GRA 131 Digital Photography -- Syllabus CRN 30416
Three Rivers Community College, Fall Semester - 2016
ONLINE

Instructor: Kevin Amenta
Email: kamenta@threerivers.edu
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 4:30-6pm or by appointment.

Required Instructional Materials:
> ➢ Textbook: David Busch's Mastering Digital SLR Photography 3rd or 4th Edition
> ➢ Handouts, information and tutorials posted on Blackboard.
> ➢ A flash (aka thumb) drive, that you can devote to the course for the duration of the semester. It must bear your name, on the drive itself, or on a piece of tape affixed to the drive, or on a tag appended to the drive by ribbon, chain, string etc. With this drive you will turn in your photos and the Photoshop exercises we do in class as well as the homework assignments on their respective due dates.
> ➢ Always bring your camera, memory card, tripod, transfer cable and instruction manual to every class.

Catalog Course Description:
This course is an introduction to digital photography and basic photo-editing features of Adobe Photoshop. Students shoot digital images for specific assignments emphasizing exposure, depth-of-field, composition, and image quality. The introduction of digital photography techniques, editing, and creative approaches will be the focus. Students will read and report on famous photographers and photography literature.
Each student is required to have a camera in which they can manually control the focus, shutter speed, aperture and ISO.

Learning Outcomes: The course goal is for students to:
1. Learn the basics of camera operation, functionality and uses.
2. Import and export photos to iPhoto and Photoshop and a portable flash drive.
3. Understand depth of field, shutter speed, f/stop, ISO and aperture priority.
4. Edit photos in iPhoto and Photoshop to manipulate tone, color, size, cropping, adding texture and other dynamic effects.
5. Determine the memory and light requirements needed for a photo and demonstrate understanding of the color separation process for printed image.
6. Read and report (using original photography) on famous photographers.
7. Photograph different types of settings and photographic genres such as still life, portraits & candids, macro, nature, action cityscape and night photography.
8. Be able to critique a work of art using an informed visual vocabulary
9. Mastery of technical skills and creative approaches.
10. Understand the legal and ethical concerns when photographing in public or private places.

Instructional Methods: Readings, demonstrations and delivering of student projects. Students will observe, critique, and demonstrate learned material. Homework will occur in the context of course assignments, in preparation for classroom discussion and in support of projects. All research and assignments will require the use of personal time and the Mac lab.

<u>Evaluation and Grading Policies</u>:
Students will be evaluated on the basis of weekly projects, discussions, and other assignments. The last assignment will be a capstone project. Points for each assignment are listed with the assignment on Blackboard and are based on a 1000-point system. Students will be expected to work on their assignments at home or in the computer lab every week and to turn them in by the stated deadline. Late work is not accepted. Students should use traditional standards of correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation in all assignments and communications.

<u>1000 point grading system breakdown:</u>
30% (30 points each) – 10 Photography Assignments
20% (20 points each) – 10 quizzes (written and practical)
10% (10 points each) – 10 photo competitions
10% (10 points each) – 10 Discussion Questions (DQs)
10% (100 points) – Channel the Photographer
20% (200 points) - Final Project

<u>Attendance Policy</u>: Late assignments or make-up work is not allowed. There is NO extra-credit work! Arrangements to present projects, turn in assignments or take any tests missed because of an absence must be made with the faculty of record ***in advance*** of the absence. Projects, tutorials, reports and assignments which are not delivered by the posted due date for each will receive a zero for that assignment.

<u>Incompletes</u>: I traditionally do not give Incompletes. They are only assigned when there are extenuating circumstances such as illness that prevent the student from completing the coursework on time. Incompletes *must be approved by the Academic Dean.*

<u>Withdrawal Policy</u>: If you intend to withdraw, you must do so at the Registrar's Office by the college deadline. Non-punitive "W" grades are assigned to withdrawal requests. An instructor's signature is required after the deadline has passed. No withdrawals are permitted after the last class preceding the final exam. Students who do not officially withdrawal, but simply stop attending classes, run the risk of receiving an "F" grade for the course.
Class Cancellation Policy: Information about class cancellation due to the weather can be found by Calling (860) 886-0177 or go online to: www.trcc.commnet.edu. If the instructor has to cancel class a note will be placed on Blackboard on the course home page.

<u>Academic Integrity and Plagiarism</u>: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failing (F) grade on the assignment for the first infraction and, should it occur a second time, an automatic failing (F) grade for the course.

<u>Digication:</u>
All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template. Through this electronic tool students will have the opportunity to monitor their own growth in college-wide learning. The student will keep his/her learning portfolio and may continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. Student work reviewed for assessment purposes will not include names and all student work will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. Students will have the ability to integrate learning from the classroom, college, and life in general, which will provide additional learning opportunities. If desired, students will have the option to create multiple portfolios.

<u>Students with Disabilities:</u> If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a TRCC Disability Service Provider (DSP) in Room A-119 as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

Matt Liscum, Counselor Room A113 (860) 215-9265	Learning Disabilities • ADD/ADHD • Autism Spectrum • Mental Health Disabilities
Elizabeth Willcox, Advisor Room A113 (860) 215-9289	• Medical Disabilities • Mobility Disabilities • Sensory Disability

<u>Use of Support Services:</u> The Writing Center/TASC is located in Room C117 (next to the Library). TRWritingcenter@trcc.commnet.edu. Online tutoring: http://www.etutoring.org/

*** The instructor may change the syllabus, the order of topics and/or the content of the assignments to meet the needs of the class at any point in time.*

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE
Exercise #1 Composition	Friday September 2
Assn#1 Things you like	Friday September 9
Assn#2 Still life	Friday September 16
Assn#3 Angles/Lines	Friday September 23
Assn#4 Black &White	Friday September 30
Assn#5 Portraits & Candids	Friday October 7
Assn#6 Macro & You	Friday October 14
Assn#7 Nature	Friday October 21
Assn#8 Action	Friday October 28
Assn#9 Cityscape	Friday November 4
Assn #10 Night	Friday November 11
Channel the Photographer	Friday November 18
FINAL PROJECT	**Friday December 9**