

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

## Course Outline for VCOM 53

### PHOTOSHOP I FOR DESIGN

Effective: Fall 2009

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

VCOM 53 — PHOTOSHOP I FOR DESIGN — 2.00 units

Technical and skill development course using the latest version of Photoshop at the basic-to intermediate-level to create and manipulate digital paintings, photographs and illustrations. Emphasis on basic- to intermediate-level techniques and tools used to create image files suitable for print and screen. Design principles emphasized to create effective output through computer-based composition.

1.00 Units Lecture 1.00 Units Studio Lab

#### **Strongly Recommended**

VCOM 48 - Intro to a Design Studio

#### **Grading Methods:**

#### **Discipline:**

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	18.00
<b>Studio Lab Hours:</b>	72.00
<b>No Unit Value Lab</b>	18.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	36.00

#### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

#### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

**Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:**

##### A. VCOM48

1. Turn on and turn off computers in a design studio lab;
2. Access and navigate the computer desktop and server, cross-platform, at the most basic level;

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Work in the Photoshop interface at the most basic level with facility;
- B. Manage new and existing Photoshop documents: set-up/launch, retrieve, save for print and screen, cross-platform;
- C. Define a raster image, and edit the image size and resolution;
- D. Perform basic-to-intermediate level image creation and manipulation tasks using the following Photoshop tools and techniques: Selection, Type, Shape, Transformation (e.g., rotate, scale); Palettes: Layers, Swatches, Gradient, Vector Objects, Brushes; Menu Items: File, Edit, Object, Type, Filters, Select, Window, Help.
- E. Generate new, import and/or manipulate multi-layer digital images for print and web using Photoshop;
- F. Describe the difference between raster (bitmapped) and vector (object-oriented) images and when and why to use Photoshop.
- G. Use hand commands as often as possible;
- H. Use Bridge software in conjunction with Photoshop;
- I. Troubleshoot at the basic level.

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. Overview of Photoshop interface
  1. Basic tools
  2. Floating and permanent palettes
  3. Menus and elements
- B. Definition: raster (bitmapped) and vector (object-oriented) images
- C. Image size and resolution
- D. Launching Photoshop, navigating and customizing its interface, using the tools available on its toolbars and palettes, and applying commands by means of menus or keyboard shortcuts
  1. Setting up a document
  2. Choosing the mode
  3. Basic selection techniques

4. Layers and selections
5. Geometric area
6. Irregular area
7. Area of fixed size or shape
8. One column or row of pixels
9. Selection techniques
- E. Duplicating images and/or layers in new or existing files
- F. Building multi-layer images
- G. Drawing: using Photoshop's drawing tools to create and edit vector images consisting of lines and fills
- H. Painting: using Photoshop's brushes, swatches, gradients, or filters to create painted images
- I. Cropping
- J. Working with type
- K. Transparency
- L. Blending modes and layers
- M. Brightness and contrast
- N. Printing
- O. Photoshop for web design
  1. Optimizing images for web use
  2. Creating simple animations
  3. Creating simple rollovers
- P. Using contextual menus cross-platform
- Q. Introduction to Bridge
- R. Trouble shooting

## VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Discussion** -
- C. **Demonstration** -
- D. Practical exercises on and off the computer
- E. Tutorials and self-paced assignments in "Help", textbook and online
- F. **Field Trips** - to industry seminars, conventions and conferences if available
- G. Computer lab time with direct instructor and cooperative peer support
- H. Student critique sessions
  - I. Peer-to-peer discussion of technology techniques
  - J. Quizzes
- K. Viewing examples of student and professional work

## VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Hands-On Technical Exercise: Use pen tool to create a layer mask selection; retouch with rubber clone stamp; use multiple layers. Provided: 2 files/ 1: "sunset" (background); 2: "monitor"s 1. Open "Monitor" and "Sunset" documents. Move Monitor into Sunset. 2. Use the pen tool to create a path around the monitor. Use minimum amount of points in the creation of the path. 3. Save the path, name it "Monitor." 4. Convert path to a selection. 5. Create a soft selection: Contract (# 2); Feather (# 1). 6. Create a non destructive layer mask separating Sunset background layer from monitor layer. 7. If image looks perfect at 100 %, proceed, otherwise, delete the layer mask and continue to make corrections in the monitor path. Repeat until satisfied. 8. Create a new layer, name it "Retouching" and place it between Monitor layer and Sunset background layer. 9. Click on Sunset background layer, use rubber stamp tool "Aligned" and "Use All Layers" 10. Turn off the "eye" icon of Monitor layer. 11. Retouch Sunset background using rubber clone stamp. 12. Save document in native Photoshop format. B. Hands-On Technical Skills Exercise: Selecting multiple areas of the same color when you need to select the same color all over an image, the magic wand tool isn't enough, use the color range command. You can adjust the tolerance of the selection using a preview, so that the final selection is exactly what you want. 1. Retrieve and open image from server. 2. Choose Select>Color Range. 3. To select a specific range of colors, choose a color from the select pop-up menu. 4. To select a color chosen from the image, choose Sampled Colors from the Select menu. 5. Click the selection radio button to preview the selected area in the dialog box. 6. Click the image to choose the first color. 7. To add more colors to the selection, click the plus eyedropper and click other colors in the image. 8. To remove colors from the selection, click the minus eyedropper and click other colors in the image. 9. To select more or fewer pixels, drag the fuzziness slider right or left respectively 10. Click OK to create the selection. 11. Save document in Photoshop native format. 12. Challenge: Perform the above exercise and change the colors in a dramatically different way than the original photo 6 times in 6 different layers.. Place solution in native format on server.

## VIII. EVALUATION:

### A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Papers
4. Oral Presentation
5. Projects
6. Home Work
7. Class Performance
8. Other:
  - a. Methods:
    1. Written assignments
    2. Design exercises and projects including presentation, discussion and critique sessions
    3. Critical analysis of assigned work
    4. Problem-solving exercises, including performance and final exam
    5. Quizzes
    6. Observation of homework solutions based on readings, tutorials and exercises in required text
    7. Review and evaluate student's assigned projects, their comprehension and application of the terms and concepts listed above.

### B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency
  - a. Weekly and bi-weekly exercises
  - b. Bi-weekly projects and presentation, oral and visual
  - c. Two performance exams
  - d. A final project including presentation
2. Examples

- a. Through observation in lab demonstrate:
  - 1. ability to use the Photoshop interface;
  - 2. ability to use hand commands as often as possible;
  - 3. ability to use Bridge software in conjunction with Photoshop;
  - 4. ability to troubleshoot at the basic level.
- b. Through hands-on projects, demonstrate increased ability to manage new and existing Photoshop documents: set-up/launch, retrieve, save for print and screen, cross-platform;
- c. Through written exam:
  - 1. define "image size" and "resolution";
  - 2. describe the difference between raster (bitmapped) and vector (object-oriented) images and when and why to use Photoshop.
- d. Through hands-on projects demonstrate:
  - 1. ability to perform basic- to intermediate-level image creation and manipulation tasks using the following Photoshop tools and techniques: Selection, Type, Shape, Transformation (e.g., rotate, scale); Palettes: Layers, Swatches, Gradient, Vector Objects, Brushes; Menu Items: File, Edit, Object, Type, Filters, Select, Window, Help.
  - 2. ability to generate new, import and/or manipulate multi-layer digital images for print and web using Photoshop.

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Anderson, Andy, and Steve Johnson *Adobe Photoshop CS3 On Demand.*, Que, 2007.
- 2. Willmore, Ben *Adobe Photoshop CS4 Up to Speed.*, Peachpit, 2008.
- 3. Online tutorials, e.g., [www.adobe.com/tutorials](http://www.adobe.com/tutorials) and Photoshop "Help."
- 4. Design publications, e.g., How, Layers, Communication Arts, Print
- 5. Attendance at seminars and conventions as appropriate

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Required list of supplies to complete all of the assigned studies.