

Department of Art Syllabus

- I. ART 481 *Digital Photography I*, 3 Credit Hours
- II. PREREQUISITES
Art major or Department Chair Approval
- III. TEXTBOOK
None
- IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to the world of digital photography using the digital camera. Concepts and skills of basic photography with this creative approach, history of photography, lighting, composition, manipulation, and color correction of images with digital software for enhancement will be covered and practiced. A digital camera is required. (Lab fee required)
- V. RATIONALE
This course is required of art majors in some degree programs and is an elective course allowed for many degree options at Mississippi College. In this course, an intense studio emphasis in photography will develop one's basic knowledge, skill, and confidence level necessary to make artistic photographs.
- VI. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES
 - A. Technical: Understanding of light and its effects on subject and recording medium (digital array). Mastery of the camera and accessory equipment such as lenses, lighting, flash, and filters. Mastery of processes for imaging and prints.
 - B. Artistic: Development of a sound personal approach to aesthetic goals in photography, including pictorial composition and creative approach. Development of critical faculties in the assessment and critique of photographs. Development of an appreciation of the history of photography and of the works of the great photographers.
 - C. Professional: Integration of concepts of the uses to which photography may be put in the modern world and how photographers attempt to meet the demands of the public in both art and commercial photography.
 - D. Spiritual: Students will also have opportunities to see photography as an aid to the expression and understanding of the Christian faith.

- VII. COURSE TOPICS
- A. The basic history of photography
 - B. The nature of the process of perception
 - C. The function of light on digital arrays
 - D. The relationship of shutter speed and aperture and how they control the amount of light reaching the digital array
 - E. Permanent storing media in digital photography
 - F. How to adjust the camera for proper exposure
 - G. The principles of good composition
 - H. The processes of obtaining and printing basic images, digital photography, and how these may be manipulated.
 - I. Lenses and their care
 - J. The use of filters and flash
 - K. The use of artificial light in the studio
 - L. Considerations of color in photography
 - M. Basic considerations of photojournalism
 - N. Using different types of cameras
 - O. What constitutes a good photograph
 - P. Creative considerations in photography
 - Q. What the great photographers accomplished
 - R. Special effects in photography
 - S. Digital manipulation and editing of images using computer software
 - T. Professional, legal, and ethical issues in photography
 - U. Procedures for presentation of photographs
- VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES
- A. Lecture/dvd media/discussion/demonstration
 - B. Studio activities
 - C. Critiques
 - D. Group activities
 - E. Notebook making
- IX. GRADING SCALE
- See Department of Art Syllabus Addendum for Grading Scale and Evaluation.*
- X. LIST OF MATERIALS
- Materials list will be provided by the instructor.
- XI. REFERENCES
- Busch, D. D. (2014). *David Busch's guide to Canon flash photography*. Boston, MA: Course Technology/Cengage Learning.

- Busselle, M. (2002). *Creative digital photography*. New York: Amphoto Books.
- Grey, C. (2010). *Christopher Grey's studio lighting techniques for photography*. Buffalo, NY: Amherst Media.
- Gustavson, T. (2009). *Camera: A history of photography from daguerreotype to digital*. New York: Sterling Innovation.
- Hurter, B. (2006). *The best of Adobe Photoshop: Techniques and images from professional photographers*. Buffalo, NY: Amherst Media.
- Jacobs, L. (2010). *The art of posing: Techniques for digital portrait photographers*. Buffalo, NY: Amherst Media.
- King, J A. (2012). *Digital photography for dummies*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
- Long, B. (2015). *Complete digital photography*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.
- Rice, P. (2006). *Master guide for professional photographers*. London/Buffalo, NY: Amherst Media.
- Tuck, K. (2010). *Commercial photography handbook: Business techniques for professional digital photographers*. Buffalo, NY: Amherst Media.