



## Photography Course Outline 2025 – 2026

### Teacher Contact Info:

|              |   |                    |
|--------------|---|--------------------|
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### Course Description:

Welcome to Photography! In this course you will be presented with many opportunities to discover and enhance your skills in photography:

- developing technical skills in the use of digital cameras
- analyzing and utilizing the principles of composition and design
- developing image manipulation skills to create aesthetically satisfying pictures
- exploring various occupations available in the ever-broadening field of photography

### Course Materials and Resources:

**This course charges a fee of \$25.** This fee covers purchase and maintenance of photographic equipment, supplies, and other items. If a student is unable to pay the course fee, they must have a conversation with their teacher to inform them.

It is expected that students will come to class prepared with proper writing materials for in-class assignments, as needed:

- pens, pencils, erasers, lined paper for note taking
- pencil crayons, markers, a ruler, etc. for creative tasks
- a binder with plastic sleeves or a portfolio for handouts and photo storage

Use of technology for assignments, projects, and research tasks will be integral in this course. Exclusive 1-to-1 access to technology such as DSLR cameras or computers will **not** be guaranteed, and students will need to share with other students. If you have your own camera you wish to bring and use in class, that is acceptable, please coordinate with your teacher.



**Course Specific Software**

During all three levels of photography, and throughout various credit modules within those courses, we will be making use of tools from the Adobe Creative Cloud including Photoshop and Lightroom. Home use of this software is available during the course. In order to use this software, students will have access by using their school email address and name. For more information about the use of this software, please contact your teacher.

**Course Objectives and Assessment:**

As this is a Career and Technology Studies (CTS) course, all curricular outcomes will be drawn from the [Alberta CTS Program\(s\) of Studies](#).

**Competencies and Career Connections – 20%**

The following competencies are assessed in CTS courses at Nelson Mandela:

| Competency                             | Descriptor  |
|--|---|
| <b>Information Management</b>          | Students demonstrate this competency when they identify and clarify clear criteria for problems, explore a variety of problem-solving techniques, and then select and defend the most viable option.  |
| <b>Personal Management</b>             | Students demonstrate this competency when they take personal responsibility for their habits and wellbeing. This includes career skills like punctuality and professionalism, project completion as well as striving for personal excellence.                                 |
| <b>Communication and Collaboration</b> | Students demonstrate this competency when they communicate clearly and effectively with a wide variety of audiences and peers. It also includes the effective use of communication technologies and the application of strategies to be an effective collaborator in a group. |
| <b>Innovation and Creativity</b>       | Students demonstrate this competency when they take risks when exploring a variety of creative processes. They also adapt and persevere when exploring ways to create value and achieve excellence.   |
| <b>Complex Problem Solving</b>         | Students demonstrate this competency when they draw on multiple perspectives, disciplines and resources to select the most viable solution. They also approach all problems with optimism and hope.   |
| <b>Career Connections</b>              | Students demonstrate this when they effectively research and understand the post-secondary and career options that are available to them. They also recognize that historical factors have changed career opportunities over time.  |

**Creation Outcomes (60%) & Knowledge and Skill Outcomes (20%)**



The remainder of the course grades will come from these areas and are outcome specific to each assignment. Following along in Powerschool with your progress will keep you on track with how you are doing in the classes.

**AVAILABLE CREDIT COURSES IN PHOTOGRAPHY (COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA)**

These are the credits that may be offered in the course and they may change due to duplicate CTS credits in other courses.

A student's remaining class grade will be determined based on the outcomes in these specific credits that are not covered by the Competency grade.

**Photography 10 - Introductory Credits**

| Credit  | Outcome  |
|---|--|
| <b>COM 1005:<br/>Visual Composition</b>       | Students learn to employ fundamental elements and principles of design for various media and gain a strong foundational multidisciplinary experience in preparation for other Communication Technology courses.  |
| <b>COM 1205:<br/>Photography Introduction</b> | Students develop essential skills in camera use with a focus on basic composition, set-up and an examination of exposure. Students operate a camera to capture images and produce final display proofs.<br><i>Prerequisite: COM 1005: Visual Composition</i>   |
| <b>COM 1105:<br/>Audio/Video</b>              | Students acquire basic production skills, including planning, recording and editing, through the production of simple audio and/or video project using basic equipment and techniques.<br><i>Prerequisite: COM 1005: Visual Composition</i>  |
| <b>COM 1215:<br/>Photography Exposure</b>     | Students learn the technical and creative uses of aperture, shutter speed and ISO, and demonstrate how combinations of the three elements give very different results. Students also discover how a correct exposure is obtained through the combination of shutter speed, aperture and ISO, which make up the photographic triangle.<br><i>Prerequisite: COM 1205: Photography Introduction</i> |
| <b>COM 1275:<br/>Digital Processing 1</b>     | Students learn the fundamentals of consumer-based digital image acquisition, management, composition, manipulation and editing software to improve image composition.<br><i>Prerequisite: COM 1205: Photography Introduction</i>   |
| <b>COM 1910:<br/>COM Project A</b>            | Students develop project design and management skills to extend and enhance competencies and skills in other CTS courses through contexts that are personally relevant.  |



**Photography 20 - Intermediate Credits**

Students taking the intermediate level of Photography should have earned 3 or more credits in Photography 10 in order to find the most success in this course.

