

GRA K131 Digital Photography
Three Rivers Community College
Spring 2011 Room: E114
Tuesday 4:00-6:45 pm

Adjunct Professor
Mark S. Zimmerman
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Office hours: D205E 1:00-2:00 pm

Course Description:

This introduction to digital photography course incorporates iPhoto and basic Adobe Photoshop techniques, which will allow the student to become a better image-maker. The focus of this course is digital image making, editing and output. We will be using a MAC platform; you are expected to utilize the technology provided within the classroom. If you would prefer to use your own laptop you must speak with me first.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of Digital Photography students should be able to:

Perform available operations on their own digital camera

Determine the resolution needed for a photo based on its final output mode and resolution requirements for the computer screen

Determine the memory and light requirements needed for a photo and demonstrate understanding of the color separation process for printed images

Create successfully composed photos within the following photographic genres: event, environmental, portrait and still life

Edit photos using iPhoto and Photoshop to manipulate tone, color, size, cropping, adding texture and other dynamic effects

Be able to critique a work of art using an informed visual vocabulary

Read and report (using illustrations) on digital photography topics from photography publications

Grading Standards:

Grading of projects and assignments will be based on viewer interpretation, composition, concept and your presentation and integration of the idea. Attention to detail and quality of the work will also weigh heavily on the grade. Do not be afraid to take a chance and experiment, innovation can lead to beautiful things. You cannot pass without completing every assignment.

Participation:

Participation in this course will make up a percentage of your grade (10%). Although there is not an attendance policy it is not possible to participate without being in class. For you to receive full credit for participation it is expected that I will have your full attention during lectures/demonstrations and you will be involved in discussions/critiques. Always come to class prepared. Even if it is not a workday have your current work with you so that you have images to work with during demos.

Late Work and the Benefit of Turning in Work on Time:

Late assignments will drop a letter grade for each class period after the assigned due date. By turning your work in on time, complete with contact sheets, prints, and artist statement you benefit by having the opportunity to rework the assignment for extra credit. For example, you receive a 70% on an assignment and you fix everything that was not working based on feedback from myself and the rest of the class, schedule a meeting with me, explain what you did and you get half the missing points back on your grade. The 70% can become as high as an 85%. I will not accept late assignments on the final project unless discussed two weeks in advance.

Rules of the Lab:

When you enter the room cell phones are to be turned off and no food or drinks should be near the computers. While on the computers you are to be working not playing. This means no facebook, no instant messenger, etc. Failure to meet these guidelines and you may be asked to leave for the day. Leave your workspace as you find it, clean and clear.

Required Materials:

It is your responsibility to have access to a digital camera for the duration of the semester. This does not mean you are required to have a high-end SLR camera. A point and shoot capable of printing a minimum of 8 x 10 inches with a compatible memory card will be fine. **NO CELL PHONE CAMERAS!!!** (Unless conceptually relevant and approved).

At least 4 CD's and CD sleeves for turning in work

Portable or external hard drive with enough space to back up your projects and imagery.

Thumb, flash, etc. highly recommended.

A minimum of one 25-sheet box of photo quality printing paper, 8.5 x 11. **NO GLOSSY!**

A notebook

Required Text: (along with this book short essays and articles will be provided in addition to other reading assignments at the instructors discretion).

TITLE: Short Course in Digital Photography

AUTHOR: London & Stone

COPYRIGHT YEAR: 2010 PUBLISHER: Pearson Education

ISBN: 9780205645923

NEW: \$55.00 USED: \$41.25

Writing Assignments:

All writing assignments are to be typed, 12-point font on standard paper. If you have a reason to do otherwise, discuss the idea with me first. If you need to email me a text file it must be a .doc.

Weekly Blog Assignment:

Each week you will be required to post two images on the class blog. The first, an image that you took, and the other, a relevant image from an established artist. Along with the images, write a short comment or statement about what you posted. This will carry significant weight towards your participation grade.

<http://3riversdigitalphoto.blogspot.com/>

Artist Statement:

For each assignment you will be required to turn in an artist statement. Examples will be given. This statement will vary in length but should be typed, 12-point font, labeled with your name, course, assignment, and date.

Review of Another Students Work (*Construct/Intervene*):

There is a long history of artists writing about other artists. By the time you write this review you should be well versed in the language of photography. I will provide examples of art reviews and assign each of you a partner. It is up to you to meet and discuss each other's work as well as pay special attention during your partner's critique. The length is up to you. Whatever it takes to make your point. 12-point font, typed on standard copy paper. Two copies.

