



Syllabus

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Course Introduction

Welcome to Digital Photography. This class will give you a beginning understanding of the digital camera and basic picture editing. The skills you learn in this class will help you to take better pictures for the rest of your life.

Prerequisites

This is an introductory course so there aren't any prerequisite courses that you should have already taken. The course covers topics you've undoubtedly heard about to some extent. The content of this course should help you expand your knowledge. Because this is a beginning class you do not need any understanding of photography. Any classes you may have taken prior to this one will help you as you compose pictures.

Learning Outcomes

Once you have successfully completed this class you should be able to do the following:

1. Understand the history of photography and the development of digital photography.
2. Develop the skills to use a digital camera to record light.
3. Use the manual settings of the digital camera to have greater control of your work.
4. Learn how to use editing software to bring out the best in your pictures.
5. Explore careers that use photography.

Course Materials

1. A digital camera. You may not use a cell phone or similar device. A camera with manual settings is best but not required.

2. The owner's manual for your camera. If you do not have this you can look it up online.
3. Digital editing software. I will refer to Photoshop Elements 10 in this class.
4. A tripod (optional).
5. An open mind. This is the most important ingredient for this course! You need to be willing to try new things with your camera.

The course material should give you everything you need to be successful in this class. If you want to read further and go into greater depth, there are a number of good books in local bookstores. The Internet is also a great resource when you want to know more.

Assignments

Self-Check Questions

Each unit has Self-Check questions. The questions are true-or-false, fill-in-the-blank, or matching questions. The questions are designed to help you see how well you remember what you have learned in the unit. The questions are based on information taught in the unit.

Unit Quizzes

The unit quizzes are designed to see how well you can apply what you have learned throughout the course. The questions are based on information taught in the unit. Each unit quiz has between ten and twenty questions, and combined, unit quizzes are worth twenty percent of your course grade. Units 1-5 each contain a unit quiz.

Portfolios

Each portfolio is worth fifteen percent of your total course grade. Combined, your portfolio submissions make up forty-five percent of your grade. Units 1 and 2 each contain projects that will be turned in as the first portfolio, after Unit 2. Units 3 and 4 each contain projects that will be turned in as the second portfolio, after Unit 4. Units 5 and 6 each contain projects that will be turned in as the third portfolio, after Unit 6.

Each portfolio will need to be submitted online through the course.

I will critique your work and offer suggestions as necessary. It is my hope that you won't take my criticisms personally. I intend to always be constructive and never destructive with my suggestions.

Exams

Final Exam

The final exam consists of about eighty-five questions. The final exam is worth thirty-five percent of your course grade.

Grading

You will be graded on three things: Unit quizzes, photography portfolios, and the final exam. Unit quizzes are completed at the end of each of unit (except Unit 6. Each quiz will amount to four percent of your grade for a total of twenty percent.

Photography portfolios are completed at the end of each unit, but are turned in as portfolios after units 2, 4, and 6. Each portfolio equates to fifteen percent of your grade for a total of forty-five percent.

The comprehensive final exam has about 85 questions and accounts for the other thirty-five percent of your grade. The following is the grading scale:

Grade Breakdown

| Assignments | Percentages |
|--------------|-------------|
| Unit Quizzes | 20% |
| Portfolio 1 | 15% |
| Portfolio 2 | 15% |
| Portfolio 3 | 15% |
| Final Exam | 35% |
| Total | 100% |

Grade Scale

Grade Scale

| Letter Grade | Percentage Range |
|--------------|------------------|
| A | 100–94 |
| A- | 93–90 |

| Letter Grade | Percentage Range |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| B+ | 89–87 |
| B | 86–84 |
| B- | 83–80 |
| C+ | 79–77 |
| C | 76–74 |
| C- | 73–70 |
| D+ | 69–67 |
| D | 66–64 |
| D- | 63–60 |
| E (FAIL) | 59 or below |

Course Organization

The course consists of six units and a final exam. What follows is a brief overview of each unit:

Unit 1: Introduction to Photography

This unit will give you an introduction to the history and development of the tools of photography and the people who brought it to the important art form and tool. You will first explore the history of photography by researching important developments and placing them in the correct order on a timeline. The second part of the unit will help you to identify influential photographers and their contribution to photography. The final lesson of this unit will familiarize you with photographic terms that will be used as you complete this introductory course.

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the major photographic discoveries and changes in photography throughout history.
2. Identify some of the influential photographers and their contributions throughout the brief history of photography.
3. Define basic photography terms.

Unit 2: Equipment—Digital Camera Basics

This unit will discuss digital cameras. You will want to pay particular attention to information about the type of camera you will be using to complete your class assignments.

Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the function of various parts of digital cameras: body, viewer, lens, shutter, aperture, and picture data storage.
2. Use shutter speed together with aperture to achieve desired degree of motion and desired depth of field in your photograph.
3. Identify the basic types of cameras, and list the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Unit 3: Composition Basics

The way you compose a picture when you take it will determine if you have a snapshot or a photograph. Everyone sees snapshots of vacations and other activities. Your goal is to create memorable photographs that will remain in the mind of the viewer. To do this you must understand some basic rules of composition.

Learning Outcomes

1. Decide what type of photograph you will take based on content and purpose.
2. Describe the rule of thirds and other rules of composition.
3. Describe the basic elements of design and their application in photography.
4. Describe the basic principles of design and their application in photography.
5. Know how and why to choose a focal length for each photograph you take.

Unit 4: Technique—Digital Black and White

You will learn about the effect light has on the sensors of a digital camera and how to select the correct ISO setting for a picture. The correct use of natural and artificial light will be explained. Methods to upload pictures to editing software and the use of tags will be explored.

Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the effect light has on the sensors of a digital camera. Choose the best ISO setting based on available light, flash, and equipment.

2. Explain the appropriate use of natural and artificial light in photography.
3. Describe the process used to upload pictures to your editing software and set up tags for use with your pictures.
4. Tag your images and troubleshoot and delete all poor quality images.

Unit 5: Evaluation—Introduction to Editing

You will need to have access to a computer with photograph editing software to complete the assignments for the rest of the course. You will also need a digital camera. The outcomes for this unit are as follows:

Learning Outcomes

1. Use various tags to organize your pictures.
2. Edit and improve your images by using zoom, crop, levels, contrast, and brightness.
3. Save your pictures in a version set.
4. Edit and improve your images by using marquee, lassos, magic wand, clone stamp, spot healing brush, and fixing camera distortion.

Unit 6: Careers in Photography

This unit will give you the opportunity to explore different careers in photography. You will be asked to compile information about three different careers in the field of photography. After collecting information about these three careers, you will write a two-page paper about one of the careers.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Use investigative skills to research three careers in the field of photography.
2. Create reviews of careers researched to gain insight into possible professional pursuits.