Students are expected to complete at least five credits which may include the following:

| Credit  | Outcome   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>COM 2205:<br/>Photography Composition</b></p>         | <p>Students expand their photography skills including composition, exposure, basic lighting, camera operation, image processing and proofing, and display.<br/><i>Prerequisite: COM 1205 Photography – Introduction</i></p>   |
| <p><b>COM 2215:<br/>Photography Communication</b></p>       | <p>Students use photographic prints or digital images to communicate a message or tell a story.</p>   |
| <p><b>COM 2225:<br/>Photography Darkroom Techniques</b></p> | <p>Students are introduced to the creative use of the image-capture device and processing techniques in order to produce various photographic effects.</p>  |
| <p><b>COM 2235:<br/>Photography Lenses</b></p>              | <p>Students expand photographic concepts by using various lenses and applying depth of field in composition.</p>  |
| <p><b>COM 2105:<br/>AV Preproduction 1</b></p>              | <p>Students examine the value and need for audio and video preproduction, and explore strategies used to plan an audio and/or a video project using a variety of techniques. Students understand that preproduction is stage one in the audio and video process.<br/><i>Prerequisite: COM 1105: Audio/Video</i></p>         |
| <p><b>COM 2115:<br/>AV Production 1</b></p>                 | <p>Students expand on basic audio and/or video production techniques with an emphasis on following a production plan, capturing content to edit and ensuring that continuity is maintained. Students understand that production is stage two in the audio/video process.<br/><i>Prerequisite: COM 1105: Audio/Video</i></p> |
| <p><b>COM 2125:<br/>AV Postproduction 1</b></p>             | <p>Students expand on basic audio and/or video production techniques with an emphasis on following a plan, capturing content to edit and ensuring that continuity is maintained. Students understand that postproduction is stage three in the audio and video process.<br/><i>Prerequisite: COM 1105: Audio/Video</i></p>  |
| <p><b>COM 2910:<br/>COM Project B</b></p>                   | <p>Students develop project design and management skills to extend and enhance competencies and skills in other CTS courses through contexts that are personally relevant.</p>  |



**Photography 30 - Advanced Credits**

Students taking the advanced level of Photography should have earned 6 or more credits in Photography 10 and 20 in order to find the most success in this course. Students who did not complete Digital Processing 1 prior to this course will complete that credit instead of Digital Processing 2.

Students are expected to complete at least five credits which may include the following:

| <b>Credit</b>   | <b>Outcome</b>   |
|---|--|
| <b>COM 3205:<br/>Photography Lighting</b>                   | Students apply various light sources, multiple lighting arrangements and metering techniques with an emphasis on flash and studio lighting.  |
| <b>COM 3215:<br/>Photography Journalism</b>                 | Students develop skills and explore processes to present a story, primarily through the use of pictures and text.  |
| <b>COM 3225:<br/>Photography Colour</b>                     | Students are introduced to various techniques used to create high-quality colour photographs through understanding the process, parameters and issues that arise when working on colour photographs.   |
| <b>COM 3235:<br/>Photography B/W Digital<br/>Techniques</b> | Students develop an understanding of various production and postproduction black-and-white digital techniques and the differences in mood and appeal between colour and monochrome.  |
| <b>COM 3245: Photography<br/>Outdoor Photography</b>        | Students plan and respond to outdoor conditions to capture and produce high-quality outdoor images.  |
| <b>COM 3275:<br/>Photography Digital<br/>Processing 2</b>   | Students acquire original digital images from a digital camera and extend and refine their knowledge of image-editing software. Students focus on composition principles and more advanced editing techniques to enhance images as well as ways to maintain and organize personal libraries.<br><i>Prerequisite: COM 1275 Digital Processing 1</i> |
| <b>COM 3105:<br/>AV Preproduction 2</b>                     | Students refine planning skills used in an audio and video project.<br><i>Prerequisite: COM 2105: AV Preproduction 1</i>   |
| <b>COM 3115:<br/>AV Production 2</b>                        | Students expand on intermediate audio and video production techniques.<br><i>Prerequisite: COM 2115: AV Production 1</i>   |
| <b>COM 3125:<br/>AV Postproduction 2</b>                    | Students expand on digital editing software skills to edit and process audio and video and continue working with motion graphics and audio/video effects to enhance a product.<br><i>Prerequisite: COM 2125: AV Postproduction 1</i>   |
| <b>COM 3910:<br/>COM Project D</b>                          | Students develop project design and management skills to extend and enhance competencies and skills in other CTS courses through contexts that are personally relevant.  |



**Calgary Board  
of Education**

## **Nelson Mandela High School**

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### **Desire2Learn (D2L):**

Over the course of the 2025-2026 school year, Nelson Mandela High School teachers will maintain an online presence containing materials, resources, assignments and supports through our D2L environment. It is important for students to take an active role in their learning and stay current in their schoolwork if away for any reason. Please communicate with your teacher if you have an extended absence planned.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

Students have access to computers during Computer Science class. It is expected that students will be working on the school computers on their assignments during class time.

Nelson Mandela students must adhere to the Government of Alberta Ministerial Order (#014/2024), stating that student personal mobile devices are not allowed during class time unless teachers allow it for specific learning tasks. Student personal mobile devices should be silenced or turned off and stowed away in a bag, backpack, locker, or in a designated area as directed by teachers.

[Nelson Mandela HS Technology Policy](#)