

Photography A

ROOM
Classroom
Name

Teacher: XXX

Email: XXX

Email: XXX

Welcome to Photo A! Get ready to see the world through your own lens. In this course, you will learn how to using a DSLR camera to explore how exposure triangle settings creatively enhance design principles, elements, and composition techniques. Through hands-on projects, you'll develop both technical skills and creative thinking. Discovering how photography can tell powerful stories and express ideas. You'll also learn to enhance your photos and strengthen your visual storytelling using Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop. As a bonus, take advantage of opportunities available through SkillsUSA to showcase your talents and grow as a photographer.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

You'll learn to think like a photographer, making creative decisions with purpose, solving problems visually, and communicating meaning through every shot.

- Design Elements, Design Principles, Composition Techniques, Exposure Triangle settings
- Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop Basics
- SkillsUSA Essential Elements
- Problem-Solving Skills
- Creative Planning

CLASS NORMS

- **We Own Our Work and Voice:** We take pride in our creative choices, use our time wisely, and recognize that our ideas have value. Our work reflects our effort, thinking, and growth.
- **We Bring Our Unique Vision:** We respect and celebrate different styles, ideas, and perspectives. Photography and design are stronger when everyone shares their creative voice.
- **We Show Respect in Every Interaction:** We treat classmates, work, and equipment with care. We give helpful feedback and support each other as artists and learners.
- **We Think Before We Speak and Share:** We consider: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? Our words and actions build a positive, focused, and safe creative space.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- **Be Present and Engaged:** Put your phone away and focus on learning. Explore new concepts and find meaning in your work.
- **Communicate Clearly and Often:** Ask for help when you need it. Share your ideas and actively participate.
- **Create and Submit Your Best Work:** Use class time wisely to develop your skills. Turn in work, even if it's not perfect because progress matters.

**OUR
LEARNING
SPACE**

Our classroom is a shared creative studio, and how we care for the space, and each other, helps everyone succeed. Here's what helps keep us focused, productive, and respectful:

- **Assigned seats support accountability and care.** Assigned seats help with attendance, equipment care, and consistency.
- **Only water near computers.** Food and drinks should stay clear of tech areas to protect our gear. If you have recently eaten, please wash your hands at the sink before using the computers.
- **Honor our norms and expectations.** Treat everything, and everyone, in this space with care making choices that are guided by our norms and expectations.

**HOW
PROJECTS
WORK**

In this course, projects guide you through a fun and flexible process that helps you build skills and express your creativity by:

- **Exploring:** Explore skills and participate in activities to spark your creativity.
- **Planning:** Use brainstorming and writing to organize your thoughts to plan your photoshoot. This helps you turn your ideas into a clear plan.
- **Capturing:** Bring your plan to life by using your DSLR camera to take photos. This is your chance to practice technical skills and show your unique lens.
- **Creating:** Use Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop to edit your photos and make them shine. Some projects even invite you to create a photo series, like telling a story with multiple pictures!
- **Reflecting:** Helps you grow and prepares you for even more exciting projects ahead.

**HOW
CANVAS
HELPS YOU
ALONG
THE WAY**

Canvas is your go-to spot to submit work, find directions, and stay organized. Projects will be organized as modules with the following as part of each module:

- **Project Overview:** Is your project roadmap and has all the important details and links for each project.
- **Explore Activity:** Explore concepts, gain additional skills, and explore background info to inspire your creativity.
- **Creative Launchpad:** This is where you brainstorm and plan your photoshoot, think of it as your creative workspace.
- **Unfiltered Uploads:** This shows off your camera and technical skills before editing.
- **Polished Photos:** Bring your ideas to life using Adobe Lightroom and/or Photoshop then upload your edited photos or photo series.
- **Reflection Activity:** An activity to think about your work, explain your choices, and plan how to use your new skills in future projects.

