

COURSE IDENTIFICATION**Course Title:** Introduction to Digital Photography**Description and Prerequisites**

This course will provide students with basic compositional skills and conceptual applications of digital photography, enhancing their ability to create successful photographs.

This course may NOT be applied to any Art major or minor.

No pre-requisite

Textbooks and Required Materials

Edwards, Photography: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-280164-7

To complete the assignments in this course, you may use any digital camera. However, a DSLR camera is STRONGLY recommended. You should be able to change the settings on your camera from automatic to manual, to adjust the white balance, shutter speed, aperture, focus, depth of field, and other settings. A phone camera or point-and-shoot camera cannot usually make these adjustments, so you won't get as much out of this class if you're not using a DSLR, although you will still be able to complete the assignments.

COURSE OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES

Outcomes	Objectives
Knowledge: What students should know	
Understand the history, current issues, and direction of the artistic discipline	Students will gain understanding of the history, current issues, and contemporary applications of photography.
Place works in the historical, cultural, and stylistic contexts of the artistic discipline	Students will locate photographic works in historical, cultural, and stylistic contexts
Use the technology and equipment of the artistic discipline	Students will use digital cameras and photo imaging software to create photographs
Skills: What students should be able to do	
Use the elements and principles of art to create artworks in the artistic discipline	Students will produce photographs informed by the elements and principles of art.
Create artwork that demonstrates perceptual acuity, conceptual understanding, and technical skill	Students will create photographs demonstrating their increasing perceptual acuity, conceptual understanding, and technical skill.
Analyze and evaluate works of art in the artistic discipline	Students will analyze and evaluate photographs.

Synthesis: How students will combine knowledge and skill to demonstrate learning	
Produce artworks demonstrating technical skill and disciplinary knowledge	Students will produce photographs demonstrating technical skill and knowledge of photography.
Use knowledge of art and disciplinary vocabulary to analyze artworks	Students will participate in critique, applying disciplinary vocabulary and analytical skill and knowledge.
Participate in critiques of own work and work of others	

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week #	Topic	Lectures and Readings	Assignments
1	Introductions	Course Syllabus Course Introduction PowerPoint Lecture 1.1	Bring a previous photo that you're proud of to class and be prepared to share it with your peers.
	Familiarization with equipment	Read the instruction manual that came with your camera from cover to cover.	Write a short description of what you learned that you didn't know before you read your camera's instruction manual.
2	Reveal and conceal	Lecture 2.1	Photo Assignment: Choose one object. Shoot 10 frames that reveal the object. Shoot 10 frames conceal the object (without overtly covering it up or hiding it)
	Experiments in Lighting and Exposure	Lecture 2.2	Photo Assignment: Shooting with a flash, without a flash, in natural light, in low light... Choose one object and photograph it in each of these ways, considering the direction of the light source (sun at your back, sun in front of you, etc)
3	Adjusting contrast color correction, and basic cropping	Lecture 3	Photo Assignment: Landscape/Cityscape

4	The "Rule of Thirds" Editing Techniques I: cropping and other basics	Lecture 4	Editing practice: choose five of your images. Crop them using the rule of thirds to improve your compositions.
5	The Language of Photography	Lecture 5	Quiz: Key Vocabulary (10-20 terms, matching format)
6	Vantage Point	Lecture 6.1	Photo Assignment: Arrange a still life using 3-5 objects and photograph it from multiple points of view. Use extreme angles, varied distances from the subject, etc...
	Framing and Sequencing	Lecture 6.2	Photo Assignment: Photographing an Event
7	Elements and principles of Design in Composition	Lecture 7	Photo Assignment: Shoot a variety of images that demonstrate: line, color, shape, texture, space, form, unity, balance, hierarchy, scale, dominance, similarity, contrast (one each)
8	Mid-Term Critique	Critique	Choose your 5 best images so far. Utilize appropriate editing techniques and present for critique.
			Mini Research Paper: choose from a list of notable photographers. Research this person to identify a given list of important facts about him/her. Include and critique ONE image produced by the photographer. 5 pages, not including the included image
9	Introduce Final Project: Visual Narrative	Lecture 9	Final Project Part I--Brainstorming

