

Central High School Photojournalism Syllabus

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Conference Time: 11:47-12:36

Tutorial days: Tuesdays and Thursdays before and after school; every day during Bobcat Block

Camera Requirement:

All students enrolled in Photojournalism will need to use a digital camera to complete their assignments. We have a class set of cameras available to students, however, they are shared cameras and cannot be taken home or checked out to use outside of class.

If a student wants to take photos outside of class or wants to use a different type of camera, they may bring their own, but we do not have a secure place for students to store them in the classroom and they are responsible for bringing it to class each day. The camera must be digital, but **cell phones/smart devices are not permitted due to HB1481 that prohibits the use of cell phones during the school day.**

We will not use traditional 35mm cameras, develop film, or use a dark room.

Students will be photographing hundreds of pictures using various techniques taught in class. They will be assigned a specific topic each week and will also be given the opportunity to take photos at school events.

Cell Phones

On May 25, 2025, the Texas Legislature passed HB 1481. HB 1481, a Texas bill, mandates that school districts prohibit students from using personal communication devices, like cell phones and smartwatches, as well as other devices such as earbuds/headphones and gaming devices, during instructional time and on school property. The bill aims to reduce distractions, improve focus, and enhance the learning environment. It allows for exceptions for documented disability accommodations, medical directives, and legal safety requirements.

The full policy can be found on the [SAISD](#) website.

Course requirements:

Students will receive a photography topic each week. Photographs are due by the end of class on the designated due date (Friday of each week unless it is a student holiday, in which case, the due date will be Thursday), and students will submit their photos and include captions for each photo to meet the requirements of the assignment. Students also have the option to take photos at a school event each week (sports events, club meetings, etc.) in place of the week's topic, which we may use in the yearbook if needed. **Photos will be turned in using Schoology.** We will leave the classroom as a class 2-3 times a week for short periods of time (10-15 minutes per day) to go around campus or to nearby locations, such as the river, to find subjects for their photos Tuesdays through Thursdays. Students are also allowed to take photos outside of class or submit photos that they have taken outside of school if it fits within the week's topic. Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom alone to take photos; we will always go

together as a class. Students will NOT be allowed to take photos on the date that the week's assignment is due.

Students will also receive a written assignment each Monday, due the same day. This may be research topics, open ended questions, photography terms to define, etc. Major grades will come from their portfolio (photos turned in through Schoology) and occasional tests.

Grading policy:

Major grades (tests, projects, portfolio evaluations)- 60%

Minor grades (daily work, homework, quizzes)- 40%

- Late Work Policy: All assignments are due when I ask for them. Late work NOT related to an absence will result in a grade deduction of 10 points per every late day from the grade earned up to three days after the assignment is due. After the three-day period, late work is not accepted.
- Make-up Policy: Students absent from class will be allowed the number of days absent, plus one, to make up work. Work will be posted in Schoology within a day of it being assigned so that students can stay caught up if they are absent.

Permissions:

Much of what we photograph will be on the campus, however, there may be times we go for short walks near the campus for a photo shoot.

Students shall adhere to ethical guidelines concerning photography, which will be taught in class.

Computer Usage

Misuse of school computers can result in DAEP placement. Please see Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook for further details.

Tutorial Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays before and after school; every day during Bobcat Block. If you need alternative times, please let me know.

Grades

60% Major; minimum of 3 per nine weeks

40% Minor; minimum of 10 per nine weeks

Schoology

Schoology is a daily part of our class routine. This is a great way to know what is expected and due each day. It is also where you will submit your photos for each assignment. It is your responsibility to log in every day and assess what needs to be done. As you know, Schoology can be accessed anywhere via the internet, which means if you are out, you can log in and see what was assigned that day or get caught up on any missing/late assignments.

Student login: id@students.saisd.org SAISD Schoology site: schoolology.saisd.org

Class Expectations

1. Try! I expect you to try.
2. Pick up after yourself.
3. Treat others and equipment with respect.
4. Be kind.

Tardies

Tardies are a thing. Don't be tardy. Please be in your seat when the bell rings. Minga will send weekly reports to parents/guardians, and excessive tardies will result in referrals. Multiple tardies will also affect your final exam exemptions.

Final Exams

This class is eligible for final exam exemptions in both fall and spring. The CHS exemption policy states: Students must maintain an 80 average for the semester and have no more than 3 absences in the respective class to be exempt. Tardies will impact exemptions. Three unexcused tardies from a class will result in an absence in that class.

Absences, Makeup Work

I miss you when you are gone, and we did do something important while you were absent! But sometimes life happens or you are very involved with other activities and you have to miss. [SAISD Grading Guidelines](#) states: Students are allowed the number of days absent plus one in order to complete make up work. You will check Schoology for all assignments and lessons that you need to make up. It is important that you understand the assignment and its requirements. Make sure to ask questions when needed. Being absent is not an excuse for not knowing. Schoology is your best resource in this class; it is a repository for all class material. ---Remember, you can log into Schoology anytime from anywhere that has internet access. If you so choose, you could log in from home and get caught up!

Late Work

[SAISD Grading Guidelines](#) states: Late work will be -10 points off for each day that it is late! After the 3rd day, work can no longer be accepted and will be recorded as a zero. Talk with me when you are needing to turn in work late so we can work together on a solution. Extensions can be granted if we talk BEFORE the assignment is due!

Consequences

1. A warning will be given.
2. Teacher Detention and/or Parent Contact.
3. For repeated offenses or deliberate misconduct, a referral.

Restroom Breaks

You will generate a pass in Minga to go to the restroom. You must always get my approval before you leave class.

It's best to use restrooms during the passing period. I know this is not always possible. It is best to wait during the middle of class, AFTER the instructions have been given. Minga will not allow you to create a pass during the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of class.

Non-Negotiables

- Don't line up at the door.
- No sound coming from your computer.
- No food or drinks- you are working around expensive computers/equipment!
- Dress code... follow the district policies.
- Classroom headphones need to be returned after use. Neatly, please.
- Come in, sit down, get started! You have wonderful things to create!

Student Success

This class is built so that you may succeed. I want you to pass and to do well in class. If you work on each assignment and turn everything in, there is no reason for you not to do well in this class this year. Good luck! I can't wait to see what you will create!