

Napa High School  
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*Our vision is to transform lives and instill lifelong learning. To actualize this vision we are committed to three goals:*

*Prepare all students for college and careers.*

*Provide equitable access and opportunities.*

*Instill 21st century skills.*

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This AP Photography (Studio Art 2D) is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of photography and wish to develop mastery in the concept, composition and execution of ideas. AP Photography has been developed to accommodate serious photography students who have expressed an interest in completing the Quality, Concentration, and Breath sections of the class. **This class is not based on a written exam; instead, students submit portfolios and evaluations at the end of the school year to the College Board.** Through building their own portfolios, students will experience a variety of concepts, techniques and approaches designed to help them demonstrate their abilities as well as their versatility with techniques, problem solving and ideation. Students also will develop a body of work for the Concentration section of the portfolio that investigates an idea of personal interest to them.

#### **COURSE PREREQUISITES:**

Students must get an A/B in both Photography 1 AND Photography 2 to be in A.P. Photography. A rigorous portfolio must be passed, which includes students work throughout their time in their Photography classes and need to be as prepared as possible in order to pass their portfolios.

#### **COURSE GOALS:**

- Encourage creative and technically mature work for the Quality, Concentration and Breath sections of the portfolio
- Emphasis on marking art as an ongoing process that involves the student in informed and critical decision making to develop ideation
- To develop technical versatility and skills while using the elements of art and the principles of design in compositional forms
- Encourage students to become independent thinkers who will contribute inventively and critically to their culture through the making of art
- Promote a sustained investigation of all 3 aspects of portfolio development - Quality, Concentration and Breath in photography (2D) throughout the course

#### **THE PORTFOLIO PROCESS:**

This portfolio is intended to address two-dimensional (2D) design issues. Design involves purposeful decision making about how to use the elements of art and principles of design in an integrative way. The principles of design can be articulated through visual elements. They help guide artists in making decisions about how to organize an image

on a picture plane in order to communicate content. Effective design is possible whether one uses representational or abstract approaches to photography. For this portfolio, students are asked to demonstrate understanding of 2D design through any two-dimensional medium or process, including, but not limited to, graphic design, digital imaging, photography, collage, fabric design, weaving fashion design, fashion illustration, painting and print making. Video clips, DVD's, CD's and three-dimensional works may not be submitted. However, still images from videos or films are accepted. All work must be the students own creation from thought through the execution of the pieces. Installing and pushing each student's artistic integrity in their work. Students need to show they have matured in their content and can create work that is solely their own ideas and images. Using any work from the internet and or magazines is not allowed or tolerated and will be treated as plagiarism. Students may reference ideas and use such work to get their ideas started but never create a piece of artwork from something already printed. There is no preferred (or unacceptable) style or content. Students will create and develop a cohesive concentration, exploring a single visual concern in depth. Students will also provide and present an outline of their specific coherent plan of action or investigation, growth, and discovery involved with their compelling visual concept to the class.

## **PORTFOLIO ORGANIZATION:**

This AP Photography course addresses three major areas (24 pieces total). These can be from any four years of high school (during your time in Photo 1, 2, 3 or Yearbook).

**Quality (5 best pieces from either section)**

**Concentration (12 cohesive pieces on a particular visual interest or problem)**

**Breadth (12 pieces that best showcase your talent)**

In the Concentration section, students develop a body of work that is derived from a planned investigation of an idea that is of personal interest to them. Ideation may be developed in any media or process. Students will use informed decision making and problem solving skills in an ongoing process to develop and select the 12 pieces of work for their concentration.

In the Breaths section, students will experience a variety of concepts and approaches to demonstrate their abilities and versatility with techniques, ideation and problem solving. This course teaches a variety of concepts and approaches in both digital and film photography so that students are able to demonstrate a range of abilities and versatility with technique, problem solving and ideation.

## **HOMEWORK:**

As in any college level course, it is expected that students will spend a considerable amount of time outside the classroom working on the completion of assignments. Ideas for projects or solutions to problems should be worked out through their AP Photography Journal both while in and outside of class. The journal is an essential tool in recording ideas, capturing visual information, working on compositional issues and just for artistic fun. Journals will be due every Friday.

## **EXHIBITIONS / COMPETITIONS:**

AP Photography students are encouraged to participate in exhibitions and competitions. At the end of the school year, students will organize their own exhibition of their works in our Spring Show. Details about this exhibition will be provided towards the middle of the second semester.

