

Photographic & Digital Media

Visual Arts Department

Rationale

Photographic and Digital Media plays a significant role in the curriculum by providing specialised learning opportunities to enable students to understand and explore the nature of photographic and digital media as an important field of artistic practice, conceptual knowledge and technological procedures that directly link to daily life.

Curriculum

After developing an understanding of the impact of technology on society, students start an adventure into digital fields of communication using the latest technology to create contemporary artworks. The aim of the *Photographic and Digital Media elective course* is to enable students to:

- develop and enjoy practical and conceptual autonomy in their abilities to represent ideas and interests in photographic and digital media works

- Understand and value the different beliefs that affect interpretation, meaning and significance in photographic and digital media.

Practical / Theory Components

The course has been divided into two distinctive components that comprise of 60% practical experience with 40% Visual Art related theory. Practical enables student to start experiment with basic illustration software packages before progressing to advanced knowledge in film production. Within the theoretical components, student will learn how to understand and discuss issues associated with the Visual Arts and its direct links to culture and Australian Society.

Use of Technology

Holy Cross College has installed the latest technology for digital photography and video editing to enable optimal learning environment for this course. A specialized computer laboratory has been installed with industry specific software (PC and MAC), which is indicative of the College's progressive nature in the use of technology in learning.

Cross Curriculum, Literacy and Numeracy

As the different forms of digital media communication infiltrate nearly every aspect of daily life, many links to cross curriculum learning are present within this course. Content draws from the *HSIE* key learning area to examine the historical impact of methods of communication while *English* is explored through the different genre used. The links to daily life and content drawn from other teaching areas in this course will help consolidate all student learning programs and construct relevant knowledge links to all subject areas. Furthermore, *Literacy* will be addressed through the student learning the language of art and the ability to construct academic arguments, while numeric applications can be found everywhere computing based applications are used.

HSC / SC Results

The skills acquired with the strength of the Visual Arts key learning area behind this course, and with recognised artists being members of the faculty, the projected future of this educational program is to maintain and improve the above state average results continually achieved in the HSC years.

Excursions and Other Points of Interest

Excursions planned for this Year 9 & 10 elective unit comprise of visits to local cinemas and the Art Gallery of NSW to enhance the classroom knowledge with real life experiences.

The outcome for this area of study is for students to develop a comprehensive portfolio of work that can be used to support their entrance into Holy Cross College's senior educational programs leading toward a Higher School Certificate. However, it is important to note, that most students today who are applying for TAFE or University entrance into practical based subject, require evidence of ability, to which this course naturally develops in a fun field learning environment.