

Course Syllabus

Three Rivers Community College - Spring 2012

Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 - 1:50 in the Mac lab E-114, Jan 19 - May 14

Instructor: Tali Greener; office hours as needed

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to Digital Photography. Students will learn the fundamentals of operating a digital camera, editing photos in iPhoto, using basic Photoshop tools to enhance their photographs and proper techniques for making quality digital prints. Students will also be expected to participate in weekly class critiques of their work using thoughtful and constructive criticism.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to handle the digital camera and storage media with proficiency and comfort. Students should understand the role that light, composition, depth of field, shutter speed and resolution play in creating effective photographs. Students should also be able use basic iPhoto and Photoshop tools to enhance their photographs and create a digital portfolio of their work for the final class.

Required Text

A Short Course in Digital Photography, Second Edition by Barbara London and Jim Stone

There will be regular quizzes on the assigned reading.

Required Materials

- **Digital camera** - this can be a digital SLR or a point & shoot but it must have manual settings. If you are not sure if your camera meets this requirement please ask.
- A **flash drive**, also called a "thumb" drive and "jump" drive, **and/or blank CDs** - for backing up and transporting your work. It is recommended that you make multiple back-ups of your work.
- A **card reader OR a USB cable** that will allow you to download photographs from your camera to the computer. If you get a card reader, please buy one that is compatible with both Mac and PC platforms. It is recommended that you purchase a card reader that can read multiple types of media storage cards, such as SD (Secure Digital) and CF (Compact Flash).

Whether you use a flash drive or CDs, a card reader or a USB cable - you will be expected to be able to download and work on your photos during class in the Mac lab. Since you cannot leave your work on the school's computers outside of class time, you will need to be able to save your work to a storage media at the conclusion of each class. Each student is responsible for backing up and storing their own work. Losing or forgetting a file is not a legitimate excuse for missing an assignment.

Grading & Evaluation

Weekly assignments	30%
Quizzes	15%
Class participation	10%
Final exam	20%
Final portfolio	25%

Projects and assignments will be graded A-F, quizzes and final exam will have a corresponding number grade (0-100).

All assignments should be complete at the beginning of class on the date which they are due. All assignments must be submitted to me through Blackboard Vista. For every class that an assignment is late, it will be docked a letter grade. No student will receive a passing grade without completing all assignments.

Class Participation & Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. If there are extenuating circumstances for which you cannot make it to class or you must arrive late or leave early please let me know in person or by e-mail ASAP. If I am not informed of a full or partial absence you will be docked a letter grade for the assignment that is due that week.

Please turn off or switch cell phones to silent during class. Please do not text, log on to social media or other websites not related to class during class time. All students are expected to participate in class discussions and critiques. If you are confused about anything discussed during class please ask questions, chances are that you are not alone!

There is no eating or drinking allowed in the Mac lab.

* Like most things in life, this syllabus is subject to change

Course Outline

We will have class critiques of the assignments every class that an assignment is due. Please be prepared with prints to hang up in class. We will also have regular quizzes on the assigned reading.

Week 1 (01/23-01/27): Cameras, equipment and computer basics

Reading DUE 01/27 - In your textbook, read pages 3-15, 51-55, 73-75, 80, 82, 124-125, 158-159, 170-171. Also read your camera's instruction manual.

Week 2 (01/30-02/03): Looking for light, intro to aperture

Have your photos on hand in digital format so we can go over editing, printing and captioning.

Assignment DUE 01/30 - Take photos of anything you want during the first 2 or last 2 hours of sunlight. There are **5** photos due for this assignment; 2 should be printed out for class, all 5 should be submitted in Blackboard. At least one of the photos **MUST** be of a person. Experiment with your camera settings. Take note of camera info – ISO, shutter speed, aperture, white balance. Write this info in captions on your printouts.

