

AS/A2 Level ART & DESIGN: PHOTOGRAPHY



Course Guide

Level 3 Two-year course

2010/11

On an Art and Design based course, students need to be well organised, highly motivated, proactive, already very interested in the medium and keen to explore further its history to date and the meaning of photography in the digital age.

This is a subject that necessitates a significant investment of non-contact time in working on the preparatory books that form an essential part of course assessment.

Subject introduction

Whether defined in terms of being an art or a science, photography is both a form of communication and a means of expression. The design of the course offers students opportunities to respond personally, individually and individualistically to their own experience, environment and culture. As well as developing students' observational powers, the course also offers opportunities for expression, imagination and creativity.

Year 1 study outline

Students will be required to respond individualistically and imaginatively to set briefs, exploring landscape, portraiture, montage, depth and dimension etc. In acquiring and developing some of the skills necessary to produce thought-provoking images, students are encouraged to experiment with a range of methods and approaches. Photography's digitisation means now that much more of the work is computer-based, but graphic and mixed-media approaches characterise much of the work produced by students to date.

Assessment also occurs by way of a five-hour timed test in response to a set brief.

Year 2 study outline

Students will build upon what they have learned in order to develop further the critical awareness and technological skills required pursuing a particular style or approach to image making. Students will be required to respond intelligently and stylistically to set briefs exploring ideas or themes concerning gender, the relationship between image and text, narrative, technology or mixed media.

Assessment also occurs by way of a fifteen-hour timed test in response to a set brief.

SEE WHAT'S NEXT

Costs and essential equipment

Prospective students need to ensure that they have full access to a digital camera with full manual and creative controls in order to learn fundamentally essential concepts regarding aperture and shutter-speed. A 'single-lens reflex' camera would be ideal.

As a minimum expectation cameras should meet the following:

- Shutter speed range: 1/1000 sec – 30 secs
- Film speed range (ISO): 100 – 3200
- Resolution: 5MP – 12MP
- Zoom capability: at least 3x optical

Recommended brands include Canon, Nikon and Fuji. More detailed information and advice concerning cameras is available from the Media Department.

Furthermore, in order to develop a substantial portfolio of photography, some additional costs will be incurred when printing, mounting and presenting work. On average, this has been in the region of £100. However, we would regard this as an important investment to facilitate higher study or employment.

Some support for the production of

coursework and assignments may be available for students in cases of financial hardship.

Subject combinations & careers

The course provides an excellent introduction to the most important aspects of photography and its various career opportunities. Many students have progressed on to prestigious photography and multi-media degree courses in recent years, and some of the most dedicated and enterprising have gained employment in the creative and media industries.

Methods of assessment

AS Unit 1: Coursework Portfolio (50% of AS Level)

AS Unit 2: AS Externally Set Assignment (50% of AS Level)

A2 Unit 3: Personal Investigation (25% of A Level)

A2 Unit 4: A2 Externally Set Assignment (25% of A Level)