10	Depth of Field <i>Note: students who do not have the ability to adjust their cameras for depth of field will receive an alternative assignment this week.</i>	Lecture 10	Photo Assignment: Depth of field: motion/ stop motion
11	Creating a Visual Narrative: Linear and Non-Linear Storytelling	Lecture 11.1	Final Project Part II—Shoot 25 new images
		Lecture 11.2	Photo Assignment: Portraits
12	Editing Techniques II Adjusting color, contrast, brightness, and so on	Lecture 12	Final Project Part III—Shoot 25 new images
13	Editing and Sequencing Images: deciding which to keep, which to delete, and how to arrange them in the best order	Lecture 13.1	Final Project Part IV—Shoot 25 new images.
	Assembling a Portfolio: presentation options	Lecture 13.2	Create Rough Draft of project and submit directly to the instructor
14	Presentation of Final Projects	Critique	Final Project Part V + Written Statement Group Critique of Final Projects
15	Final Exam	n/a	The Final Exam will include key terms, general information about photography and photographic processes studied during the class, and short essay questions.

			Students may use their notes, textbook, and other resources on the final exam.
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ASSIGNMENT & ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Weight
Vocabulary Quiz	3
Research Paper—photographer and photo critique	5
Final Exam	7
Photo Assignments: 1- Reveal/Conceal 2- Lighting and Exposure 3- Landscape/Cityscape 4- Still Life/Vantage Point 5- Photographing an Event 6- Elements and Principles of Design 7- Depth of Field: Motion/Stop-Motion 8- Portraits	5 points each (40)
Editing Techniques 1—cropping and basics Editing Techniques 2—color, contrast, brightness	5 points each (10)
Final Photography Project Parts I - V	20 (parts II-V 5 points each)
Mid-term Critique	5
Final Critique	5
Photographer's Statement	5
Total	100 points

Attachments-1

Written directions for assignments

Photography Assignments

For all assignments, a specified number of images are required. This should NOT indicate the number of photographs you ACTUALLY shoot. Most photographers shoot a lot more images than they actually use.

Assignment 1: Reveal/Conceal

- Choose one item as your subject. This should be something small enough that you can move it from place to place but large enough to be seen from several feet away.
- Shoot 10 frames that reveal the subject using the techniques discussed in this week's lecture
- Shoot 10 frames that conceal the subject using the techniques discussed in this week's lecture, without overtly covering it up or hiding it.
- Choose your most successful image and be prepared to share it with your peers.

Assignment 2: Lighting and Exposure

- Choose one object and photograph 5 frames of it in each of the following ways, considering the direction of the light source
 - Indoors with a flash
 - Indoors without a flash
 - Outdoors in bright light
 - Outdoors in dim light/shadow
- Try to vary your position relative to the object and the light source. For instance when you're outdoors, shoot one frame with the sun at your back, and another with the sun in front of you. When you're indoors, find a bright light source (lamp, television...) and shoot one frame with the light source in front of you, and one with the light behind you.
- You should end with a total of 20 photographs.
- Choose your most successful image and be prepared to share it with your peers.

Assignment 3: Landscape/Cityscape

- Your task is to shoot a series of 20 images of a landscape or cityscape that take a non-standard approach to composition.
 - Shoot a variety of compositions and perspectives including:
 - Extreme horizontals
 - Extreme verticals
 - Tilted angles
 - Extreme close-ups
 - Do NOT shoot ANY photos from a standard eye-level perspective
- Choose your most successful image and be prepared to share it with your peers.

