

Thalun International School

2nd Trimester Plan for Grades 6-10

40 minute sessions, once a week (November 2017 – February 2018)

*Items in this plan are subject to change. Topics will further be customized for each individual class as well as for each student based on their skill levels.

Week 1

(November 14 & 15, 2017)

Introduce Your Selfie: Students will be introduced to the course, their instructor, and create a visual way to introduce themselves to everyone else. We'll start by taking a "selfie" on the computer. Using Google docs, students will place their image and write a short biography and answer some questions about their likes, biggest strengths, contact info and what they hope to learn most, etc.

Topics covered: Taking and placing images, using Word-type programs, writing a bio, thinking about strengths and being proactive in creating own learning goals, typing practice, page layout and content design, using Google docs for collaboration and sharing, saving files.

If time/For advanced learners: Set up email accounts. Research blog topics.

*Goal for this week: Try to get all students an email account before next week.

Week 2

(November 21 & 22, 2017)

Cover Girls and Cover Boys: Using the free program Gimp, students will learn to take their selfie from last week and make it "blog or magazine-ready." We'll adjust levels, brightness, contrast, etc. touch on the best and worst effects to use (and when NOT to use them), removing a zit or stain, removing red eyes, etc. Students will then replace last week's image with their new image in their Google document.

Topics covered: Image editing and manipulation, real beauty vs. "Photo-shopped" beauty (aka: ethical concerns of image manipulation/ codes of photo journalism), Google doc practice, more about layout/typography.

If time/For advanced learners: Whitening teeth, tinting eyes or lips, nip n' tuck, making changes look natural.

*Goal for this week: Get email addresses from everyone so we can start to set up our class blogs.

Week 3

(November 28 & 29, 2017)

Get On Up: Students will be introduced to the class blog(s). Using their selfie docs from the previous classes, they will learn how to post an introductory blog post bio and publish it (*With guidance. Nothing is published without instructor approval first).

Students will also get a Google spreadsheet based on all the classmates' bios. Next to the "Biggest Strengths" column will be a new empty column called "What My Classmates See as My Biggest Strength." Students will fill in their answers for their classmates collaboratively in real time.

Topics covered: Blogging basics, making posts, electronic publishing, spreadsheet basics, focusing on strengths

If time/For advanced learners: Printing out the spreadsheets. Practice image editing techniques. Use public domain images.

*Goal for this week: Find out assignments/reports due in other classes to use as a future blog post.

Week 4

(December 5 & 6, 2017)

Play Nice: Students will get a rundown on netiquette and the educational use of online resources. Students will begin a blog post/ report due for another class at a future date.

Topics covered: How to use royalty free imagery/ copyright laws. Where to find free images, sound effects, music, and video for their projects. Citations (how and why to do it). Footnoting. Endnoting.

If time/For advanced learners: Have students download and manipulate royalty-free/public domain content to practice.

*Goal for this week: Find out what oral presentations students have due in other classes so we can start to prepare.

Week 5

(December 12 & 13, 2017)

Review and Intro to Color Psychology: Review all topics covered so far. Individual help. Explore the power of color and its ability to affect how one is perceived and how it can be used in presentations to affect the viewers' mood and future actions/ perceptions. How to make type more legible.

Topics covered: color psychology, presentation design, web design basics (content creation), basic typography

If time/For advanced learners: Find examples online of good and bad use of color in design.

*Goal for this week: Find out if and how students are already using social media. Set up class Facebook group(s).

Week 6

(January 9 & 10, 2018)

Sharing is Caring: Students will craft social media posts based on their favorite color fun facts from the previous color lesson. Students will write about their fact in a fun and informative way and use a royalty-free image they have enhanced to make web-ready. They will then post in our class Facebook group and optionally, share with friends/family. We'll use likes and shares to help gauge how persuasive their posts were.

Topics covered: web design/social media basics (content creation), color psychology, netiquette, image curation and manipulation

If time/For advanced learners: The power of word choices. Introducing the headline analyzer tool.

*Goal for this week: Have students bring in presentation topics for another class due in the future.

Week 7

(January 16 & 17, 2018)

Help! I've Gone Viral: Students will learn about the power of word choices in headlines, blog posts, and email titles to ensure that interest is generated and their larger content gets read. They can then apply this to other subject areas such as writing titles for a report or presentation, being more persuasive in a letter or email, and helping to form better arguments and have more impact with the written word. Using their blog posts already written, students will redo their old headlines using feedback from CoSchedule's Headline Analyzer Tool.

Topics covered: content creation, word choices and impact, emotional language, headline choices, basic social media marketing, text revision

If time/For advanced learners: Putting it all together. Brainstorming word, image, and color choices for presentations.

*Goal for this week: Have students outline presentation topics and bring to next class

Week 8

(January 23 & 24, 2018)

Is This True or False? Media Literacy in the Digital Age: Students will present their research topics for their future presentations. We'll go over ways to gather information online about topics and do a rundown on how to determine which sources are credible and which are not. We'll consider getting the same news story/article from different sources and viewpoints, even from places where we are already sure we won't agree with their viewpoint. We'll

discuss who is putting out the content, who funds them, and how their funding source may or may not influence their content. Students will begin researching their topics and gathering their findings in a new blog post.

Topics covered: media literacy, research skills, using content for educational use, citations and sources, pros and cons of Wikipedia (and how to use it correctly), independent vs. controlled media, content creation

If time/For advanced learners: Additionally gathering images, videos, and other content for future visual presentations

*Goal for this week: Have students gather content for presentations

Week 9

(January 30 & 31, 2018)

Making the Information Pretty: We'll begin taking our text and visual content and making visual "Powerpoint-esq" presentations according to best practices.

Topics covered: presentation organization, outlining, presentation software program basics, layout, typography and imaging best practices.

If time/For advanced learners: Get started outlining and creating presentations

*Goal for this week: Have students begin working on presentations

Week 10

(February 6 & 7, 2018)

Oral Presentation Skills, Review Day, and Individual Help: We'll cover oral presentation best practices and strategies for overcoming stage fright. Review and clarification of all topics covered so far. Work in class time on presentations

Topics covered: Oral presentation skills, fine tuning visual presentations, prepping your visuals, being prepared if technology fails during a presentation, review.

If time/For advanced learners: Fine tune presentations

*Goal for this week: Have students finish up presentations and practice for next week

Week 11

(February 13 & 14, 2018)

Presentation Critiques: Students will do a mock presentation using their "Powerpoint" visual aids. The class will help students identify what they are doing well and what can be improved in advance of their final presentations for their respective classes. Optional: We may videotape the presentations to review later.

Topics covered: Oral presentation skills, critiquing skills, refining and adjusting presentations, prepping multiple versions of a presentation

If time/For advanced learners: Finish presentations

*Goal for this week: Have students be ready for their class presentations

Week 12

(February 20 & 21, 2018)

Selfies Revisited: Students will take their selfies from the start of the trimester (or take a new photo). They will learn how to use imaging software (Gimp) to make a professional looking illustration based on their photos. Students will post the image to their blog as well as write a brief analysis of what they learned over the past 12 weeks. Final illustrations can be used as unique social media profile images.

Topics covered: Digital imaging, illustration, blogging, reflection on learning goals.