**SUPPLIES YOU
WILL NEED**

Please bring a USB drive with at least 16GB of memory and an SD Card with at least 32GB of memory.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

In this course, grades reflect your growth as a photographer, not just what you finish, but how you think, plan, and work through creative photo projects using standards-based rubrics that are available on Canvas. Parents and students can review grades in ParentVUE/StudentVUE by clicking the “Grades” link on the bottom of the Canvas Home Page. Grades are cumulative for each semester with progress reports reflecting current performance through grades updated every two weeks. In addition to notes in StudentVUE/ParentVUE, students will receive feedback through Canvas, class activities like Gallery Walks, and self-reflection.

GRADEBOOK NOTES

The following notes are added to the gradebook assignments to support student accountability and ensure clear communication:

- **ICNS (In Class Assignment, Not Submitted):** The assignment was worked on during class but was not submitted when we completed the submission process as a class. A 15% late penalty applies.
- **ICNSX (In Class Assignment Not Submitted, Closed):** The final deadline for submission has passed. The work is no longer being accepted, and students will receive 45% of the points available for the assignment.
- **AB (Excused Absence Extension)** The student has and excused absences near the due date and has been granted additional time to submit without penalty.
- **ABL (Excused Absence Extension, Late):** Work was submitted late following an excused absence extension. A 10% penalty applies.
- **ABX (Excused Absence Extension, Closed):** The final deadline for submission has passed. The work is no longer being accepted, and students will receive 45% of the points available for the assignment.
- **ET (Extended Time):** The student has additional time based on a timely conversation with the teacher and/or documented IEP/504 accommodations with no penalty.
- **ETL (Extended Time, Late):** The assignment was submitted late after an extension was granted. A 10% penalty applies.
- **ETX (Extended Time, Closed):** The final deadline for submission has passed. The work is no longer being accepted, and students will receive 45% of the points available for the assignment.
- **PL (Plagiarism):** Indicates a violation of the academic integrity policy. A first offense results in a 75% penalty and the opportunity to redo the assignment. A second offense leads to a referral.

GRADE WEIGHTS

- Creative Projects: 45%
- Technical Skill Development: 30%
- Essential Elements: 15%
- Midterm/Final Exam: 10%

IEP & 504 PLANS

Students with IEPs/504s will be supported per their plan, including chunked assignments, extra time, notes on Canvas, and one-on-one support.

AI & PLAGIARISM POLICY

You are expected to create and submit original work that reflects your own thinking and creativity. This includes:

- Using your own ideas in writing and design work
- Citing inspiration appropriately when referring to others' work
- Completing all assignments without the use of AI tools, online design generators, or copying from other students or sources

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Whether you're catching up after an absence, need help during a project, or want to check on expectations, I'm here to support you. Here are the best ways to stay on track and stay connected:

- Need to turn in late or absent work? Email the assignment to me.
- Need help understanding something? Ask in class, sign up for tutoring using the Canvas link, or email any questions to me.
- Just came back from being absent? Let me know in class or by email so we can review what you missed, setup deadline extensions, and make modifications to assignments if needed.
- Looking for directions, rubrics, or support tools? Check Canvas first, everything is posted by project (module).
 - Don't see what you're looking for? Ask in class or email me so I can help right away.

Complete Your Syllabus Acknowledgment: Please complete the Syllabus Acknowledgment on Canvas to confirm you've read and understood the expectations, grading, and support systems in this class. This helps ensure we're all starting the year connected and ready to succeed.

RECOMENDED RESOURCE

Students are encouraged to join SkillsUSA to enhance their experience in this course through leadership training, competitions and career exploration opportunities. Membership includes access to local, state and national events that help students build real-world skills and connect with industry professionals.

How to Join SkillsUSA:

- Membership sign-ups will take place during class in the first month of the semester.
- A one-time membership fee may apply (information will be provided by your teacher).
- Students who join will receive updates on local chapter meetings, events and opportunities to compete or lead.

For more information, visit skillsusa.org or ask your teacher.