration, copying from reference photos the artist has taken himself, significantly altering the original so it becomes uniquely the student's without violating the original artist's rights, or using something in a satirical or parodying manner are not copying/plagiarism.

The goal of this class is for the student to develop his or her own unique imagery through direct observation, research, personal exploration, and feedback from others. The assigned class projects allow the student wide latitude in decision-making, choices, and themes to help ensure the student develops his or her own ideas and style in photography. As an advanced college level class, the student should use his or her own experiences and views in creating a singular creative expression through visual art.

## **Classroom Expectations**

You are expected to follow the three classroom rules:

1. Be respectful - Respect instructor, fellow students, equipment, and classmates' photographs.
2. Follow directions - Listen to the instructor or read the instructions. If you have a question about Photoshop or Lightroom, ask two neighbors before you ask the instructor.
3. Stay on task - Listen when you're supposed to be listening. Work when you're supposed to be working.

Failure to meet these expectations for the first time will result in a warning, the second time in a loss of participation points, and the third time parent notification. The instructor will also follow the school's attendance policy, tardy policy, and other rules

## Grade Breakdown

A	93-100%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%
B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	Below 60%

## Grade Weight

Homework 40%      In-Class Assignments 30%      Participation 20%      Quizzes 10%

## Assignments

1. Homework assignments are broken into 3 parts: (1) assignment is 60 points, (2) idea journal is 10 points, and (3) on time is 10 points. Assignments can be redone to earn more points.
2. Assignments will be turned in digitally on the school network.
3. In-class assignments are never late, but I stop giving time in class to work on them.
4. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you must turn it in the first class period you are back to avoid it being late.

## Participation

10 participation points will be given each day of class; 3 points for being in class, 2 points for being on time, and 5 points for staying on task and working. You can make up participation points by coming in before or after school to work on assignments.

## Quizzes

Occasionally, quizzes will be given to assess your knowledge on photography principles and techniques that have been covered in class. Missed quizzes may be made up before or after school.

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## Due the second day of class.

STUDENT NAME (please print) I, \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

have read Mr. Lewis's disclosure document and understand and agree to abide by the rules, policies, and procedures outlined.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of student)

## PARENT OR GUARDIAN

I have read Mr. Lewis's disclosure document and understand the rules, policies, and procedures outlined.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of parent or guardian)

Comments or concerns?