

NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DUBLIN, VIRGINIA

COURSE PLAN

Course Number and Title: Art 164-M6 Digital Photography

Prepared by: Tammy Parks Fall 2011
(Instructor) (Date)

Approved by: _____ Fall 2011
(Dean) (Date)

Time: Tue. 5:00 - 10:00pm

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Course Description

Teaches theory and practice of digital photography. Emphasizes use of digital camera in studio and on location. Teaches advanced techniques of image editing. Provides training in digital image transmission from remote locations. Lecture is 2 hours with 3 laboratory hours.

Introduction

In this course, students learn to take artistic digital photos. They will analyze photos they have taken prior to the course and discuss if they fulfill criteria to be seen as art. Course content will include projects, presentations, critiques and lectures based on both *classical* methods and *constructed* methods of image creation with the digital camera. Technical lectures and demonstrations will include: basic camera functions, importing files from digital media, color management, image improvement and manipulation. Several theories of artistic

expression will be discussed. Rules of composition, light, exposure, colors, etc. will be reflected upon and the students will develop the competence to alter their digital photos with a program like *Photoshop CS5*. As a final product students will create a portfolio of photos with detailed descriptions of their work.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing the course students will be able to:

- identify the 2 types of digital cameras—point and shoot and SLR.
- recognize terms widely used in the world of digital photography
- identify parts of digital cameras and their functions and be able to describe the process of recording a digital image.
- identify the basic functions that apply to all cameras such as aperture, shutter, flash and ISO.
- discuss how digital photography has changed the way news photography is gathered and transmitted.
- describe and discuss the ethical questions behind the use of digital photography.
- describe the cultural effects of the use of digital photography in news and in commercial photography.
- capture an image, download the image, adjust the image properly and then to print the image on a standard printer.
- create artistic digital photos and alter it electronically using computer software
- demonstrate technical ability in taking digital photos, discussing concepts, themes, or ideas expressed through this medium and the limits and possibilities of this technology.
- analyze digital photos in terms of their artistic style and expression
- learn to shoot with digital cameras... and learn to maximize the quality of the output from them using Photoshop's tools of layers, masks and channels.
- organize the visual chaos of the visible world.
- utilize their technical, conceptual and verbal skills.
- be familiar with the major genres of photography: landscape, portraiture, action, fashion, etc.

Required Text

London, Barbara and Jim Stone. *A Short Course in Digital Photography*, 2nd ed. Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, 2011.

Required Materials

Digital camera

Jump drive

Ability to print final photos for portfolio. (Kinko's recommended)

Evaluation

Portfolio	60%
Attendance, quizzes and participation in critiques	40%

Critiques

Students will present their photos to the instructor and the rest of the class and participate in a classroom critique of their own work and the photos of the other students. It is important to give and receive feedback, as art is visual communication. We need to experience the richness of insights that are possible in a group setting. Your classmates are capable of sharing a wealth of insight regarding how to improve your work and what might be holding you back from achieving your best.

Attendance and Make-up Policy

Regular attendance is required. Any missed quizzes must be taken or turned in at the following class. Assigned projects must be turned in during the following class as well. Late assignments will receive a lowered grade according to how late it is. In the extreme, missing more than a 3rd of the classes will result in an immediate failure.

Cheating Policy

Students who are caught cheating on any assignment will be given a zero and may be withdrawn from the class at the instructor's discretion. Be aware that turning in photos from another photographer will be considered plagiarism.

Electronics Policy

Cell phones (any type) and pagers are considered disruptive to the classroom learning experience. If a student appears to be more interested in their electronic device than the lecture or group discussion, (s)he will be asked to leave the classroom as (s)he is representing a bad example for the rest of the students in class. Electronics stored away, not in view of instructor, will assure that there will be no confrontations or misunderstandings.

Each week students will utilize the lab to download, manipulate and share photographs taken outside of the assigned class time. (All assignments require a minimum of 30 photos unless otherwise noted)

Week 1: Aug. 23rd

Introduction and Chapter 10: The history of the camera.

Assignment: Landscapes

Week 2: Aug. 30th

Assignment: Strong light and shadow shots.

Week 3: Sept. 6th

Assignment: Portraits...people of different races and ages.

Week 4: Sept 13th

Assignment: Animal or nature shots..at least 3 different species represented.

Week 5: Sept. 20th

Assignment: Still life and Vehicles...cars, trucks, tractors, bulldozers, etc. 30 for both...60 total.

Week 6: Sept. 27th

Assignment: Extreme close-ups...large images captured from tiny objects...the devil is in the details.