## **ASSIGNMENTS / EVALUATION:**

Assignments that are open ended in nature and that explore a variety of approaches to design are made during the first semester. Assignments have end dates. Students should make every effort to complete their work on time, however, there may be circumstances that cause extensions on due dates. It is important that students have a discussion with the instructor if work is going to be turned in late or they will miss a critique. Work is evaluated in progress and in the finished states through critiques with the instructor and peers at the end of each grading period. The instructor is available to work on one on one basis to provide feedback to each individual's unique work. It is important for students to learn how to analyze and discuss their own work and the work of their peers. Assessment of student work is based

on aesthetic value, assignment directions, neatness and genuine effort, originality and creativity and use of materials. Vocabulary of art, elements of art, principles of design will be discussed by the instructor and will be used by the students on a regular basis to practice verbal communication about the students own artworks as well as the artwork of their peers. Throughout this course, students will receive individual mentoring regarding the selection of pieces for the portfolio sections. Individual and group critiques will ensure an understanding of the scene of pursuit in visual problem solving. Open dialogue will ensure production of high quality pieces relevant to the sections of the portfolio. The AP Photography rubric, which is distributed separately, provides the grading criteria. Also, various written assignments are given in reference to artists-topics we study. These may be short response or a research paper. Various art videos are incorporated in the Breath assignments such as the PBS series: Art21 and Art in the Twenty-First Century.

## **BREADTH:**

### Section III: Breadth

Twelve images needed of twelve different works; no duplicate images are permitted. Works emphasizing the elements of art (color, space, shape, form, value and texture) and the principles of design (movement, pattern, unity, contrast, balance, emphasis and rhythm). Media can include graphic design, typography, digital imaging, collage, photography, 35mm black and white film, and or darkroom print making techniques.

#### Suggested Breadth Projects

All works must be of the students own creation no duplication of images found are allowed. Plagiarism IS NOT tolerated. Students must show personal integrity by creating original works from beginning ideas to finished concept. The twelve works demonstrating must be a variety of concepts, media, and approaches. Possibilities for works could include...

- Abstract from urban environment
- Design related to psychological, historical or narrative events
- Landscape, wildlife, aerial, sports/action, portrait, architectural, wedding/event, fashion, macro, baby/family, still life photography.
- Redesigning an everyday object with humor
- Self-portrait with a spin
- Redesign a current logo or product image
- Lettering and type design
- Poster design with literary or conceptual associations
- (travel, national identity, sports, endangered animals etc.)  
CD, album or DVD design
- Design a deck of cards
- Graphic designs for school theater productions, year-books and so on
- Composition based on art historical research  
Story or poem graphic illustration
- Game board and game pieces
- Digital altering or layering of photographic images to present multiple perspectives of an image or idea
- Research online for other ideas

## **SUMMER WORK:**

To put together a professional portfolio from your summer photographs. We'll have time to gather these together in August, but the photographs need to be taken during the summer. Consider your prior photography knowledge of composition, elements of art & principles of design and so on. Plan on taking a variety of photographs, they can document your summer; if you need extra inspiration for creativity, go to a museum, gallery, art openings, hikes, restaurants and so on. Let the beauty of our area inspire you to think of photography in alternative ways. \*\*\*Students enrolled need to see Mrs. Palmer before the last day of school to get more details on the summer work.\*\*\*

## **GRADING POLICY:**

Assignments will be placed in the following school wide essential learning outcomes through Echo

- Knowledge & Thinking = 40%
- Agency = 25%
- Written Communication = 20%
- Collaboration = 10%

- Oral Communication = 5%

The grading scale is as follows:

A + = 97% - 100%	B + = 87% - 89%	C + = 77% - 79%	D + = 67% - 69%	F = 0% - 59%
A = 93% - 96%	B = 83% - 86%	C = 73% - 76%	D = 63% - 66%	
A - = 90% - 92%	B - = 80% - 82%	C - = 70% - 72%	D - = 60% - 62%	

### **KNOWLEDGE & THINKING:**

Major assignments will include all shooting & Photoshop projects, typically two to three weeks in length. This proves that students took their knowledge & thinking of the major projects to create a final piece/pieces of artwork.

### **AGENCY:**

This category deals with work ethic, participation & professionalism. Are students prepared, add to class discussions and take their due dates seriously?

### **WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:**

After each major project, students will be completing typed formal critiques for all major assignments through the steps of art criticism. Daily notebook writing will also be counted under written communication.

