Photography – Creative Arts

Level: Stage 2

Course length: Full year or Semester

Credit value: 20 Credit points
  (Full year)
  10 Credit points
  (Semester)

Advice to students

This is not a Photography course based on ‘Snapshot’, Full Auto or Programmed modes of exposure. It is a serious study into the fundamentals of Photography, including Camera Technique, Image Construction and Output. Approximately the first 50% of the course concentrates on traditional B/W film techniques and processes building an informed foundation for working with Digital technologies in the second half of the course.

No prior knowledge or experience is necessary, however a strong interest in Photography and initiative to frequently work outside of lesson time is essential for success. Similarly, attendance must be of a high level to ensure that fundamental instructions and demonstrations provide a sound basis for understanding and skill development.

Students are required to purchase all consumable photographic materials with the exception of inks and chemicals. This will represent an approximate expenditure of $250 over the full year. It is an advantage to have access to a 35mm SLR Camera and/or a digital SLR, however the College has a number of both types of cameras available for short-term student loan through the Marden Senior College Bookroom.

Course overview

Stage 2 Photography is structured and assessed under the Creative Arts subject outline.

This is a full one year course engaging students in a wide range of traditional and digital photographic techniques and processes as used by artists, commercial and professional practitioners.

Four broad areas of study are covered:
1. Creative Photographic process
2. Development and Production
3. Concepts in Photographic discipline
4. Photography in practice

The course is approximately 50% traditional silver halide-based B/W and 50% digital.

Content:
These are not discrete units but they are interrelated topics designed to build an overall body of knowledge and skills:
• SLR Camera technique
• Accessory lens and filter selection
• Black and White film processing and printing processes
• Post camera toning and alternative creative techniques
• Photography with natural and/or ambient light
• Digital metering and exposure control,
• Studio lighting for products and portraiture
• Digital File management
• Film type, ISO ratings and applications
• Adobe® Software: Bridge® and Photoshop®
• Nikon Software: Camera Control Pro
• Colour management, inkjet proofing and print output through Adobe® Photoshop®
• Preparation for a personal exhibition.
• Investigations into historical and contemporary topics
Assessment

Students present evidence of their learning through the following:

Assessment type 1: School-based – Centrally Moderated

- **Product** 50%
  Students produce two Photographic Products (Collections) supported with a folio recording the development of the concepts and ideas, and the materials and processes used in the production of those works.

Assessment type 2: School-based – Centrally Moderated

- **Investigation** 20%
  Students produce two (1000 word maximum) investigations into topics of interest and where possible related to their two Photographic Products.
  At Marden Senior College one investigation has a historical / film based focus while the second investigation has a contemporary focus. The specific topic content can be negotiated with the teacher.

Assessment type 3: External – Externally Marked

- **Practical Skills** 30%
  Students produce an A3 folio providing 10 pieces of evidence illustrating their skills explorations, development and application in the use of processes, technique and materials. The sets of evidence must be accompanied with annotation and personal evaluative responses (maximum of 2000 words or equivalent multi-modal form).

Pathways

Creative Arts – Photography is highly desirable for further tertiary study in Photography, Media or Visual Arts through courses such as the Advanced Diploma in Commercial Photography at TAFE, a Degree or Diploma in Visual Arts at ACA, Diploma in Photography at The CCP, a Degree in Media at Adelaide University or a Degree at RMIT.

Further Information

All photography students are required to pay a ‘Maintenance and Borrowing’ fee to the bookroom. The College provides all chemistry, physical equipment and printing inks. All other consumables such as film, paper, negative files, DVDs and mounting/framing materials must be supplied by the student. These can be purchased through the College stationery shop at very competitive prices.