COMM 2555: Interactive Digital Communication / Fall 2017
Assignment 4: Photomontage & Creative Commons

Due: Tuesday, October 31, 2017, by 11:59 p.m.

Goals
In this assignment you will practice your Photoshop skills while creating a photomontage.

Step 1: Find and download your photos
You must use at least six photos for your photomontage, with at least three selected from the Fortepan Iowa photo collection at http://fortepan.us, Fortepan Iowa is a growing digital archive containing thousands of photos of Iowa, taken by Iowans over the past hundred years or more. All of these photos are in the public domain.

Choose the remaining photos (at least three). You may use the Creative Commons search tool: https://search.creativecommons.org/ . You may use other sources, but make sure the photos you select are either in the public domain, or have an appropriate CC license. If you find photos in the public domain, you are free to use them without attribution, but their public domain status must still be documented.

The photos you choose to use **cannot be collages or cutouts** - i.e., do not use images that have been cutout from a photo and places on a different background: you should do the selection part (in Photoshop) yourself.

USE HIGH QUALITY IMAGES. The higher quality the images you find, the easier it will be to select a portion from that image. The width or height of your original images must be at least 1200 pixels.

Your theme should connect the past and the present in the context of Iowa. Maybe the past and the future. It could be about people, nature, architecture, tractors, etc. - it's up to you! Browse through the photos, select the ones that inspire you. Try to come up with something meaningful, something that will help you communicate a strong visual statement.
Try to create something worth sharing!

Step 2. Document your photos
1) As you download your photos, document the following information for each photo:
   1. Website where you found it
   2. Photo caption (if not available, write your own short description of the photo)
   3. The name of the person who took the photo (if available) or the holder of the copyright (if available)
   4. The CC license. If the image is in the public domain, note that it is a "PD image."

2) Insert a thumbnail (a small version: mame it 100 pixels wide) of each photo and paste it next to this information into your document.

3) Save this information in a Word document as a table (use one row for each photo).

Step 3. Create your photomontage
Use the tools we discussed in class, as well as any other Photoshop features you may have discovered on your own. Make sure that each image APPEARS ON ITS OWN LAYER. As you remember, layers are stacked so that LAYER 1 appears behind LAYER 2, which appears behind LAYER 3, etc. You can rearrange layers by dragging them up and down in the Layers Panel.

Name your layers appropriately: "Layer 0", "Layer 1" are not helpful names; use names that are descriptive.

USE ADJUSTMENT LAYERS to adjust each image; you may use color balance, brightness, contrast, filters, etc.

Try some new tools (I suggest you try filters - they are applied to a layer and let you create all sorts of fascinating visual effects). You goal is not to make your work appear believable as a single photo - instead be creative and combine whatever images you like.

Once you are done, save your work as (1) a Photoshop file (hw4.psd) and (2) a jpg file ("hw4.jpg"). To save as a jpg file, use the "export > save for web (legacy)" option in Photoshop.

Grading

The assignment is worth **60 points**, which is **approximately 6.7%** of your grade.
- Photoshop work (30 points):
    - Careful image selection. (12 points)
    - Layers: make sure that each image appears on its own appropriately named layer. (6 points)
    - Adjustment layers: use them creatively to adjust each image. (12 points)
- Documentation (30 points):
    - Thumbnail (6 points)
    - Source website (6 points)
    - Caption (or your own description) (6 points)
    - Name of owner (if available) (6 points)
    - CC licensed or public domain (6 points)

Submissions

Use UNI eLearning to submit the following:
1. Your photomontage as a **.psd Photoshop file**
2. You photomontage as a **.jpg file**
3. Your documentation as a **Word file**.
   Do NOT submit a zip file