

GRA 131 Digital Photography -- Syllabus CRN 11814
Three Rivers Community College, Spring Semester - 2012
Wednesday 6:30-9:15pm

Instructor: Kevin Amenta
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Office Hours: Mon: 3:30-6pm, Wed 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 images
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.

Methods of 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:

- 5% (50 points) – Understanding the Camera**
- 5% (50 points) – Still Life**
- 5% (50 points) – Family: Portraits & Candid**
- 5% (50 points) – Angles with a purpose**
- 5% (100 points) – Unusual subjects & you**
- 5% (100 points) – Nature & magic hour**
- 5% (50 points) - Action**
- 5% (50 points) – Black & White**
- 5% (50 points) – Cityscape/Architecture**
- 5% (50 points) – Night Photography**
- 10% (100 points) - 2 quizzes (1 written, 1 practical)**
- 10% (100 points) – Channel the photographer report/Presentation (Midterm)**
- 30% (300 points) - Final Project**

Make-up work is not allowed. Projects, weekly assignments and homework are to be uploaded to the instructors computer by the end of class or posted on Blackboard by the due date for each assignment. Arrangements to present projects, turn in assignments or take any tests in advance because of an expected absence must be made with the faculty of record in advance and in accordance with the faculty member's policies.

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.*

College Withdrawal Policy

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once class has met must provide written notice to the Registrar. Withdrawal forms are available at the Registrar's office on campus. Nonpunitive "W" grades are assigned to any withdrawal requested before the various unrestricted withdrawal deadlines listed in the calendars published in front of each session's course listings. Withdrawal requests received after these deadlines must bear instructor signatures indicating the student was maintaining at least a C- average at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals are permitted after the last class.

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 that assignment for the first infraction and, should it occur a second time, an automatic failing (F) grade for the course.

Disabled Students and Learning Disabilities Support

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabilities Counseling Services at 383-5240. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Class topics, assignments and syllabus

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.