

NAME _____

IB/ Honors Photography - Summer Homework Handout

Dear Prospective Student:

IB Photo and Honors Photo are rigorous yearlong courses that will require considerable work outside of regular class time. Due to the recent changes in the IB visual arts criteria, the expectations of the two courses will vary significantly this year. You should examine the differences between IB and Honors Photography carefully to make sure which course is the best fit for you before committing yourself to one or the other. The course descriptions are listed on the next page.

No matter which course you choose to take it is important that you begin work over the summer in order to get a grasp of what will be expected of you when school begins. For this purpose, this summer prep planner has been given to you.

One of the greatest challenges students will face in this class will be deciding what to put into their journals and making entries in a regular timely fashion. My advice is this: begin getting into the practice of “journaling” by finding a good photo magazine, book, or website and examine the images. If you see an image you really like, either cut it out or copy and print it, paste it into your workbook (glue sticks or rubber cement are good for this) then begin writing about the image. This may include what you like about the image (its subject matter, composition, mood, technique, message, etc.), a biography or profile of the photographer who took the picture, why you would like to shoot a picture similar in style, theme or content, and how you would go about doing this.

NOTE: You can view an example of a former student’s journal and download other course files by going to the UAHS visual arts page on the high school website and clicking on my name to access my page.

When we meet after summer break, we will take a look at your journal and discuss it. By then you will have already gotten a good start at making this course a successful and productive experience. If you have any questions at any time, please don’t hesitate to email me at **swittenburg@uaschools.org**.

Have a great summer!

- Mr. Wittenburg

NOTE: ALL SUMMER HOMEWORK MUST BE COMPLETED AND WILL BE ASSESSED WHEN SCHOOL BEGINS IN THE FALL!

IB Photography SL

This course is an in-depth exploration of the visual arts in context, method and communication using photography as the primary discipline. Expectations of the student include examination of the work of artists from different times, places and cultures, making art through a process of investigation, critical thinking and experimentation of techniques and to develop an informed response to work and exhibitions by other artists they have experienced. Students will also be expected to maintain a visual arts journal underpinning every aspect of the course. For assessment purposes, IB Photography students will be required to create a process portfolio as well as produce an exhibition of their art works, including a written curatorial rationale. Studio work will consist of photographic applications that include but are not limited to: advanced black and white darkroom processing and printing, digital photography, the exploration and creation of a variety of alternative processes including Polaroid image transfers, lifts, cyanotypes and salt prints, and independently designed, self-directed photo shoots carried out both in-studio using studio flash and on-location using existing light. This is a laboratory course that requires considerable work outside of regular class time. A student fee is charged for this course for expendable materials. Inkjet paper, photographic paper and matt board will be provided. Students are responsible for providing their own film.

All students enrolled in IB Photography Course are required to take all IB Internal and External assessments in April. The approximate cost for a single course is \$248.

Honors Photography

Honors Photography is for the student who wants to pursue an in-depth exploration of photography as an art form. Students will be expected to maintain an investigative workbook (journal) for research, planning and assessing photo assignments. Studio work will consist of photographic applications that include but are not limited to: advanced black and white darkroom processing and printing, digital photography, the exploration and creation of a variety of alternative processes including Polaroid image transfers, lifts, cyanotypes and salt prints, and independently designed, self-directed photo shoots carried out both in-studio using studio flash and on-location using existing light. This is a laboratory course that requires considerable work outside of regular class time. A student fee is charged for this course for expendable materials. Inkjet paper, photographic paper and matt board will be provided. Students are responsible for providing their own film.

IB/HONORS SUMMER HOMEWORK:

(1.) Purchase your workbook: You will be required to maintain regular entries in a journal/workbook throughout the course that will be assessed on a regular basis. An 8 1/2" X 11" hardbound Strathmore sketchbook that sells for around \$10.00 is recommended and available in the school store. If you are unable to purchase one at the school store, try Blick Art, Michaels or JoAnns.

(2.) Autobiographical writing: Begin your journal with a brief bio of yourself. Include things that DEFINE you (this could be likes, dislikes, interests, goals, etc.) plus your artistic aspirations and expectations for this course. **All journal entries should be written in dark ink and legible! You must also date each entry and number every page.** Make your journal your own personal statement – it’s okay to “brainstorm” at any time and decorate your pages.

(3.) Visit a museum or art gallery:

Go to at least one museum or art gallery and study the artwork for inspiration and ideas. Creativity often begins with inspection and admiration of others’ artwork. Log your experiences in your journal, noting any artists who may have particularly inspired you. If you get any ideas for your own projects, be sure to jot them down. **INCLUDE ANY PRINTED MATERIALS PERTAINING TO THE EXHIBIT/VENUE. Discuss the following in your entry: Why are art exhibitions important?**

(4.) Plan out, shoot and analyze at least TWO photo projects using your digital camera. *Follow the **Project Planning Outline** and **Self-Analysis Outline** included below for each project.* Enter all plans, final images and self-analyses **FOR BOTH PROJECTS** in your journal. **ALWAYS WRITE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES - AVOID “BULLETING!”** Your journal entries need to be easy for the reader to read and understand. Type out your entries if desired and paste in the hard copy.

