

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for PHTO 56

INTRO TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Effective: Fall 2010

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

PHTO 56 — INTRO TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY — 1.50 units

Basics for the beginner's use of digital cameras, film and flatbed scanners; use of Adobe software for image adjustments. Exploration of digital photography compared with traditional photographic approaches and processes. Operation of Adobe digital imaging software for preparation of web site photos and print output, in both black and white and in color

1.00 Units Lecture 0.50 Units Lab

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	18.00
Lab Hours:	27.00
Total Hours:	45.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 2

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. capture digital photographic image and make simple imaging corrections using Adobe software (i.e. Photoshop);
2. effectively use the vocabulary and terminology of digital imaging and photography;
3. demonstrate the effective use of techniques used in photography to control digital image levels, contrast, hue and saturation, composition, lens flare, light, motion, gray scale and color balance;
4. show a familiarity with Photoshop tools;
5. demonstrate selection techniques for minor adjustments and alterations of photographic images;
6. describe different methods for digital capture including how and when use of digital camera is best, its advantages and limitations;
7. demonstrate digital printing and image uploading for the web;
8. use of service bureaus, photography store and custom services, and photo web processing sites;
9. transfer large digital photographic files within a local area network and among various removable storage media;
10. analyze the effect of digitally manipulated images on selected segments of society with emphasis on student understanding of media ethics.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Overview: what a digital image is and how it is created using film or a digital camera
- B. Digital cameras: a look at digital cameras and when they are useful for photographers
- C. Scanning, working with resolution, file size and histograms for the best possible scans from any scanner
- D. Color correction: using levels, hue/saturation and curves to set highlights and shadows, correct neutrals and colors, add total and selective saturation and improve problem images
- E. Selective color enhancement: using layers, adjustment layers, masks and other selection techniques along with color tools and new Photoshop 5 features to change, match and enhance colors

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. Class critiques
- C. **Audio-visual Activity** -
- D. **Discussion** -
- E. **Demonstration** -
- F. Media examples
- G. Small group activity

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Make all necessary corrections to improve a given (less than acceptable) digital image.
2. Manipulate the settings on a digital camera and/or software to modify the lighting and turn a color image into a black and white image.
3. Edit and

present a set of “best” images on the web. 4. Print a chosen “best” image in at least three different output sizes or from three different output devices. 5. Alter an image for incongruous/humorous or other special affect. B. Reading: 1. Read Chapter 9 “Essentials of Photography” and explain to your partner how to use these controls: a. seeing the light; b. measuring the light; c. metering patterns; d. working with the light meter; e. overriding the light meter; f. beating backlight. C. Writing: 1. Prepare an explanation of the standard features of a simple-to-use digital camera and compare it to a semi-professional digital DSLR camera. 2. Using the criteria list, critique your own single best and worst images.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency
 - a. Weekly class critiques
 - b. Two written quizzes or exams per semester

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Kelby, Scott. *Photoshop CS3 Book for Digital Photographer.*, New Riders, 2007.
2. London, Barbara, Jim Stone and John Upton *Photography*. 9th ed., Prentice Hall, 2007.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. USB flash drive
- B. A digital camera