Assignment 4: Still Life and Vantage Point

- Arrange a collection of 3 to 5 objects with differing physical characteristics.
- Photograph it from multiple points of view, including extreme angles, varied distances from the subject, with a flash, without a flash, or any other creative approach you can think of.
- Shoot a total of 20 images.

- Choose your most successful image and be prepared to share it with your peers.

Assignment 5: Photographing an Event

- Choose an event to shoot for this assignment. This can be something occurring on campus or out in the community.
- Shoot a total of 20 images.
- Your photos should tell the story of the event and should include differing distances from the subject and compositional techniques.
- Your photos should demonstrate technical skill: all images should be in focus and should show correct exposure and contrast.
- Choose your most successful image and be prepared to share it with your peers.

Assignment 6: Elements and Principles of Design

- Shoot one or more images that have a single aspect of Design as their subject. These must include:
 - Line
 - Color
 - Shape
 - Texture
 - Space
 - Form
 - Unity
 - Balance
 - Hierarchy
 - Scale
 - Dominance
 - Similarity
 - Contrast
- Select your best photo of each type and submit it to the instructor
- Choose your most successful image overall and be prepared to share it with your peers.

Assignment 7: Depth of Field—Motion/Stop Motion

- Using the lecture and techniques demonstrated in class, shoot a total of 20 images that demonstrate:
 - Shallow depth of field (items near the camera in focus, background blurred)
 - Maximum depth of field (all items in focus)
 - Motion: show a moving subject as blurred against a focused background
 - Stop-motion: show a moving subject frozen in sharp focus
- Select your best five shots from each of the settings for a total of 20 images to be presented to the instructor
- Choose your most successful image and be prepared to share it with your peers.

Assignment 8: Portrait

- Choose ONE PERSON to be your subject. You will shoot 20 different images of this person
 - 10 environmental portraits that show your subject in a setting that reflects his or her personality and/or profession. 5 of these images should be posed and 5 should be candid.

- 10 studio portraits showing your subject posed in front of a neutral backdrop. Shoot the subject in a variety of poses and ranges (seated, standing, full-body, waist-up, shoulders-up, close up). 5 poses should have the subject looking directly at the camera; 5 can take a more creative approach.
- Choose your most successful image and be prepared to share it with your peers.

Final Project

- You will choose a subject for your final project that presents a linear or non-linear visual narrative.
- Your subject must be something you can re-visit over three weeks. It CANNOT be a one-time event. Project ideas will be discussed in class, and we will spend a class period brainstorming together. (Brainstorming is Part I of the project)
- Part II: shoot 25 or more frames of your subject. These should include at least 8 wide shots establishing the setting or context of your story.
- Part III: shoot 25 or more frames of your subject. These should include at least 8 mid-range shots presenting the broad narrative of your story.
- Part IV: shoot 25 or more frames of your subject. These should include at least 8 close-up shots of your subject presenting details of the narrative.
- Part V: Final project assembly:
 - Edit your collection of images down to the best 10-15 photographs
 - Place these photographs in a logical sequence that best conveys your visual narrative
 - Prepare the photos for presentation according to the guidelines you will receive in class.

Research Paper: Photographer and Image Evaluation

- You will be assigned a photographer in class.
- Your task is to conduct research about the photographer and find a sample of their photographic imagery.
- You will write a 500-800 word paper that includes a balanced presentation of information about the photographer and analysis and critique of the selected image
- You MUST include a copy of the selected image
- ALL sources AND the photograph MUST be correctly cited.
- You will submit your paper to the instructor, but should also be prepared to present your image and an overview of your analysis to your classmates.

Photographer's Statement

- In conjunction with your final project, you will write a photographer's statement approximately 300 words in length. In it you should address:
 - Why you selected the topic for your project
 - How you completed the assignment
 - What the final project means to you and what you intend to communicate to the audience.
- You should be prepared to share this information during our final critique

In addition to these assignments, we will have one quiz over the key vocabulary of photography, and we will also have a final exam covering the major concepts addressed in our lectures and readings.