

Digital Art & Design I-IV

2017-2018

Mr. Baker

Welcome new and returning photography students! For those of you who are new to the program, I'm excited that you've decided you want to take your photography to the next level, and, for those of you who are returning, I'm excited to see how much you grow this year!

Just as a heads up to those of you who are joining us for the first time: **I take photography very seriously** (ask any of the returning students). If you're not planning on actually taking pictures, this is the wrong class for you. This is also not an image editing class or a graphic design class (although we will cover aspects of both of those topics as they relate to digital photography).

This class is project-based. You will have weekly photography assignments that require you to read outside of class, and then use our equipment in class to complete the assignments. If you do not turn in photos, you will fail. I treat everyone with the expectation that they want to be either a serious hobbyist or want to eventually go pro. I know not everyone who enrolls will wind up sticking with it, and I know the majority of students will not pursue photography as a career but for those of you who stick with it, I will help you build a solid foundation in photography that will help you with whatever path you choose in regards to photography after Dorman.

Let me reiterate a couple of the prior points. This class is not easy. If you're here because you thought you wouldn't have to do any work, I advise you either change your mindset or change your class schedule. **If you do not do the assignments, you will fail. It's as simple as that.** If you get busted doing something you shouldn't while out taking pictures, you will no longer be allowed to use the equipment or leave the classroom to take pictures. If you break (or lose) gear through negligence, you will be financially responsible for replacing it. I don't say this to be mean, I say it to make you understand that we have a lot of freedom and we have expensive, and limited resources, and if you're not serious about learning how to take better pictures, you need to find be somewhere else.

Notice at no point did say I anything to the effect of "if your pictures aren't good, you will fail." I'm looking for you to learn and grow. If you take bad

pictures on day one and still take bad pictures on day 90, that's okay, as long as you're demonstrating a solid effort to learn and grow. If you read the assignments and practice the techniques, you will get better. If you don't, you'll be wasting both my time and yours.

Do I need my own camera for this class? No, you do have to provide your own camera, but, if you have one (that you can control the exposure manually on, such as any DSLR), then you're encouraged to use that. You do not have to let anyone use your camera if you bring your own. I will be happy to lock your camera bag up during the school day in our closet so that you don't have to take it everywhere at school; just drop it off with me in the morning and take it with you after class.

The school has 8 complete camera kits, so that means that if no one brings their own camera, you'll most likely be sharing a camera with 3-4 other students. Also, let's talk about sharing for a second. We have a lots of gear. However, we don't have enough for 30 people to have one of everything. You will be required to share. This also means you will need to plan ahead when using equipment because we have fewer copies of some things (like prime lenses), and if you wait to the last minute, what you need may not be available in time for you to complete your assignment.

The only thing you are required to provide is your own memory card. I suggest the SanDisk Ultra 8GB SDHC memory card (they're about \$6 on Amazon). Regardless of what you get, it needs to come from the official Nikon approved memory card list:



Select a product group and camera model. The memory cards displayed have been tested and approved for use in the selected camera.

DSLR	Nikon 1	Action Cameras
COOLPIX A	COOLPIX B Series	COOLPIX P Series
COOLPIX AW Series	COOLPIX S Series	COOLPIX L Series
Early COOLPIX Cameras		



DSLR

D5200 (SD)											
Make	Model	GB									
SanDisk	-	2	4 ¹	-	8 ¹	-	16 ¹	-	32 ¹	-	64 ²
Lexar Media	-	2	4 ¹	-	8 ¹	-	16 ¹	-	32 ¹	-	-
	Platinum II	2	4 ¹	-	8 ¹	-	16 ¹	-	32 ¹	-	-
	Professional	2	4 ¹	-	8 ¹	-	16 ¹	-	32 ¹	-	64 ² 128 ²
	Full-HD Video	-	4 ¹	-	8 ¹	-	16 ¹	-	-	-	-
Toshiba	-	2	4 ¹	-	8 ¹	-	16 ¹	-	32 ¹	-	64 ²
Panasonic	-	2	4 ¹	6 ¹	8 ¹	12 ¹	16 ¹	24 ¹	32 ¹	48 ²	64 ²

Other brands and capacities of cards may work, but Nikon cannot guarantee operation. If using a memory card not listed please check with the manufacturer for compatibility information. Nikon recommend keeping an approved memory card available for troubleshooting. If using a card reader or similar device, please ensure that it is compatible with your memory card (2GB and above). Unless otherwise stated, Multi Media Cards (MMC) are not recommended and should not be used.