Week 7: Oct. 4th

Assignment: Water, Reflections and Texture...should feel slick, rough, etc....minimum of 15 for each theme...45 total.

Week 8: Oct. 11th

Assignment: Abstractions/Fragments...objects not immediately apparent to viewer.

Week 9: Oct. 18th

Midterm Exams & Projects Due.

Assignment: Action and Nighttime shots...30 for both...60 total.

Week 10: Oct. 25th

Last Day to Withdraw.

Assignment: Pet or bird's eye view...achieve dramatic perspective.

Week 11: Nov. 1st

Assignment: Advertisement...pretend you are taking photos to sell an item in a magazine spread.

Week 12: Nov. 8th

Assignment: Fashion...sell the clothes, make-up or accessories.

Week 13: Nov 15th

Assignment: Narrative...tell a story with your images.

Week 14: Nov. 22nd

Thanksgiving Holiday: Class Cancelled.

Week 15: Nov. 29th

Assignment: Mimic the style of a famous photographer.

Week 16: Dec. 6th

Assignment: Decide how you want to create a surreal photo by blending multiple shots, layering, blurring, manipulating color, etc.

Week 17: Dec. 13th

Final Exams/Portfolios due with your favorite/most successful shot from each of the 18 categories of assignments above.

Withdrawal Policy:

Student Initiated Withdrawal Policy

A student may drop or withdraw from a class without academic penalty during the first 60 percent of a session. For purposes of enrollment reporting, the following procedures apply:

- a. If a student withdraws from a class prior to the termination of the add/drop period for the session, the student will be removed from the class roll and no grade will be awarded.
- b. After the add/drop period, but prior to completion of 60 percent of a session, a student who withdraws from a class will be assigned a grade

of "W." A grade of "W" implies that the student was making satisfactory progress in the class at the time of withdrawal, that the withdrawal was officially made before the deadline published in the college calendar, or that the student was administratively transferred to a different program.

- c. After that time, if a student withdraws from a class, a grade of "F" or "U" will be assigned. Exceptions to this policy may be made under documented mitigating circumstances if the student was passing the course at the last date of attendance.

A retroactive grade of "W" may be awarded only if the student would have been eligible under the previously stated policy to receive a "W" on the last date of class attendance. The last date of attendance for a distance education course will be the last date that work was submitted.

Late withdrawal appeals will be reviewed and a decision made by the Director of Student Services.

No-Show Policy

A student must either attend face-to-face courses or demonstrate participation in distance learning courses by the last date to drop for a refund. A student who does not meet this deadline will be reported to the Admissions and Records Office and will be withdrawn as a no-show student. No refund will be applicable, and the student will not be allowed to attend/participate in the class or submit assignments. Failure to attend or participate in a course will adversely impact a student's financial aid award.

Instructor Initiated Withdrawal

A student who adds a class or registers after the first day of class is counted absent from all class meetings missed. Each instructor is responsible for keeping a record of student attendance (face-to-face classes) or performance/participation (DE classes) in each class throughout the semester.

*When a student's absences equal twice the number of weekly meetings of a class (equivalent amount of time for summer session), the student may be dropped for unsatisfactory attendance in the class by the instructor.

*Since attendance is not a valid measurement for Distance Education (DE) courses, a student may be withdrawn due to non-performance. A student should refer to his/her DE course plan for the instructor's policy.

*In accordance with the No-Show Policy, a student who has not attended class or requested/accessed distance learning materials by the last day to drop the class

and receive a refund must be withdrawn by the instructor during the following week. No refund will be applicable.

*When an instructor withdraws a student for unsatisfactory attendance (face-to-face class) or non-performance (DE class), the last date of attendance/participation will be documented. Withdrawal must be completed within five days of a student's meeting the withdrawal criteria. A grade of "W" will be recorded during the first sixty percent (60%) period of a course. A student withdrawn after the sixty percent (60%) period will receive a grade of "F" or "U" except under documented mitigating circumstances when a letter of appeal has been submitted by the student. A copy of this documentation must be placed in the student's academic file.

*The student will be notified of the withdrawal by the Admissions and Records Office. An appeal of reinstatement into the class may be approved only by the instructor.

Other Policies

Disability Statement

If you are a student with a documented disability who will require accommodations in this course, please register with the Disability Services Office located in the Counseling Center in Rooker Hall for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

Diversity Statement

The NRCC community values the pluralistic nature of our society. We recognize diversity including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, social class, age, gender, sexual orientation and physical or mental capability. We respect the variety of ideas, experiences and practices that such diversity entails. It is our commitment to ensure equal opportunity and to sustain a climate of civility for all who work or study at NRCC or who otherwise participate in the life of the college.