Assignment Deadlines:

***Each assignment must be turned in as described as well as on cd or compressed and emailed prior to class. Written assignments are the exception to this.**

Personal Still Life: **Due 2/15**

Photographic Portrait: **Due 3/8**

Portrait Project Reflection: **Due 3/22**

Construct/Intervene: **Due 3/29**

Reviews and Final Project Proposal: **Due 4/5**

Final Project In Progress Critique: **Due 4/12**

Last Day to Turn in Extra Credit: **Due 4/28**

Final Project: **Due 5/3 or 5/10**

Grade Scale:

Project #1 (10%) Project #2 (15%) Project #3 (20%) Final (35%)

Reflection (5%) Review (5%) Participation (10%)

Inclement Weather:

College Closing Notification of cancellation due to inclement weather, whether on-campus or at off-campus locations, will be available by telephone by 6:00am for daytime classes and by 2:30pm for evening classes by calling the College's main telephone at 886-0177, pressing 1, and listening to the taped announcement.

Academic Integrity:

The effective operation of any organization is dependent on the honesty and goodwill of its members. In an organization devoted to the pursuit of knowledge, acting with integrity is essential to effective teaching and learning. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. To emphasize the importance of academic integrity, Three Rivers Community College adheres to its own academic honesty policy in addition to the Student Discipline Policy, sections 2:10 and 3:1-10, as provided by the Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community Colleges. Since collaboration is central to the learning community, Three Rivers wishes to emphasize that this policy is not intended to discourage collaboration when appropriate, approved, and disclosed.

Students with Disabilities

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

***The syllabus and calendar are subject to change at discretion of the instructor.**

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Calendar:

Tuesday January 25

Introduce course, go over syllabus/calendar, how to use your camera, discuss first project, computer basics, importing images from camera into iPhoto. Blog access

Homework: Read and understand your camera's manual and the first two chapters from the textbook. Begin shooting for project #1 *Personal Still Life*. Have a minimum of 60 images shot. Post an image on the blog from one of your favorite artists. Write a short statement, why did you select this artist?

Tuesday February 1

Begin importing images into iPhoto. Demo: Creating folders, contact sheets, and Quicktime slide shows. Speed crit contact sheets and iPhoto basics.

Homework: Read chapters 3-4 of the text. Keep shooting!!!

Thursday February 3

No Class: College Professional Day

Tuesday February 8

More editing techniques and learning how to print. We will also go over artist statements. Be prepared to work on the current project. You will have half the class time to work and ask questions of your peers and myself. Introduce *Photographic Portrait* project.

Homework: *Personal Still Life* due next class. 5-7 image Quicktime movie, 3-5 contact sheets and an artist statement. Contact sheets printed everything else on cd.

Tuesday February 15

Critique *Personal Still Life*.

Homework: Read chapter 5-p113 and essay from Singular Images *The Hug, New York City*.

Monday February 21

No Class: Presidents Day

Tuesday February 22

Basics of Photoshop. Discuss reading. A close reading of a famous photograph.

Homework: Read chapters 8-9. Prepare a minimum of three 30-image contact sheets.

Tuesday March 1

Discuss what it means to "see." Be prepared to work on portrait assignment. Introduce next assignment *Construct/Intervene*.

Homework: *Photographic Portrait* due next class. 3-5 image Quicktime movie, 3-5 contact sheets and an artist statement. Contact sheets printed everything else on cd.

Tuesday March 8

Critique *Photographic Portrait*.

Homework: Portrait project reflection due next class. Read essay TBD

Tuesday March 15

No Class: Spring Break

Thursday March 17

No Class: Spring Break

Tuesday March 22

Present Reflections. Photoshop etc. Merging, layers, and opacity. Be prepared to work on your project. Introduce new assignment, *Final Project*.

Homework: *Construct/Intervene* due next class.

Tuesday March 29

Critique *Construct/Intervene*.

Homework: Write a review of another student. I will assign. Prepare a half page proposal for your final project. Shoot!!!!

Tuesday April 5

Review of another student due. Turn in short proposal. Watch film.

Homework: Work on final project. Be prepared for in progress crit.

Tuesday April 12

In progress critiques. Have 2-3 contact sheets, a minimum of 5 prints, sketches/drawings, notes, and a solid idea.

Tuesday April 19

Work day and individual meetings. Have work to show me. Discuss presentation ideas.

Homework: Keep working.

Tuesday April 26

Work day and individual meetings. Have work to show me.

Homework: Keep working. Final projects due next two classes. Last chance for extra credit is April 28.

Tuesday May 3

Final Critique Group #1

Tuesday May 10

Final Critique Group #2

Semester ends May 16

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