¹ SDHC - compliant. If the memory card will be used with a card reader or similar device, check that the device supports SDHC. The camera supports UHS-1

²SDXC - compliant. If the memory card will be used with a card reader or similar device, check that the device supports SDXC. The camera supports UHS-1

Other than that, I don't care, but I can tell you that you probably don't need a big card (like 32 or 64) because you can get a couple hundred raw files on an 8gb. If you go with an off brand memory card (basically anything other than SanDisk of Lexar), I can't guarantee its longevity or durability, but I've used SanDisk and Lexar (currently all my personal cards are Lexar Professional) and I've never had one go bad.

If you can't order one online or go out and get one, let me know. I usually have a few on hand that I will sell to you at cost.

Your memory card is your own responsibility; I will not be keeping up with your card. You should take care not to leave it in our cameras or computers, because if you do and it gets gone, it's on you.

I also suggest you have some way to back up your RAW files and catalog. A large flash drive or an external drive will do nicely. You can get a 32GB flash drive for \$10-15 or a small external drive 500GB-1TB starting at around \$50. If you are diligent in culling your photos, you can get away with a flash drive. But, if you never delete your photos, your catalog can quickly balloon up to 50 or even 100GB. Sometimes computers crash. People drop them, hard drives die, and virus pop up from time to time. If you really like your pictures and want to hang onto them, I suggest backing up weekly. We will cover workflow and back up basics throughout the class, but if you have any questions, please ask. Nothing's worse than losing all your hard work because you didn't take five or ten minutes to clip copy and paste.

Our class will feature critiques as a regular part of our curriculum. Constructive criticism is an integral part of growing as a photographer, and an integral part of this class. We will publicly look and critique your photos from time to time. We will also periodically have "Genius Hour" assignments where everyone will have a limited amount of time to shoot according to a previously-announced theme, and will then edit and submit their photos. We will critique each student's submission as a class, so be prepared for that. Also, I will choose photos from each round of submissions that best exemplify the assignment and put those in a gallery on the website. **Do not submit any photos you are not comfortable with the public viewing, because any photo you submit may be displayed on our class website.**

Now, with that out of the way, what are you going to study this year?

In level one, we're going manual camera operation and the exposure triangle. We will study the fundamentals of photography: camera techniques, composition, and aesthetics. We will learn the basics of a digital photography workflow using Adobe Lightroom CC.

In level two, we're going to refine skills and techniques learned in level one, begin to master light by both manipulating ambient light, and creating our own with studio strobes and speedlights, and further refine our workflow in LR.

In level three, we'll continue to improve skills and techniques studied in the first two classes, refine on-location speedlight usage, and refine compositions. We will continue refining our LR skills, as well as begin with some basic editing techniques

in Photoshop to further expand our editing capabilities and dabble in creating animations.

In level four, we'll build on everything we've learned in the previous classes, working to become autonomous photographers capable of handling any assignment given to us. We'll also work in Illustrator to create vector images and in Photoshop to edit photos, create composites, and explore creating motion graphics.

Your assignments will always be available online at [our website](http://www.dormanhighphotography.com), www.dormanhighphotography.com. Each class has its own page with links to the instructions for all of the assignments for the entire semester. **You will be submitting your finished work through Google Classroom; I will get you signed up for Classroom, but you will need your Dorman Gmail in order to sign up. This is mandatory.** We will cover how to sign up for the class (and I can help you get into your Dorman Gmail if you've forgotten your password), but you are responsible for turning in your work on time.