### **COLLABORATION:**

Any group and / or partner work will be counted under this category. Students are expected to have an even work load and prove that they can work with their classmates to complete their shared work.

### **ORAL COMMUNICATION:**

Daily notebook discussions will fall under this category; everyone will have their names randomly picked then volunteers will have their chance to talk about our photo of the day. Some critiques will be also be verbal, also which will follow the steps of art criticism. Any group or individual presentations will also be under oral communication.

### **EXTRA CREDIT & LATE WORK:**

Extra credit will be available a FEW times during the school year and will only be available to students to have NO missing work, it is a way to make up for a low grade, not to reward students who haven't finished their work. Extra credit will be added into the Agency category of the student's grade.

Late work will be accepted through out the semester, but points will be continuously be deducted until complete. Here is an example of the late scale... Total points = 100, Late = 90, After Progress Report#1 = 80, After Progress Report#2 = 70, End of the Semester = 60. Late work will be accepted without penalty as long as it is due to an excused absence or pre arranged & approved with me before the due date.

### **ATTENDANCE & TARDIES:**

Napa High School's policy is to be followed, 2 tardies is a detention. It is very important for students to be to class on time. School is their job and being late to "work" will have consequences. If students are more than 15 minutes late without being excused, it will result in an absence for the period. Attendance will also be retaken before the end of class on days when students go outside to take photos. If you're mysteriously missing, you'll be marked absent for the whole period.

### **SEATING CHART, DEVELOPING SINK, DARKROOM & COMPUTERS:**

Seats will be assigned, which can be changed at anytime. Being in your seat on time determines your attendance,

if you aren't in your seat when the bell rings; you are tardy (see tardy policy above). The developing sink, darkroom, and computers (desktops and Chromebooks) need to be shared by all students, if you aren't working on a Photo assignment, then you aren't allowed to use any of the classroom resources mentioned above. Remember, 36 students on average need to share these areas so, be respectful not only of other students working, but also the equipment itself (because it is OLD and expensive!). There will be frequent days when students will be encouraged to bring their own devices (laptop & tablets) for class usage; keep in mind these are education tools and will be used during class time for class work & not personal usage (otherwise devices will be taken away as a consequence).

## **MATERIALS & DONATIONS:**

- ALWAYS bring all assignments to class, whether they are works in progress or already graded (they can be stored in your storage drawer)
- A 1-subject spiral notebook dedicated to Photo & not any other class (for daily notebook writing and note taking which is collected at the end of each progress report)
- Writing utensils (blue or black ink pens, pencils, etc.)
- 35mm camera supplies (camera, film, batteries, photo paper, portfolio etc.) as needed
- Digital camera supplies (camera, memory card, batteries, cords, etc.) as needed if digital photography is chosen during the 2nd semester
- Suggested: Money for film (\$1.00 for each roll of film) & photo paper (\$5.00 for a pack of 20 sheets) and various props for assignments when necessary. Thumb drive or digital storage (such as Dropbox) additional storage when using digital photography
- Access to your Photo Journal at all times (will be worked on through Google docs)

There is a SUGGESTED yearly lab donation of \$30.00 for this course if students decide to use film. This needs to be paid by Friday September 8th, 2017. Cash and checks are accepted (checks can be made out to Napa High). You need to pay in the activities office during their regular office hours and let them know it is for your Photography class. Keep your receipt and show it to me so I can keep an accurate count. The amount can be split into \$15 each semester if requested.

**Film:** Covers all required processing chemicals & use of the darkroom

**Digital:** Covers unlimited access to my high quality photo printer & paper (it is important to print out works in progress for critiques)

**Both:** Covers sheet protectors to keep your prints looking their very best & a binder

## **CAMERA POLICY:**

As part of the class, students can mix and match with film and digital, depending on their desired outcome. Students may keep the camera at home and just bring in the film and/or memory card, but it is their job to get the film to school! AP students will be expected to manage their time wisely and plan on using their cameras often for homework during the week and weekends. I do have five 35mm cameras that students can check out for up to 2 days after signing a contract and going through the checking out process. We will have a day where students can bring in their cameras and I can answer more specific questions. If students already have a camera at home & you aren't sure if it will work, bring it to class on our designated camera day and I will take a look at it. **It is important that all AP students have immediate access to their camera of choice for their first assignment since this will be a high volume shooting class.**

35mm Camera Requirements:

- Must use 35mm black and white film
- Students must have all camera accessories (film, batteries, & attachments, etc..) for their cameras

Digital Camera Requirements (only applies to the 2nd semester):

- Must have more settings than just AUTO (thus no cell phone cameras)
- Students must have all camera accessories (memory card, batteries, & downloading cord etc..) for their cameras

## CLASS RULES & BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:

ALL NAPA HIGH RULES ARE TO BE FOLLOWED DURING CLASS...

