

GRA 131 Digital Photography -- Syllabus CRN 31402
Three Rivers Community College, Fall Semester - 2013
Thursday 5:30pm-8:15pm

Instructor: Kevin Amenta
Email: kamenta@mcc.commnet.edu
Office Hours C-136: Tu/Th: 1-2:30pm, Fri 1-2pm and by appointment

Required Instructional Materials:

- A short course in digital photography, Barbara London - 2012
- 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, transfer cable and instruction manual to class.

Course Outcomes/ Learning Objectives: This is an introduction to Digital Photography, iPhoto and Photoshop. The basics of camera operation, functionality and uses will be covered. Basic photo editing skills will be covered using iPhoto and Photoshop. Students will take pictures, edit them and report on famous photographers. Mastery of technical skills and creative approaches will be the focus.

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Use their camera properly by utilizing proper focus and composition when taking images
2. Import and export photos to iPhoto and Photoshop and a portable flash drive
3. Determine the resolution needed for a photo based on its final output mode and resolution requirements for the computer screen
4. Determine the memory and light requirements needed for a photo and demonstrate understanding of the color separation process for printed image
5. Read and report (using illustrations) on digital photography topics from photography publications
6. Edit photos in iPhoto and Photoshop to manipulate tone, color, size, cropping, adding texture and other dynamic effects
7. Understand depth of field, shutter speed, f/stop, ISO and aperture priority
8. Be able to critique a work of art using an informed visual vocabulary
9. Photograph different types of settings and photographic genres such as event, environmental, portrait and still life
10. Fill a portfolio with their work

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.

Evaluation and Grading Policies:

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.

1000 point grading system breakdown:

50% (50 points each) – 10 Photography Assignments

10% (100 points) - 2 quizzes (1 written, 1 practical)

10% (100 points) – Channel the photographer (Midterm)

30% (300 points) - Final Project

****No texting, use of cell phones or emailing will be tolerated during class time. If your phone rings in class, this will result in -1 point from your overall grade****

You will use the Mac computers for class related work ONLY!

Any other instances, such as checking social media sites, are NOT allowed!

In such instances you will be asked to leave class and it will result in a lower grade.

Multiple instances will result in a failing grade!!!

Attendance Policy: 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 IN PERSON to class by the posted due date for each will receive a zero for that assignment.

Incompletes: 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*.

Withdrawal Policy: 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 withdraw, 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.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: 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.

Students with Disabilities: 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 (860) 383-5240	Chris Scarborough (860) 892-5751
Physical Disabilities	Learning Disabilities
Sensory Disabilities	ADD/ADHD
Medical Disabilities	Autism Spectrum
Mental Health Disabilities	

Use of Support Services: The Writing Center/TASC is located in Room C117 (next to the Library). (860) 892-5713 or (860) 892-5769. 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.*