Project Planning Outline

(Begin your project by entering this info in your journal)

NOTE: Be sure to include **ALL** of the following in your journal for **each of the two photo projects:**

1. An image that provides inspiration for your project. The idea is *not* to plagiarize another’s artwork but to consider a technique, visual/aesthetic quality, composition or concept found in that inspirational image that you want to incorporate in your own original idea. **Once you find an inspirational image, paste a copy of it into your journal.** This will help you organize your shoot more effectively with regard to lighting, composition, poses, backgrounds, etc.
2. Make all of your formatting decisions before you shoot. Consider what will be the best choices for what you are trying to achieve. Include:
 - **Camera?** (SLR, Digital Camera, etc.)
 - **Black and white or color?**
 - **Film format? (if applicable)** (35mm, medium format, large format)
 - **Film Speed?** (ISO) 100, 200, 400, 800 ISO, etc.
 - **Additional Equipment and supplies needed?** (tripod, lenses(macro, etc), filters, etc.)
 - **Who?** Who will be your model(s) or subject(s) if you are shooting people?
 - **Where?** Where are you shooting specifically? Will it be in the studio or on location and where will it be if on location?

- **When?** When do you plan on shooting? Consider time of day and weather factors. Would it be better to shoot inside a mall instead of outdoors? etc.
3. **WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACHIEVE????** This is perhaps the most important part of planning! Consider *what it actually is that you are trying to accomplish beforehand*. Study your sample image closely and determine what it is that makes it so appealing to you. This will become your main focus or concern(s) while carrying out your own idea. Is it:
- The overall mood of the scene?
 - The expression on the model's face?
 - The dramatic lighting being used?
 - The spontaneity of the moment being captured?
 - The social message or statement being made?
 - The frozen or blurred action in the scene?
 - The bright colors?
 - The combination/interaction of lines, shapes and forms?
 - The special effects?
 - The overall composition?
 - The closeness to the subject?
 - The feelings being expressed by the subject?
 - The feelings resulting from viewing the subject or scene?
 - The mystery and intrigue of the scene?
 - Other?

Once you have completed a particular project, paste in a copy of your final product and then use the following outline as a guide to make sure that you've adequately demonstrated process and self-reflection for that particular project.

Self-Analysis Outline

(Use this after you have completed your shoot and pasted in your final image)

1. Describe and analyze the piece of work with regard to **art elements, design principles and aesthetic qualities. Include what and where they are specifically.**
2. Were you successful in accomplishing your original intent for this project as listed in your plans? Did it evolve into something different? What does this artwork **say? Is it art?**
3. What **culture(s)** are represented in this project and **IN WHAT WAYS?**
 - **Culture:** the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group: the attitudes and behavior characteristic of a particular social group: *the emerging health and fitness culture*. Give this some serious consideration! As you view your image, ask yourself what connotations* might arise to a person casually observing the image and what cultures are represented. Complete the process by discussing the state of those cultures in today's society - e.g. the environment-global-warming-politics-what is and isn't being done about the future of mankind.

4. **PROCESS:** Describe how you produced this piece of work in detail from beginning to end. **Don't forget to mention if you feel that you were successful achieving your original intent, if there were any challenges you faced in the process and how you resolved those challenges. Include contact sheets, outtakes, etc.**
5. **OTHER POSSIBLE TOPICS TO DISCUSS IN YOUR SELF ANALYSIS:**
- What technical vocabulary did you learn? (e.g. what type of equipment was used?) What format, film type, paper type, etc. was used in creating this art? *Become familiar with all of the technical terms and use them in your entries!* Are you happy with the finished piece of work?
 - Does it meet your requirements?
Is there anything that you are not happy with? What would you change? Have you 'moved on' since the last project?
 - Did you make the appropriate design changes as the project developed? If you were to make changes, how would this change your final piece? What part did you enjoy most, the research or the final production? Have your skills improved?
 - Do you feel more confident?
Is there a progression in your work from source to final piece? Did you make the right choices at each stage? What would you change?
 - Do you have any other ideas that may have sprung from this project that you could pursue? Are they similar or different - make a note for further use.

**CONNOTATION*, noun

"an idea or feeling that a word (OR IMAGE) invokes in addition to its literal or primary meaning: *the word "discipline" has unhappy connotations of punishment and repression.* the implication of such ideas or feelings.

NOTE: YOU CAN VIEW AN EXAMPLE OF A FORMER STUDENT'S VISUAL ARTS JOURNAL BY GOING TO THE VISUAL ARTS LINK ON THE HIGH SCHOOL WEBSITE AND THEN CLICKING ON MY NAME.