

The *Art* of Digital Photography:

Digital Photography A/B Course Syllabus

2025-2026 School Year

Contact Information:

I am Deb Bailey and welcome to Digital Photography. When on campus, I will be in room 606. I will be available to you via email, which will be the most reliable way to contact me. My email address is dbailey@lvjUSD.org. You can also leave a message on my office phone extension: (925) 606-4800 ext. 3595.

Welcome to Digital Photography. This course is offered to students who are interested in learning about the basics of quality artwork using photography as a medium. Students will learn the elements and principles of design with an emphasis on composition. Throughout the trimester, this course will also include the descriptive analysis of artwork, presentation of artwork, and collaboration with other students.

Key Topics:

- Aesthetic Appreciation of Design
- Elements and Principles of Art
- Perspective and Point of View
- Rule of Thirds
- Composition of photos, including framing of subjects, people and objects to create photos.
- Camera features and use
- Competitions
- Lighting, both natural and artificial
- The manipulation of photos using Photoshop in the creation and modification of artwork
- Collaboration with classmates and other courses at GHS, as available

In conjunction with the above topics, students will be using a variety of applications to manipulate photographs. Students will be using Adobe Creative Cloud Photoshop application and Mac computers while on campus.

Ms. Bailey's [website](#) has information, images and support information for the course. Class assignments will be posted online using Schoology.

Course Materials That Are Required:

- Completed contracts and information.
- A binder with paper for notes available each day.
- **Strongly recommended** - 1 USB Drive for storing/backing up photos and assignments or a personal cloud account to transfer files. USB's will be wiped each semester to maintain storage.

Donation:

Due to the high cost of equipment, repairs, and supplies consumed by students (i.e. cameras, computers, batteries, printing and additional related studio equipment), we ask that each student donate \$30.00 for these expenses. The payment may be in the form of cash or a check made out to "Granada High School." This donation includes about \$15.00 for general classroom consumables and \$15.00 for specific printing costs. Students may purchase additional prints as the course continues. Because our program is open to all students, if you are unable to make a donation at this time, please feel free to contact me. If time is available to you, there are ways to volunteer through [GHS Supporters Bingo sign-up](#) and Snack Shack that will help to fund your donation. If you are able to help other students by donating more, we thank you very much in advance.

Cell Phone Policy:

In an effort to support students and their learning, students will be required to place their cell phones in a class pocket system while in the classroom. They will be able to take them out for a timer when on campus or during assignments when features such as the flashlight are helpful.

Use of School Equipment:

Students will be provided in-class access to a computer and camera for use during the course. The class equipment will not be allowed to leave the school grounds for use at home by the students. There are homework cameras available, but if they are damaged, they are subject to the same replacement fee as a class camera. If the student damages or misuses the equipment during the course they will be expected to provide their own equipment to complete the course and assignments. If a student brings their own equipment they are responsible for the care of that equipment.

Photo Passes:

Students will be given the privilege of using the school grounds to complete photo assignments. They will be given 20-minute passes to shoot assignments around campus. Students are often unsupervised at this time. Students who abuse this privilege will have their access to school cameras and passes revoked and will still be responsible for completing the assignments.

Assignment Grading Policy

Each shooting assignment is graded using a rubric. This rubric is given at the beginning of every assignment and is visible in Schoology. Students turn in each assignment according to the requirements of that assignment and will include a combination of digital uploads and a written paper response. If the evaluation of the assignment is not turned in on time, the assignment will be counted as late. The self-evaluation will provide feedback as to the progress of the student in their ability to independently create quality work. Progress checks are used to help students remain on track in the class. **Progress checks may not be made up.** If a student has an excused absence, the progress check will be excused.

Completion of Projects:

Students are expected to meet deadlines. Most assignments have an electronic and written, paper response. Each 100 point assignment is worth about 8% of the overall grade. A student's grade will be reduced 10% (one letter grade) if turned in after the due date. The date of submission will be determined upon the date of paper submission. If the assignment is completed and turned in *more than one week late*, a **maximum** grade of 60% will be assigned. Consistent attendance is essential. Students are expected to work on the current project(s) during class-time. Projects that are currently late may only be worked on during open lab time or if a student is finished with the current project(s) early.

Access and Open Lab Times:

There is a lot to cover in this course so students will need to actively participate during every class period to be successful. If a student needs to catch up, has been absent, or has had a “non-productive day”, they should attend open labs. In general, it takes three open lab times to make up one missed day of class. Students may come to open labs at Access, lunch except Wednesdays, or before school to make up missed work. Access will be assigned to students that are not passing the progress checks for the current assignment, or are missing any work. Because each assignment is worth one letter grade of the final course grade, it is imperative that students complete all work to have an accurate reflection of their skills set.

Final Exam:

The final is worth 10% of the overall grade. There is a practical skills and project-based final exam for this class. It is intended to provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned throughout the course. It consists of a practical demonstration of the use of photographic equipment, appropriate selection of best works, the evaluation of the works using elements and principles of art and preparation and submission of competition works.

Schoology & Grading:

GHS will be using Schoology for a grade book. Students will use their Schoology accounts to turn in electronic assignments, and turn in the written paper response to the teacher. To see if your student has turned in assignments, they will need to look in their Schoology account. To find the most current grades, also look at their Schoology account. The teacher will make frequent comments here to help the students complete the assignments correctly. Assignments (especially shooting assignments) take a considerable amount of time to grade. Because of this, you may find up to a two-week delay before assignments are graded or posted. Feel free to ask if your assignment has been received.

Passing Policy:

It is the policy of Granada High School that student's grades shall fairly reflect the level of student achievement, accurately reflect the high standards of the school, and be sufficiently consistent so that their meaning is clearly understood by students, parents, staff and members of the community.

Therefore as a department we have agreed to keep our gradebooks updated and...

- Teachers will reach out to students with documentation (email, conversation, etc.)
 - If no change in student performance then...
- Teachers will reach out to parents when students have been failing for 2-3 weeks
 - If no change in student performance then...
- Teachers will reach out to administrators, case workers and counselors as needed for COST referrals support.

Granada Pride:

- **Pride** – for yourself, be prepared to work to your potential each day, gaining in creativity.
- **Respect** – for self, others, facilities and equipment. No eating or drinking in class, be careful with equipment, do not manipulate any images other than the ones that you have created.
- **Integrity** – for your work and the reputation of this class. Do not plagiarize, only use your own work. Use the shooting time wisely and effectively.
- **Diversity** – being open-minded about the viewpoints and constructive critiques of others.
- **Excellence** – striving for the very best performance from yourself and others. Be on time to class.