- BE TRUSTWORTHY, BE RESPONSIBLE & BE RESPECTFUL
- Electronic devices are only to be used when instructed for educational purposes. If devices are begin abused, they will be taken away
- ALWAYS be school appropriate (includes images in your work & the language that you use)
- You are accountable for your own actions
- Be the 5 P's for Mrs. Palmer's Photography class...
- prompt, prepared, positive, productive & polite
- Respect EVERYONE, including yourself.
- ALWAYS give 100% effort
- Boredom is a personal failure, so develop a habit of being interested
- Class time is serious time, remember AP Photograph is an advanced placement class that can earn successful students college credit

## PLAGIARISM/CHEATING & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Plagiarism/cheating of any type will result in zeros for all parties involved, not to mention detentions, visits to the office, and other consequences. All work (including images) must be original; otherwise it is considered plagiarism. This type of behavior will not be tolerated at Napa High. All projects must also contain school appropriate subject matter. If you have to ask what is appropriate, then we might have an issue...

DO NOT SUBMIT PHOTOGRAPHS THAT YOU DID NOT TAKE YOURSELF! All work needs to be your own original artwork. The use of published photographs or the work of another artist for duplication is PLAGIARISM. All work is pushed to be original from thought through execution of work.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY:

In order to maintain a high level of behavior & concentration in our classroom, the following is a list of the consequences for inappropriate behavior:

- Verbal warnings
  - Sent outside + discussions after class to improve behavior
  - Apology letters
  - Seat changes
  - Detentions
  - Referrals
  - Parent phone calls
  - Teacher/student conferences
  - Teacher/student/parent conferences
  - Visits to the office
- \*Order depending on offence & severity

## SAFE SPACE:

This room is a safe space and positive learning environment. Abuse of any kind WILL NOT be tolerated; we are here to learn and grow together in an academic and artistic fostering community, not to be negative and unsupportive. Punishment will be given accordingly to the nature of the offense (see discipline policy above).

Avoid showing your work to others unless you know they are going to understand what you've been doing though your Photo Journal. You don't need negative feedback when you are trying out new ideas or experimenting. Don't invite criticism unless you're confident that it won't derail your creative spirit...remember this is a place for risk taking.

## STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS:

Remember that art surrounds you wherever you go (from the photographs you see in restaurants to the Victorian houses we all see downtown to the apple icon on your iPhones and so on). Aspiring photograph students should always have access to their Photo Journal (the Google Docs ap works well on most smartphones & tablets) to capture thoughts, ideas and visions on digital paper. Visit some of the wonderful museums in our area, student artist that inter-

est you to build your knowledge base; a successful photograph student is not always the most talented, but the one who knows how to work hard. The main ingredient for success is often a sound work ethic, sticking with a project to its completion to reflect then learn is an invaluable process. It is important to keep a positive attitude during class and to be open to new ideas and/or criticism. If you are a student that works consistently on all of your projects and displays a positive attitude in the classroom, you are likely to earn that grade that you desire.

NO CUTE, PRETTY, PRECIOUS, ADORABLE or TRITE images. This is a college-level art class, not a collection of your favorite snapshots. Expect your ideas about what makes good art to be challenged. Don't be boring with your work...challenge us all!

### **TEACHER INTRODUCTION:**

This is my eighth year of teaching here at Napa High and my third teaching an AP class (this is a unique course designed & created for students who have mastered Photography 1, 2 & 3). I'm also a Napa High graduate therefore I know what a wonderful school this is and that our students go on to do great things! I also know that the students, teachers, administration and parents are all responsible for that. I received my B.A. in Photography and my single subject teaching credential in Art Education from Sacramento State. My goal is to create an exciting and challenging learning environment for my students and willingness to learn is a key component in making this goal a reality. The best way to get a hold of me is through e-mail ([kpalmer@nvusd.org](mailto:kpalmer@nvusd.org)); please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I'm looking forward to teaching, working and learning with my pervious Photo 2 & 3 photographers once again and I know this will be a great year...GO NHS!

Karla Palmer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karla Palmer". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

