



A level Photography

Who is this course for?

Photography at Wyke is aimed at anyone with a keen interest in photography and lens based media. A wide range of facilities exist that will allow an in depth exploration of processes and techniques.

The course requires dedication and a commitment to work independently. Photography is often studied alongside courses such as Media studies and Graphic design, but can also serve as a complementary study route, offering an element of variety to an intense academic programme.

What are the entry criteria?

An average GCSE score of 5.0 is a generic entry requirement.

An interest in photography is absolutely essential and prior creative study is considered an advantage.

The Photography department at Wyke Sixth Form College

Wyke Photography department has a well-equipped purposed built studio with Bowens flash equipment and a computer suite that uses the latest digital software. A darkroom and film processing facilities also exist and the combination of traditional and digital techniques is viewed as central to the course.

The teaching team is:

Paul Hughes and Kate Foster both are active photographic practitioners and have a wide experience of commercial, industry and fine art photography.

Exam Board

AQA

Course Details

The course is delivered as four distinct units of study, which test the skills of observation, media handling, ideas development, contextual research and visual realisation. Quality of written expression is especially important in the second year of study.

AS Photography

ARTF1

A first body of coursework is internally set and marked and is concerned with the construction of a portfolio of studio and location based images that shows a wide variety of techniques, methods, outcomes and subject matter.

ARTF2

An externally set exam paper is released in February of each year offering a choice of themes for independently researched visual development and contextual work. The culmination of this body of work is a five-hour exam undertaken in April in which a summative piece of visual work relating to the exam question is undertaken.

A2 Photography

ARTF3

A personal investigation is undertaken in the first period of second year study; the theme for this work is agreed via negotiation between the individual student and the course team. This component of the course also requires the undertaking of an illustrated essay related in theme to the nature of the personal investigation.

ARTF4

An externally set exam paper is released in February offering a choice of themes for independently researched visual development and contextual work. The culmination of this body of work is a fifteen-hour exam undertaken in April in which a summative piece of visual work relating to the exam question is undertaken.

How the course is delivered

Each student will be allocated one teacher and be encouraged to produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas including; portraiture, landscape photography, still-life photography, documentary photography, photo-journalism, experimental imagery, photographic installation, video, television and film.

At A2 Students will be encouraged to develop their own starting points with an emphasis on individual outcomes.

Departmental Enrichment

Extra support is offered throughout the course with lunchtime and twilight sessions regularly available, a high level of pastoral care assists individual students through the both course and wider college activity.

External visits to galleries and exhibitions are organised to support coursework development and exam preparation.

Individual tutorials are incorporated into the structure of the course with extra one to one tuition available on request.

Student success

Euan Baker has had a successful year studying photography at AS level and is now producing more refined imagery as part of his A2 studies. He is hoping to study Graphic Design at Central St. Martin's College or Brighton University with a view to a career in commercial visual art.

He has particularly enjoyed working with medium format black and white film and with the work of Jacque Henri Lartigue and Richard Avedon being a particular influence.



'ABDUCTION' © Euan Baker 2011

Rebecca Hopkins studied photography alongside Fine Art at A level producing a highly original portfolio of photography-related work dominated by lens based media which gained her entry to St. Martin's college where she is currently studying a foundation course in Art & Design.



'ENCIRCLE' © Rebecca Hopkins 2011

What does this course lead to?

The knowledge and skills gained through the study of this course can lead to further and higher level courses concerned with Fine Art or commercial lens based media.

The study of photography may lead to a career in freelance, commercial, industrial, fine art or landscape photography or could be invaluable to a career in graphic design, journalism, film, media and digital applications.

What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?

The best preparation for this course would be to establish the habit of carrying a camera everywhere and using it daily to establish visual themes referring to the work of other photographers or artists for ideas and inspiration. Photography has many aspects and uses but visits to galleries especially those exhibiting photography as well as fine art would help form an understanding of the subject.

Inspirational photographers would include:

Mark Power

Henri Cartier-Bresson

Don McCullin

Dorothea Lang

Faye Godwin

Bill Brandt

External links

wyke-photography.blogspot.com