Week 3 (02/06-02/10): Aperture & Depth of Field (NO CLASS Monday, Feb. 6)

Reading DUE 02/08 - In your textbook, read pages 20-23, 40-49, 150-153

Assignment DUE 02/10 - Shoot two pairs of photos for this assignment- **4** photos total. For the first pair of photos - one photo should be shot at the lowest f-stop (wide open/low #), only the subject should be in focus. The corresponding second photo should be **the exact same composition** with a higher f-stop (higher #/smaller opening). Think carefully about your composition and what type of image will work well with both a shallow depth of field and a greater depth of field. For the second pair of photos, one photo should have a shallow depth of field (wide open aperture/low #) and the second should have a greater depth of field (smaller aperture/higher #) **but the composition and subject should be different**. Choose a subject and composition that you feel best suits these different depths of field. For this assignment, you need to hand in 2 printouts. Choose the pair that you like best to print out. Make sure to include ISO, aperture and shutter data in caption field. You must upload ALL 4 photos to Blackboard.

Week 4 (02/13-02/17): Shutter speed and ISO

Reading DUE 02/15 - In your textbook, read pages 16-19, 24-25, 60-63, 154-155

Assignment DUE 02/17 - There are **4** photos due for this assignment. Two printouts for class, all 4 uploaded to Blackboard. Two photos should be of a similar subject - one will use a fast shutter speed to freeze the action, the corresponding second photo will use a slow shutter and pan to get motion blur. The other two photos should be shot at night or low light – one with a high ISO, and the shutter speed just fast enough to stop action and one with a low ISO and slow shutter speed to capture movement. Experiment with Bulb mode (if your camera has it) or other very slow shutter speeds to capture motion. Make sure something sedentary is sharp somewhere in frame for reference.

Week 5 (02/20-02/24): Composition & Perspective (NO CLASS Monday, Feb. 20)

Reading DUE 02/24 - In your textbook, read pages 29-39 and Chapter 9

Assignment DUE 02/27 - There are **8** photos due for this assignment. You will need 3 printouts for class. All 8 should be uploaded to Blackboard.

- Five photos that show dynamic composition. All 5 photos should be shot from the same spot but you will need to move around to make them all look different. Choose your location and perspective carefully.

- Three photos to demonstrate long, medium and close-up shots. The subject should stay the same for all three photos but the composition and angle may change.

Week 6 (02/27-03/02): Lighting; natural and artificial

Reading DUE 03/02 - In your textbook, read pages 58-71 and Chapter 8

Assignment DUE 03/05 - Hand in **5** photos that demonstrate dynamic lighting situations. Have 2 printouts for class. Look for interesting lighting and incorporate it into your compositions. I am not asking you to photograph light sources but to recognize and use various forms of light in your photographs. Take photos of anything you want but make sure that each photo is utilizing different lighting. Use direct light, diffused light, fill flash, shadows, reflections, mixed lighting, silhouette, back light, side light, etc.... Utilize **both** natural and artificial light sources. You may hand in one, and only 1, painting with light photo for this assignment.

Week 7 (03/05-03/09): Intro to Photoshop

Reading DUE 03/09 - In your textbook, read pages 56-57, 76-79 and Chapter 5

Assignment DUE 03/12 - There are 3 photos due for this assignment. Though, you will need to submit 6 photos total. Three originals and three that you've enhanced in Photoshop. You will take two photos that you have shot this semester and use Photoshop tools to enhance them. This enhanced version should not look "Photoshopped" but rather you are using Photoshop tools to make the new photo look better than the original while keeping it "natural" looking. *You should choose photos that actually need some help. For the third photo, you can use the Photoshop tools to make the photo look however you want. This one SHOULD look "Photoshopped." You can use any photo you want, it doesn't need to be something you shot for this class. *Make sure you write down the tools and steps you are using as you work, you will need to turn in this list with your photo, either in writing or in the Caption field.

Week 8 (03/12-03/16): Photoshop manipulation

We will be learning how to create composite photos, panoramas, merged photos and other manipulations in Adobe Photoshop.

