

Photography: Technique, Vision, Voice

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Rebecca Boxwell

Email: rebecca@mothlearning.com

Class Time: Tuesdays, 1:00-1:50 pm EST

Course Description:

Welcome to **Photography: Technique, Vision, Voice!** As a student in this course, you will learn photography as both a technical craft and a powerful form of personal expression. The first semester will focus on building strong technical foundations, including understanding how to create a well-exposed image, using shutter speed and aperture intentionally, recognizing types of light, and utilizing principles of composition. The second semester will shift towards developing visual literacy and personal creative vision. You will learn about photographic movements and key photographers, color theory, the role of photography in culture, the influence of AI, and how to hone your artistic style.

Objectives:

- To understand the technical skills of photography
- To be able to apply skills thoughtfully when creating images
- To learn and apply the principles of composition
- To identify major photographic movements and influences
- To discuss the role of images in culture, activism, media, and literacy
- To develop, evaluate, and refine personal artistic vision
- To create a portfolio of curated work

Course Materials:

All materials other than a camera will be provided by the instructor.

Schedule:

Week 1: Welcome, Types of Cameras

Week 2: The Exposure Triangle

Week 3: Shutter Speed

Week 4: Aperture & Depth of Field

Week 5: Lenses, Focal Length, & Bokeh

Week 6: Focusing methods

Week 7: Open Shade & Bright Sun

Week 8: Side Light & Dappled Sun

Week 9: Backlighting & Golden Hour

Week 10: Spot Metering & Silhouettes
Week 11: Rules of Composition
Week 12: Leading Lines & Rule of Thirds
Week 13: Negative Space & Edges
Week 14: Circles & Spirals
Week 15: Cropping
Week 16: Perspective Choices & Storytelling

Second Semester:

Week 17: Photography Movements & Why They Emerged
Week 18: Color Theory & Culture
Week 19: Elements of Posing
Week 20: Intentional Portraits
Week 21: Showing Relationships in Groups
Week 22: Environmental Portraits
Week 23: Self-portraits
Week 24: Artistic Voice
Week 25: Visual Literacy
Week 26: AI's Influence on Images
Week 27: Photography as Activism
Week 28: Photography as Memory
Week 29: Developing a Personal Project
Week 30: Legacy & Why Photographs Outlive Us
Week 31: Student Presentations
Week 32: Student Presentations

Homework:

Outside of class, you will be responsible for taking photographs to practice the skills you are learning. Weekly submissions will include images and brief reflections. There will be one student project per semester, with the final project being a portfolio of your curated work.

Note for Adults:

While a camera with adjustable settings is recommended, students can successfully take this course using any camera, including a phone.

Note for Students:

Our class space will be creative, supportive, and encouraging. Do not be intimidated by cameras or the idea of sharing your work. I love photography, and I am excited to be spending the year with you!