My late policy is as follows: if you have not talked with me about getting an extension prior to you missing a due date, **you have 1 week after the due date to turn your assignment in penalty-free.**

If you turn in your assignment between 1 and 2 weeks late, the highest you can score is a 50 (not counting any points you would lose for failing to meet the standards outline in our class rubric).

If your assignment is more than 2 weeks late, you will not receive credit. There is one caveat: assignments due the last week of each quarter are due on their original due date, no exceptions.

TL;DR Version:

0-7 days late = up to 100 (minus points lost according to the rubric)

8-14 days late = up to 50 (minus points lost according to the rubric)

15+ days late = 0

Responsibility, Accountability, and Behavior

This program is unlike any other at Dorman. I treat each of you like responsible adults until you show me otherwise. You will be working unsupervised often; this is a privilege, and I need to be able to trust that when you say you are going somewhere to work on a project, you are actually doing that. If you are caught lying about what you are doing and where you are going, you lose this privilege. Using the school's equipment is also a privilege. Breaking, losing, or otherwise being negligent with the school's equipment is also grounds for not being allowed to use it.

Gear wears out, and accidents do happen, so if something happens, come tell me about it. Do not let me discover it randomly. If I find gear that has been damaged and no one has let given me a heads up about it, I'm going to assume it was damaged through negligence, and I'm going to track down who the last user was and hold them responsible.

If you have an accident, let me know. If something is acting weird as soon as you start using it, let me know. I'm always glad to help you with any gear you think might be having an issue. I encourage you to come talk to me about equipment you think is acting up; that's how we catch problems early because they become serious (you losing pictures, missing shots at an event, etc.). I promise things will go much more smoothly if you give me a heads up rather than trying to cover up an accident.

When you are outside of the class, you are a representative of both the program and the school as a whole. Act civilized like a responsible adult when you're out shooting, assisting, or modeling. If you say you're going to a location to shoot, be at that location. It's always fun for you when I have to either a guardian or principal that you aren't where you told me you'd be when working on a class assignment.

Gear: don't let other people use it. In our case, "other people" is defined as people who are not in our program. Unless you're hanging out with Peter Hurley or some other famous photog, if someone asks to borrow your gear, politely decline their request. Having to pay for a camera your buddy trashed while trying to take a selfie will most likely put a damper on your new camera fund.

As far as accountability is concerned, you are responsible for your performance in class. For the vast majority of assignments, you need to complete 5 photos. That's 5 photos per week. Most of the time, when a parent contacts me about a failing grade and I inform them that the typical assignment is 5 photos a week, I'm not the one who gets in trouble. You have plenty of time in class to shoot. You're more than welcome to shoot at after school/at home/etc., but with 7.5 hours of class time per week, there's absolutely no reason you can't complete your assignments.

Do not fail to turn in assignments and then say "well I couldn't find a camera." Talk to me before an assignment is due if you're having issues finding equipment. I'm reasonable; if you're having some kind of issue outside of school (or in school for that matter) that's preventing you from completing your assignment, talk to me. If you don't and then fail to turn your assignments in, I'm going to assume you're being lazy and don't care about your grade. If you're having an issue and you communicate with me, we can figure something out. But, if you don't communicate with me about what's going on, you're on your own.

Having Your Picture Taken

This is a photography program. We have a lot of cameras and a lot of people taking pictures. Your photo will be taken at some point during the semester; it is nigh-impossible for you not to wind up in a shot at some point. If this is a problem, this might not be the right program for you.

Both photos of you and the photos you take will at times be displayed on our class website. As digital photographers, it is imperative that you have a web presence, and you will be building a website through which you will display much of your work.

Additionally, as a photographer, it is hypocritical of you to ask others to pose when you yourself will not. Good portrait photographers know that one of the easiest and most efficient ways to get a subject to pose correctly is to model the pose for them.