

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE

ART 481

Digital Photography I

3 semester hours

II. PREREQUISITES

Art major or department chair approval.

III. TEXTBOOK

Ciaglia, Introduction to Digital Photography

IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to photography using the digital camera along with editing, printing and viewing technologies as tools of the photographer. Principles of exposure control, lighting, composition, digital editing, and creative approach will be covered and practiced.

(This course is offered to fulfill degree curriculum and studio elective requirements in the Department of Art and as a viable elective for any student wishing to learn the principles and techniques of photography for pleasure and personal creative growth, or as support for professional activities.)

V. RATIONALE

Photography I is required of art majors in some degree programs and is an elective course allowed for many degree programs 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

The major topics to be considered are:

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
- K. The use of flash
- L. The use of artificial light in the studio
- M. Considerations of color in photography
- N. Basic considerations of photojournalism
- O. Using different types of cameras
- P. What constitutes a good photograph?
- Q Creative considerations in photography
- R. What the great photographers accomplished
- S. Special effects in photography
- T. Digital manipulation and editing of images using computer software
- U. Professional, legal and ethical issues in photography
- V. Procedures for presentation of photographs

You will receive classroom instruction in techniques which you will apply in assignments and so class attendance is required. There will be reading and study assignments. There will be opportunities for group critiques of photographs. The photographic assignments for the course are given in the syllabus, and the instructor reserves the right to add additional work. Students are responsible for working outside of class to the extent that all assignments are completed.

VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES:

Methods and activities for instruction will include:

- A. Lecture / discussion / DVD media / demonstration
- B. Studio Activities
- C. Critiques
- D. Group Activities
- E. Notebook-making.

IX. ASSIGNMENT AREAS:

A list of assignments will be given at the beginning of the course. *Possible assignments:*

Composition exercises - Photographs which will show the principles of composition.

Landscapes - These may include some architecture or a figure for scale.

Architecture - Projects which will show detail and the larger views of buildings and structures.

Portraits and Models - Photographing portraits and models in a setting appropriate for such studies.

Nature studies - These should be photographs of details in nature such as tree trunks, leaves, flowers, roots, rocks, skies, etc.

Photojournalism and documentary photography – Photographs which tell a story or illustrate an event, situation, or a profile of a person or group.

Still Life - Projects dealing with objects, either in the fine arts sense or in applied photography such as commercial product shots.

Free-choice photographs - People, places, and things that interest the photographer, indoors and out.

Photographs will be evaluated on criteria of creativity, composition, artistry, and good technique including focus, steadiness, dodging and burning, color control, contrast, pixel structure, cropping, unmarred images and prints, and proper presentation. Each student is expected to work diligently and regularly to move forward in these assignments. Any change in the assignments can only be made with permission of the instructor. With prior notification to the class the instructor may give substitute assignments for individuals or the whole class.

DEADLINES

Assignments must be completed by an assigned date.

X. EVALUATION:

The student will be responsible for the following:

- A. Reading Textbook Assignments
- B. Class Participation in Discussions and Field Trips
- C. Notebooks
- D. Preparation for Tests
- E. Photographic Projects

75% Project Grades: Completion of assignments in various photographic avenues.

10% Notebooks: Syllabus, all class notes, and a journal of locations of where photos were taken.

15% Written Tests covering lecture and assigned readings.

100% Total

GRADING SCALE: A = 95 - 100 B = 85 - 94

C = 75 - 84 D = 65 - 74

XIII. LIST OF MATERIALS: (*These items are not provided by the university*)

A. You will need a digital camera with rechargeable batteries (*an extra set of batteries would be smart to have in your camera bag*) and a internal memory card. A digital camera with a manual exposure is preferred.

B. A USB Cable or Card Reader to import photographs to the computer for viewing and editing.

C. A USB Flash ("*Jump*") Drive to transfer photographs for printing and editing in Photoshop.

This USB Drive should be at least a memory of 1 or 2 Gigabytes...the higher the Gigabytes the better.

D. A number of CD's or DVD's for storing your finished photographs for prosperity.

XI. REFERENCES:

Bibliography (*Library Holdings*)

Adams, Ansel. The Camera.

Adams, Ansel. The Negative.

Adams, Ansel. The Print.

Fitt, Brian and Thornley, Joe. Lighting by Design: A Technical Guide.

Hedgecoe, John. The Art of Color Photography.

Life Library of Photography: The Camera.

Swedlund, Charles. Photography.

Web Sites

Adobe; www.adobe.com

The American Museum of Photography; www.photographymuseum.com/

Camera Obscura; <http://brightbytes.com/cosite/what.html>

George Eastman House; <http://www.eastmanhouse.org/>

The Museum of Contemporary Photography; <http://www.mocp.org/>

National Association of Photoshop Professional (NAPP); <http://www.photoshopuser.com/>

National Geographic; <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

Planet Photoshop; <http://www.planetphotoshop.com/category/videos/>

Wayne Fulton's Scanning Tips; www.scantips.com