

# Digital Photography Syllabus

[Semester II; Spring 2026]

**Instructor**

Ms. Joni Conner

**Email**

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## Course Description, Expectations, and Goals

This course is an exploration of the theories and methods of photography as both a historic as well as a contemporary art medium for the digital age. Students will become acquainted with the fundamental concepts and formal language of photography and achieve a working knowledge of the basic techniques of photography through project work. Students will develop an ability to interpret and discuss photography in terms of aesthetic and conceptual issues. This course emphasizes the artistic process, including composition, lighting, perspective, and storytelling through imagery.

during critiques

- Be able to synthesize and incorporate creative approaches to both subject matter and format in their own photographic works.

By the end of the 2nd semester, students will have developed (pun intended) an understanding of...

- Be able to properly operate the controls and functions of the camera
- Understand light theory and the basic principles of lighting
- Be able to analyze and properly use depth-of-field, shutter speed, aperture settings, use of lens focal lengths, and exposure controls
- Be able to demonstrate an understanding of visual literacy, aesthetics, design, and contemporary criticism in the development of the student's work
- Be able to critically and intelligently discuss their work and the work of fellow students

## Discussions and Projects

The course will consist of a series of technical and historical discussions along with a series of projects which will incorporate personal concepts and perceptions relating to structured topics. Each project will be introduced and explained in class and then there will be in class critiques requiring class participation on the due date.

## Required Materials

It is important that students bring basic materials and supplies to every class.

- Digital SLR camera, battery, and memory card (provided)
- Photographic Editing Software (required, your choice)
- Note taking supplies (optional)
- An open mind and a love of Art (absolutely required)

## Policies

Attendance is essential. Students are expected to attend all classes, to arrive on time, to remain until the end of each class, and to come to class prepared. Each assignment must be completed on time. **LATE WORK WILL RESULT IN A ZERO. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please let me know if there is an emergency situation or serious problem which requires an excuse. Additionally, **work MUST BE SUBMITTED via GOOGLE CLASSROOM.** You may email me directly as a back up only. **Please turn off cell phones before bringing them into the classroom.**

## Academic Integrity

Academic fraud is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating and plagiarism (and all other forms of academic fraud – such as the use of AI) will result in serious consequences. Per the Torah High Student handbook: *Cheating is a serious offense. If a student copies work or allows work to be copied they will receive a zero on the assignment or test. Any student caught cheating, risks severe disciplinary action.*

Additionally and slightly alluded to above, AI “art” is NOT art.

Please see these resources for further information:

<https://www.theintrinsicperspective.com/p/ai-art-isnt-art>

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-weekend-essay/why-ai-isnt-going-to-make-art>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/may/20/ai-art-concerns-originality-connection>

**Course Schedule:**

*[Project Due/Critique Dates are highlighted purple and in BOLD. Please ensure you always come to class prepared, especially on critique/project due dates!]*

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
[Week 1]	Feb 6	<b>PROJECT 1 completion: 1st Semester's Best Work</b>
[Week 2]	Feb 13	New Syllabus, who dis? Camera Assignments <i>Project 2 Assignment: Red Balloon.</i>
[Week 3]	Feb 20:	Discussion: Lighting!
[Week 4]	Feb 27:	Discussion: Lighting! (continued)
[Week 5]	Mar 6:	<b>PROJECT 2 DUE/CRITIQUE: Red Balloon.</b>
[Week 6]	Mar 13:	Project 2 Critique: Red Balloon (continued) <i>Project 3 Assignment: One Colour Photo Series</i>
[Week 7]	Mar 20:	Discussion: Wildlife Photography
[Week 8]	Mar 27:	<b>PROJECT 3 DUE/CRITIQUE: One Colour Photo Series</b> <i>Project 4 Assignment: Black &amp; White Part II: Digital Boogaloo</i>
-	Apr 3	NO CLASS - PESACH BREAK
-	Apr 10	NO CLASS - PESACH BREAK
[Week 9]	Apr 24:	Discussion: Cyanotypes
[Week 10]	May 1:	<b>PROJECT 4 DUE/CRITIQUE: Black &amp; White Part II: Digital Boogaloo</b>
-	May 8	NO CLASS - AP EXAMS
-	May 15	NO CLASS - AP EXAMS
-	May 22	NO CLASS - SHAVUOT BREAK
[Week 11]	May 29:	<b>IN CLASS WORKSHOP/FINAL CELEBRATION!</b>

