

Honors Projects - Introduction to Digital Photography

Mr. Michael J. Powers

There is an obvious need for an Honors Level in this class as several students are going on to various colleges majoring in liberal arts specializing in photography (including studio, macro, portrait, still art and more), graphic and/or interactive design, digital visual effects, 3D animation, game art design, studio art and so on. In addition, the business and computer department is currently the only department at MG that does not offer an Honors Level in any of its courses. *Those students selecting the Honors option will complete extra reading assignments, quarterly projects and Advanced Photoshop Techniques, be graded with more rigorous standards using different rubrics on their productions and must maintain a “C” average or higher each grading period.

The list of articles and Advanced Photoshop CS3 Techniques/Tutorials will include, but not limited to the following:

- Blending Modes and Cloning Techniques
- Buttons and Dials – Introduction to DSLR Cameras
- Automating Various Features of Photoshop CS3
- Studio Lighting
- Creating HDR Files
- Creating Duotone Effects
- Creating a “Sin City” Effect and More

The Extra Projects List Includes but is not Limited to the following:

- Cloud Formation Photo Collection/Portfolio
 - Reflection Photo Collection/Portfolio
 - Seasonal Photo Collection/Portfolio
 - Insect Photo Collection/Portfolio
 - Urban/City Building Photo Collection/Portfolio
 - Rural Photo Collection
 - Urban/Rural Panorama Collection/Portfolio
 - Juxtaposition Photo Collection/Portfolio
- ❖ **Regular Students** will be introduced to these types/techniques and complete a tutorial ending in two examples demonstrating an understanding of said type/technique. **Honors Students** will need to develop a portfolio of each selected photo type demonstrating authentic composition and mastery of said type/technique.
- ❖ **Honors Students** will display their work in the schools Art Gallery.
- ❖ **Honors Students** may also submit their work to Photo Contests (local, online, etc.) as the contests become known to the instructor.

In addition, students selecting the “Honors Credit” Option will submit an Electronic Portfolio DVD Movie of their Work. The specifics of which will be worked out between the student and teacher.

Honors Projects

1. **Cloud Formation Photo Collection.**
2. **Macro Photography** - Macro and abstract photographs are not necessarily the same. A macro picture is more of a picture taken at a very close distance. The subject of a macro photo is generally the only thing in focus, leaving the background and possibly foreground out of focus. Just about anything can be the subject of a macro picture, so long as it fits within the photograph. Abstract photos are usually the result of focusing on a small portion of a large object. Generally the object in an abstract picture is unrecognizable at such a close distance.
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/showcases/gallery/index.html?category=macro>
3. **Urban/City Building Architecture Photo Collection.**
4. **Juxtaposition Photo Collection.**
5. **Night Photography Photo Collection:**
 - Star Trails
 - City/Buildings and “Car Trails”
 - Unique Use of Flashlight “Painting”
6. **Seasonal Photo Collection.**
7. **Travel and Architecture** – Photos in this category will generally highlight places or buildings of interest. These can be famous buildings like those designed by Frank Lloyd Wright [1867-1959] or well known travel destinations such as the pyramids in Egypt. These photos should capture the entire subject, not just a small part, like a door or window. Pictures that focus in on details like a window or door would probably be more suited to another category like Macro or Still Life.
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/showcases/gallery/index.html?category=travel>
8. **Landscape and Nature** - This is a broad category intended for outdoor photography. These pictures may contain animals or people, but if either is the prominent object, then other categories such as People or Animals might be more appropriate. Additionally, landscape photos may contain man-made objects such as a building or a bridge, but if the man-made object is prominent or famous, then Travel and Architecture may be a better category.
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/showcases/gallery/index.html?category=landscape>
9. **Action and Journalism** - If you have photos that tell a story, then this would be the ideal category for them. These pictures capture and document a specific event. They are different from People and Portraits because they do not focus exclusively on a person, but rather they capture a complete environment and its happenings.
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/showcases/gallery/index.html?category=action>