SPRING BREAK; No Classes 03/19 - 03/23 - You can use this time to gather ideas and photos for your next Photoshop assignment and you can also look for a photo for your "inspiration" assignment (week 13).

Week 9 (03/26-03/30): Work on Photoshop assignment

Quiz DUE 03/26 - Find a "photoshopped" photo on an established photographer's website. E-mail me the link and tell me what sort of photoshop tools and adjustments you think they used to create the image. Be very specific.

Assignment DUE 03/30 - There are three photos due for this assignment. At least one of them must be a composite. The others can be a panorama, a merged photo or more composites - as long as you are creating new photos in Photoshop. I will explain the technicalities of this during class. Think about making a flyer, album cover, advertisement, card or work of art. You can use any photos you want for this assignment. You can download photos from Flickr for this assignment. You should think about what you want to create before class and gather the photos needed - whether by taking them yourself or downloading them from the web. Make sure you bring a variety of photos to class to work with.

Week 10 (04/02-04/06): Documentary/editorial photography (NO CLASS Friday, April 6)

Reading DUE 04/04 - In your textbook, read pages 185-191 and handout

Assignment DUE 04/09 - Take photos of strangers for this assignment. Two photos are due for this assignment. Pull from everything we've learned this semester as far as composition, lighting, motion, etc. There are a lot of places you can find interesting people to photograph, try on a city street, parks, community events, concerts, parties, malls, etc.

Week 11 (04/09-04/13): Photo Story - Part I

Reading and Assignment DUE 04/16 - Reading TBA

For Part I of this assignment, you need to have 2 printed photos from the following assignment for a class critique and a "shot list" ready to go over in class.

You will shoot a documentary photo story or narrative photo spread. You will need to turn in 6 captioned photos on 04/23. For the story, think of interesting events or people in your own life that you can follow with a camera. Or, if you have an idea but don't know how to execute it, bring it up in class, maybe someone in class can give you a lead. If you choose to do a narrative photo spread, please make sure to have a theme and really tell a story through each image. Some story ideas could be: a big game, single parent, a holiday, a character in your community, returning soldier, someone going through a physical or economic hardship, an interesting place like Route 169 or downtown New London or Norwich.... Look for people or situations with some natural tension or drama. Each photo must include a caption. The captions tell the "who, what, where and when." You can add the "why" in the second sentence, if applicable.

Week 12 (04/16-04/20): Photo Story - Part II

Assignment DUE 04/23 - Your completed photo story, consisting of six captioned photos.

Week 13 (04/23-04/27): Inspiration Photo

Send me a link or hand in a print of the photo, with photographer's name, you will use as inspiration by **Wed. April 25. Make sure I have approved your inspiration photo before you start working on it.

Assignment DUE 04/30 - Read Chapter 10 in your textbook, look through the provided weblinks, your textbook, books and magazines to find a photo that you like, taken by a professional photographer. You will create a photo that has been inspired by a photo taken by a professional photographer. It can be old or current. You will also need to turn in a one-two paragraph biography of the photographer's life and work. You can make an exact replica of your chosen photo or simply use the original as inspiration. You can use traditional photography methods or Photoshop, whatever seems applicable. Make sure that the photographer is established enough that you can find biographical information on him or her and that you can find a variety of their work so that you can get a feel for their style.

Week 14 (04/30-05/04): Making a slideshow in iPhoto and Adobe Bridge; preparing a portfolio
Bring all the photos you've shot for this course into class this week.

Portfolio DUE 05/14 - Create a slideshow of your 20 favorite images using Adobe Bridge or iPhoto. At least 15 photos should be ones that you took this semester for class. The other 5 can be favorite photos taken at any other time. I prefer your submission as a CD of your slideshow for this assignment but, of course, an upload to Blackboard is fine. You do not need to do both.

Week 15 (05/07-05/11): Catch-up/work week

Week 16 (05/14-05/18): Final exam and portfolios due
The final exam will be Monday, May 14. Portfolios will be due by the end of class Monday, 05/14.

"To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them. "
Elliott Erwitt

