

Westlake High School

Photojournalism A Syllabus

Deanne Brown
Room 281
Office hrs: 3:15-4 p.m.
Phone: 732-9280 x 33315
E-mail: dbrown2@eanesisd.net

Cindy Todd
Room 285
Office hrs: 10:30-11:15 a.m. or by appt.
Office phone: 732-9280 x 33328
E-mail: ctodd@eanesisd.net

Course Description

Students enrolled in Photojournalism A will learn the basics of camera usage, both 35 mm film and DSLRs. Students will learn the basics of Photoshop as an editing program. They will also learn about film development and darkroom work. They will shoot a variety of photo assignments, gather caption information, print their enlargements and meet deadlines. Some after-school time will be required of students so that they may cover activities that take place outside of the school day, such as sports events. Success in the course is dependent upon the photographer's ability to produce quality work in a limited amount of time. This can be accomplished by any student with a desire to learn and act responsibly.

Goals and Objectives

Students will:

1. identify, practice and master basic camera techniques.
 - operate different types of cameras, including 35 mm film and digital, and be able to identify their parts.
 - learn about various types of light meters and electronic strobes.
2. identify, master and practice effective photo composition and effective lighting.
 - apply composition principles including leading lines, framing, rule of thirds, action and center of visual interest.
 - students will recognize and utilize various lighting conditions.
 - students will learn to effectively crop photographs.
3. use photography for journalistic purposes.
 - plan photographs in relation to assignments from an instructor.
 - illustrate events with appropriate photos and captions.
 - produce a photo essay.
 - identify available supplemental services, including web pages, magazines, newspapers and professional photographers.
4. practice and master film processing.
 - use chemicals to develop film.
 - practice proper darkroom procedures, including use of the enlarger and chemicals for print development.
 - practice improving technical qualities of prints.

Required Activities Fee

\$20 check payable to EISD or cash – Students will not be able to check out school cameras or receive film and photo paper until this is paid. Students should bring the money to their teacher by the end of the first week of school. If students need to have this fee waived, please have them see the instructor in private.

Resources

Students will utilize *The Photographic Eye*, *Get the Picture* and various handouts, magazines, websites, videos and a variety of materials.

Required Materials

- one SD card with at least 2G capacity (we recommend SanDisk, Lexar or Promaster)
- one flash drive specifically for photojournalism class
- two-pocket folder for turning in material
- notebook or folder for notes and handouts

Optional Materials

- 35 mm camera with lens(es) - optional but highly encouraged. We have a very limited number of cameras for check-out and use on a daily basis

Grading

In accordance with departmental policy, 40 percent of the student's nine-weeks grades will be determined by daily work and 60 percent by major grades. The final exam will constitute 20 percent of the final grade.

Make-up policy

In accordance with school policy, you have one day for every day you are absent to turn in make-up work before points are deducted for late work. Tests and quizzes must be taken when make-up sessions are offered by the teacher, whether during class or before and after school. It is your responsibility to ask for assignments when you are absent.

Late work

Late assignments will receive a 10-point grade deduction each day. Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments. Plan your time wisely and remember that we share computers and the darkroom with other classes. If you don't complete your work during class, it will be your responsibility to make it up after school.

Classroom procedures/rules

1. Be on time. Announcements, instructions or lectures will be given by the instructor at the beginning of the class period. Upon entering the room, students who are tardy to class must report their presence to the teacher if she's already busy with other students.
2. Occasionally, students may receive instructor clearance to leave the room in order to submit assignments. If students abuse this privilege, it will be instantly revoked. Unless students have permission to submit an assignment, they will not be permitted to leave the room for any reason other than an official call.
3. Parents should understand students' liability for any photographic equipment checked out to them. If cameras, flash units, enlargers or other equipment is damaged by the student or damaged while checked out to them, they will be held responsible for payment.
4. Students should understand that there will be times when work outside of class will be necessary in order to complete a shooting assignment. There is always ample classroom time to complete the developing and printing process, if that time is used wisely.
5. Photojournalism students may not bring food or drinks into the film developing area or darkroom. The possibility of contamination due to the close contact with chemicals makes this an unsafe practice.
6. Follow procedures for using photo equipment. Students who use Westlake supplies and facilities to take, edit, develop or print photos that are inappropriate for the school setting will be immediately referred to the assistant principals' office for disciplinary action.
7. Clean up after yourself and respect the equipment and work of others.

Discipline

Students caught cheating on assignments will receive zeroes for all grades related to that assignment. School administrators and parents will be notified.