10. **Still Life** - Photographs in this category should be specific compositions of objects that the photographer went in search of or composed in a certain way. Typical still life images are ones with flowers in a vase. But they can also be many other things, like a pile of bricks, or a collection of candles in a window. The most important thing is that these photos always represent inanimate objects, such as bricks, flowers, candles.
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/showcases/gallery/index.html?category=still>
11. **Panorama (Urban/Rural/Landscape)** - Panoramic pictures are much longer or wider than normal photographs. Usually panoramic photos are taken outdoors in a more nature-like setting, but there is no reason why they can't also be inside a building or home. The idea behind panoramic photography is to capture an entire scene from end to end without losing anything to cropping.
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/showcases/gallery/index.html?category=panorama>
12. **Animals** - Whether it's the family pet or a cow out to pasture, this category is just for animals. Animal photos may be portraits of your cat or an action shot of a bird flying across a serene lake. In either case, the focus of these pictures should be exclusively animals.
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/showcases/gallery/index.html?category=animals>
13. **People and Portraiture** - The purpose of this category is to focus exclusively on people. These photos do not have to be studio style or quality. Typically a great people picture is one that captures a spontaneous moment in time. Usually a powerful expression or feeling is what you are trying to capture in your subject.
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/showcases/gallery/index.html?category=people>

Students MUST submit their photo(s) to the: Technology & Learning's Digital Photo Contest for Kids Sponsored by Adobe Digital Kids Club at -

<http://www.techlearning.com/portraits/index.php>

Photo Tips and Guidelines from Adobe Digital Kids Club: Go to this Web Site for great tips on how to manipulate your digital photographs-

<http://www.techlearning.com/content/contest/photos/tips.php>

Topics to be Discussed:

Computer File Management Techniques	Photography Types
Computer Graphic File Format Types	Digital Scanning Techniques
Hardware Requirements	Multimedia Software/Hardware Requirements
Various Digital Photography Techniques	Digital Sound/Music File Creation & Editing Techniques
Digital Photo Touch-up Techniques	Multimedia Presentation Development
Digital Photo Enhancement Techniques	Student Portfolio Development

- More will be added as additional equipment, training and software become available.

Expectations:

Being prepared for class is expected and it is the student's responsibility to have all assignments completed when due. Students will have a weekly list of the major assignments, tests/quizzes, and performance assessments. I will also be sending home grade reports approximately every four weeks that will list all grades to date. These reports will be required to be signed by at least one parent/guardian.

Absences:

Any time a student misses school it is the student's responsibility to contact the school to get any assignment that can be sent home. If an extended excused absence is anticipated please make arrangements with me in advance in order to complete any work that will be missed. Students will **NOT** be allowed to make up work because of unexcused absences. Please see the Student Handbook for more information. Students are expected to bring the following materials to class each day: 1. *Notebook/Portfolio, 2. Pen(s) & Pencil(s), 3. Homework/Project if assigned.

Portfolio Setup: The Portfolio will be evaluated upon the following checklist:

Organization-

- Photo Collections evidenced via hardcopy, properly labeled with a photo title, all camera settings (exposure, aperture, f/stop, etc.) used in the creation of the photograph. You **MUST** include a BEFORE and AFTER photo as well as a description of what you were trying to accomplish in the photograph.
- No missing assignments, notes, handouts, etc.).

Appearance-

- Name and class clearly labeled on outside and inside cover.
- Material not falling out, any nubs or torn material.
- Neatness- proper care and respect from cover to cover.

Course Grading:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Percent of Grade</i>
Classwork	60%
Homework	10%
Notebook/Portfolio	30%
Total	100%

Grading Example:

Classwork Ave. = $92 \times .60 = 55.20$ grade points

Homework = $68 \times .10 = 6.80$ grade points

Notebook = $96 \times .30 = 28.80$ grade points

Final Grade 90.8

- Students will be expected to create a digital archive of their work in class via CD/DVD.
- This elective course is a graded course...NOT pass/fail. It relies heavily on student production, collection and organization of their work (Classwork & Notebook/Portfolio Development accounting for 90% of their grade).

Contact Information:

If you have any questions I can be reached at (S) 413-458-9582 ext. 142. I may also be reached by Email at: mjpowers@mgrhs.org or Michael_J_Powers@comcast.net.

Thank you,

Student Signature

Mr. Michael J. Powers

Parent Signature