

**Mrs. Laura Olden**  
San Dieguito Academy  
laura.olden@sduhsd.org  
(760) 753-1121 x5111  
[www.mrsolden.com](http://www.mrsolden.com)

## Digital Photography Syllabus

**Course Number:** K7660

**Recommended prerequisite:** none

**Graduation requirement:** Practical Art/Elective

**A-G:** College-Preparatory Elective (G)

**Course Description:** Welcome to the magical world of digital imaging! In this class we create works of art using the tools of digital photography: digital SLR cameras, computers, Adobe Photoshop, and inkjet printers. We will learn how to see and create by studying past masters of photography and their techniques, by evaluating our own work and the work of our classmates, and by connecting our unique vision to culture and history. We work on project-based, interpretative assignments in a creative environment to refine our own artistic expressions.

**About this course:** This hands-on course covers the skills needed to create original photographic images. Through projects we will explore a range of career skills as well as art theory and art history. You will work individually, and in collaborative groups. Self-Reflection and peer critiques will conclude most projects throughout the course. You will be demonstrating technical understanding and creativity through a variety of projects based on practical applications of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design.

**Equipment & Software:** The tools used in this course are the same tool professional digital photographers use to create their artwork. Some of the tools we will be using are Adobe Creative Suite: Adobe Lightroom & Photoshop, Microsoft Word, Google Docs, Digital SLR cameras, Photo Scanners, Mat cutters, X-acto Knives, and Mat board.

**Recommended equipment:** Sketchbook, an external hard drive to transport and backup files, a digital camera- preferably a DSLR.

**Key Projects:** Photo History, Photographic Composition, Techniques, Abstract Photography, Time & Motion, Adjectives, Studio Portraiture, Surreal Photo Composite, Non-Literal Self Portrait, Non-Literal Portrait, Photographer as Mentor, Final Project (student choice)

In these projects you will use your camera's creative shooting modes to capture the photograph that

you envision. Using shutter speed, aperture and ISO you will learn to achieve the perfect image exposure in camera. In Photoshop and Lightroom you will learn to enhance your captured image using adjustment layers.

**Equipment & Lab Procedures:** When arriving in class do not log in to computers until prompted to do so. Each time a student logs into their computer they agree to the SDUHSD's acceptable use policy. Violation of the AUP may result in termination of the student computer account and withdrawal from the course. Students are expected to treat class equipment as a professional. Any intentional damage done must be paid for by the student in the amount required to replace or repair damaged hardware.

### **Photo Assignment Pass:**

When photographing around campus on assignment, students agree to the following rules.

- No Parking Lots, PE Areas, Fields or Courts, unless you are with the Instructor.
- All Photo students need to have proof they are in Photo class. If they do not have a pass (or not with the group assigned) they will be considered cutting class.
- Students are not allowed to take photos of anyone without their permission..
- Do not stop to talk to other non photo students.
- Do not enter or disturb any class at any time.
- Pass must be with students at ALL times.
- In the case of a fire drill, head toward the field & look for our class sign (112) and line up with our class. If there is a dangerous situation (lockdown), check in with the closest teacher.

**Violation of the photo assignment rules may result in loss of privileges or withdrawal from the course.**

### **Classroom Rules & Policies:**

1. Display a positive and professional attitude (see below).
2. Be on-time and physically, mentally, and creatively present.

**Attitude:** You will be expected to behave in a professional and ethical manner. Be prepared to embrace the creative process and to learn from each other and share the studio. A substantial portion of your grade will be determined by your attitude: your effort in learning new material, your desire to help me and fellow students, and your respect for our precious equipment and resources. Understand that rudeness and disrespect will not be tolerated. Be prepared to come to class every day with a positive attitude, showing patience, tolerance, respect, and cooperation.

**Attendance:** Prompt attendance to class is extremely important, as class begins when the bell rings. This means that you need to be seated in your assigned seats and ready to work, I take attendance when the bell rings.

If you have an absence you will still need to make up that time. Even if your absence is excused, it is still your responsibility to learn the material and make up the work you missed, and often that can only be accomplished outside of class time.

**Tardy Policy:** The SDA Administration will run cumulative tardy reports every 2 weeks. Students with 5 or more cumulative tardies within the 2 week window will be assigned a detention. Students that serve 3 detentions will be subject to progressive discipline through the Assistant Principal's office (loss of extracurricular privileges, campus beautification, in-school suspension, etc.).

As I will begin immediately with an opening assignment for credit each day, it is imperative that you are in your assigned seat on time. If you're going to be late to school a parent or legal guardian must send a signed note or call the attendance office.

If you are leaving class for a doctor's appointment, athletic game, etc. in which you need a note from the attendance office, you are required to obtain the note during non-class time. You are not excused to leave during class to get the note.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Cell Phones and like items (music) may be used in a respectful and professional manner. Students may use devices when working independently, provided it does not detract from quality and pace in which assignments are completed.

**Bathroom Policy:** One student is allowed to use the restroom at a time and MUST carry a hall pass.

**Grading:** Grades will be updated regularly in Aeries.

**30%** of your grade will come from "**Practice Work.**" Practice work is all the work that you will do in class and at home to gain inspiration, do research, brainstorm ideas, practice techniques, explore concepts and ideas, and write about your art-making process.

**50%** of your grade will come from "**Presentation Work.**" Presentation work is all the "major" projects that you do; Both technical skill and artistic skill will be evaluated in presentation-level work. A self-evaluation component is incorporated into every project.

**20%** of your grade will be determined by your "**Studio Performance.**" In order to receive an A grade in this course you have to have an A in studio performance. Studio Performance means doing your best job EVERYDAY, displaying professional behavior, the desire to learn and improve, a commitment not to waste valuable studio time, and respect for our precious equipment and

resources. Contributing during critiques and discussions will be part of the "Studio Performance" grade.

**Late work and 're-grades':** Because you will be presenting your work to the class during critiques, it is vital that you turn in your completed project at the beginning of class on the day that it is due. If you do not, you will lose one grade (10%) per class day that a project is late. Art is a process that can often take many revisions to perfect.

Once you have turned in a "Presentation Work" project and received your grade and feedback on it, you may redo the project for a higher grade if you wish. In order to have a project re-graded, you must make an appointment with me for a "re-grade conference" outside of class time and you must bring your original grading sheet to that conference. You can raise any aspect of your grade except for points lost due to turning in the project late. All re-grades must be completed within ten school days of the posted grade.

**Figure and Film Studies:** Often during the course sequence of all the visual art courses, the students will be working with visual materials such as famous artworks, films of famous artists, charts and diagrams, slides, DVDs, the Internet, and computer programs. This material may contain complete anatomical references, nude model poses and views of artists working from the nude in their studios, as well as scenes from modern films. The material may also mention and discuss the alternative lifestyles sometimes lived by famous artists, and may be expressed in language that might be considered offensive to some people. Current issues, as they relate to art and free expression, are also discussed in art classes. If you have questions, please contact me at [laura.olden@sduhsd.net](mailto:laura.olden@sduhsd.net)

**I look forward to getting to know your student this year through their art. I hope that they gain confidence in their creativity and use it to express their unique perspective of the world around them.**

I hope to see you at Back To School Night Tuesday, August 24th!

Sincerely,  
Laura Olden