

**TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Larkspur, California**

**Course of Study**

**HONORS PHOTOGRAPHY**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Honors Photography is intended for the student who has completed at least two semesters of photography and has demonstrated a special talent in this medium. The course requires the student to prepare a portfolio, work directly with a professional photographer outside school hours, and to expand skills developed in the prerequisite courses. Specialized techniques such as color processing, studio portraits, and underwater and microscope photography will be included.

**II. EXPECTATIONS**

**A. Objectives**

1. To operate a view camera.
  - a) Students will learn how to use the controls to take creative pictures of architecture, portraiture, still life and others.
    1. Examine the front tilt, swings and rise.
    2. Examine the rear tilt and rise.
    3. Watch a video on the use of a view camera.
  - b) Students will learn the advantages and disadvantages of using a view camera.
    1. Advantages:
      - Large negative size for sharp detail in large prints
      - The image on the viewing screen is exactly what will be on the film.
      - The adjustments on the camera.
    2. Disadvantages:
      - Camera is large and heavy.
      - Must use a tripod.
      - Must use a cloth over the back in order to see the image projected on the viewing screen.

2. To take pictures through a microscope.
  - a) Students will set up a camera on a microscope and learn to take pictures of various things.
    1. Take the lens off the camera and put microscope adaptor on.
    2. The camera and adaptor are put on the microscope.
    3. A slide is put on the stage of the microscope.
  - b) The students will calculate the magnification, depth of field and film exposure.
    1. A micrometer scale in the scope is used to calculate the size of the object.
    2. The magnification is calculated by the size of the scope lens and eyepiece to film distance.
    3. The depth of field is expressed in microns and is found in special tables in publications.
    4. Film exposure is determined by the type of film used and the magnification.
3. To learn about nature photography.
  - a)
    1. The back is open revealing the “O” ring seal and the film slot.
    2. The focus and aperture scales are manually operated to achieve the proper exposure.
    3. The camera is used underwater.
    4. The aesthetic beauty of underwater photography is demonstrated through slides.
  - b) Students will learn how to take wild life pictures.
    1. Develop and understanding of telephoto lenses and tripods.
    2. Make a list of equipment needed.
    3. A decision between landscape, animal, or flower photographs is made.
    4. Through a composition, theme, and the use of natural light, artistic creativity can be accomplished.
4. To explore high speed photography.
  - a) A stroboscope will be available for the students to learn how to use.
    1. Learn to adjust the speed of the flash.
    2. Learn how to synchronize the flash with the moving light.
  - b) A sound triggering device will be set up with the strobe.

1. Practice sound synchronization with the strobe.
5. To learn about Studio Portraiture
    - a) Set up the studio lights.
      1. Practice putting the lights in various positions to get the desired lighting effect.
      2. Practice getting the model in the best pose.
    - b) Set up the make-up kit.
      1. Practice make-up on a model.
6. To learn color photography processes.
    - a) Process color slides and/or negatives.
      1. Set up chemicals and bring them to the proper temperature.
      2. Develop the slides and/or the negatives.
    - b) Print negatives on color paper.
      1. Set up the darkroom.
      2. Bring the chemicals to the correct temperature.
      3. Expose and develop the paper.
    - c) Do creative color techniques to bring out individual artistic creativity.
      1. Read various photo books and choose which creative technique fits the occasion.
7. To compile a portfolio and have it criticized by a professional photographer.
    - a) Decide which types of photographs are to be included.
      1. Obtain a portfolio case to keep the photographs from getting ruined.
      2. Work on the various types and techniques during the semester and store them in the portfolio case.
    - b) Talk to a professional photographer at the beginning of the semester.

1. Find out what the professional would advise as to putting the portfolio together.
  2. Make a time line to finish the project in time in order to give the professional time to critique it.
8. To identify the artistic qualities in their work.
- a) Students will identify different photographic styles and recognize what creates artistic style.
  - b) Analyze specific photographs in terms of principles of design.
    1. Write reviews of local photo gallery shows.
    2. Write reviews of the visual elements of selected photographs.

## B. **Means**

### *Content*

- a) View camera.
  1. Camera operation.
  2. Creative use of the controls.
  3. Advantages and disadvantages.
- b) Micrography
  1. Set up microscope with camera.
  2. Select subject to photograph.
  3. Calculate magnification, depth of field and exposure.
  4. Take pictures.
- c) Nature Photography
  1. Take pictures underwater.
  2. Take pictures of wildlife.
  3. Take landscape photos.
- d) High Speed Photography
  1. Take pictures with a high speed strobe light.
- e) Studio Portraiture
  1. Set up the lights.
  2. Make up the models face.
  3. Pose the model and take pictures.

f) Color Photography

1. Develop color slides and/or negatives.
2. Make color prints.
3. Explore creative techniques.

g) Portfolio

1. During the semester put a portfolio together.
2. Have the portfolio critiqued.

h) Artistic Qualities

1. Identify various styles.
2. Review photo shows.

***Methods and Activities***

Students will be expected to participate in class discussions, take pictures, work in the darkroom, read books on the topics covered, write original reviews and critiques, prepare a portfolio, and work with a professional photographer.

**III. EVALUATION**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, and completion of assignments. The grading system will be explained by the teacher at the beginning of the course.

**IV. GENERAL INFORMATION**

This is a two semester course which will not only satisfy the Fine Art requirement for the district, but also the California State University entrance requirement in Visual Art.

A prerequisite for this course is the completion of two semesters of Photography with an A or B grade, or the consent of the teacher.

The course is appropriate for all students who meet the admission criteria, college bound or not.

BOT approved 4/10/1990