

## **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 1 & 3-- Syllabus**

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**Required Text:** A text is not required for the course, but I'll suggest references that may be useful throughout the course and beyond which you may, or may not, want to purchase.

### **Required/Optional Materials:**

- to transport, store, or archive your files and media, you should consider obtaining a portable USB keychain or jump drive (e.g. 256 Mb) or writeable CD's. By the way, if you have one, iPOD's or some other MP3 devices can be used as storage devices, too, via their FireWire or USB2 connections.

### **Introduction:**

This course in Digital Photography is designed to develop your skills in pixel based photographic design and printing. The dream of film-less photography has finally become a reality. Printers, inks and paper have evolved that are able to not only match traditional continuous tone photographic quality, but can also extend traditional possibilities. Many darkroom activities are made easier and more powerful in the digital realm. We will use Adobe Photoshop CS2 as the primary image-editing tool. Photoshop is software that allows:

*"...designers and photographers to create original artwork, correct color, retouch and composite scanned images, and prepare professional-quality separations and output with more flexibility than ever before. With a wealth of powerful painting and selection tools, plus multiple layers, special effects filters, and lighting effects, Adobe Photoshop is a camera for your mind."*

**Attendance:** This is important, and part of showing commitment and a serious work attitude. As such, class attendance and participation can strongly influence your grade in the course, since it reflects your dedication and commitment to doing art. You will be expected to attend every class and arrive on time for each. You will be allowed a maximum of 3 unexcused absences. Beyond that, your grade will be decreased the more you are absent. Being on time is equally important, since instructions start when class starts. Arriving late disrupts the class and disrupts me!! If you make a habit of being over 5 minutes late for class, your grade will suffer. You are responsible for finding-out from fellow classmates what you missed and making sure you keep up with instructions and assignments.

**Grades:** Aside from attendance and class participation, your performance will be evaluated by your ability to successfully complete a series of assigned tasks on time (as if I were a real client expecting a completed image). Mini-projects will be assigned as we progress through the course material. You are expected to complete all assignments. I

will treat you as a responsible, mature person and will expect you to meet your commitments in a professional manner.

**Course Outline:** This is a generalized scheme, and not necessarily in the order given.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- basic intro on computer-based art; overview of methods and strategies; modes and paths of input and output
- Macintosh OS basics and file handling; intro to software/hardware, monitor calibration, etc.
- styles, trends, modes and aesthetics of modern photography
- understanding ISO, f-stops, shutter speeds, light metering
- using the Tripod
- Color Depth
- elements and principles of design
- modes of getting photos into the computer: scanning, digital cameras, and other art resources (e.g. web, stock art) for manipulation
- working with Adobe Photoshop, the most widely utilized digital painting (i.e. pixel-based) software program; from basic principles to more advanced methods, including:
  - resolution and input/output format considerations
  - using the tools (pencils, pens, brushes, gradients, etc)
  - selecting, moving, cloning, and compositing objects and type
  - principles of scanning; tonal range, color, contrast, gamma, levels, curves
  - manipulating and compositing text
  - color spaces, calibration, and color control; image editing and correcting
  - scaling, cropping, and transforming objects
  - layers, paths, and channels
  - filtering, blending, opacity, masking, layer modes and effects, etc
  - creating patterns, textures, custom brushes, backgrounds
  - output considerations and strategies; importance of PDF-based workflows; printed media and web-based media (intro to Adobe ImageReady)
- export/import and file interchange methods between programs as a creative workflow
- The business of art: working with clients and service bureaus, copyright, ethics, portfolios, and presentation; real-world challenges and working strategies

**Possible projects include:**

- Landscapes (panoramic)
- still life and/or abstract composition
- self-portrait: representational work created on computer from sketch, manipulated in Photoshop; based on rules of facial portraiture. Selection, painting and editing techniques
- Image correction/accuracy -- A sharp, tonally broad color-corrected and edited complex image imported via scanning.
- Depth of field; (shallow & Long) using aperture and shutter speeds to create a sense of distance.
- Motion; capturing still motion, understanding the techniques of panning for sharp and

blurred pictures.

- manipulation of a given color image by converting to gray-scale, duotone, etc; colorizing a b/w image to highlight selective areas, etc
- Lighting; creating dramatic coloring effects, incorporating fundamentals and strategies for image collaging and compositing
- full page color print containing multiple serial transformations (a la Andy Warhol) using a variety of color, blend, filtering, etc techniques of one or two scanned and composite main images (e.g. self-portrait and abstract design)
- Digital Manipulated Images; Overlapping, texturizing, blending, filtering and adding layer effects and styles for more imaginative and creative Photos
- Large Format Printing; understanding CMYK and printer specs.
- Digital Slides; Preparing digital images for slides and web.

### **CONTENT STANDARDS**

Six DCPS visual art content standards make up the core skills, concepts and knowledge for the Photography course:

1. Technique, Process, and Media
2. Structures and Functions
3. Subjects, Symbols and Ideas
4. History and Culture
5. Reflecting and Assessing
6. Making Connections

**NOTE: PHOTO 3 STUDENTS-** All students are required to complete the assignments above. However, you will mostly focus on a series of thematic works of your choice. You are also required to create a thesis paper regarding your series. Be prepared for serious critiques!!!