

CST 225 00 70: Digital Photography

Fall 2009

3 Credits

BLA 8; T 7 – 9:30 p.m

Professor: Jim Brancato

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Office Hours: TBA

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Technical and Lab Assistant: Guy Gray

Office: ALH Studio, ext. 3472

Hours: TBA

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Required Books:

Barrett, T. (2005). Criticizing photographs: An introduction to understanding images. New York, N.Y.: McGraw-Hill.

London, B. & Stone, J. (2009). A short course in digital photography. New York, N.Y.: Prentice Hall.

Materials:

Flash Drive and/or card reader **recommended** to store and/or bring photos to class. You should consider at least 256MB at a minimum (larger is better and they're quite cheap now).

A camera is NOT required to take this class. However, digital cameras to lend are limited, so you need to check for availability with Guy Gray.

Course Description

This course is intended to teach the basic principles of digital photography to students with little or no background in photography. These principles will be illustrated both through lecture, lab work with software, and also field work with a digital camera. Principles and techniques for using digital cameras will be emphasized in this class, along with the ability to use Photoshop Elements, with the intention of providing students the fundamentals in order to produce quality digital photographic projects.

Course Objectives

The goals of the course include teaching both the practical skills of shooting and manipulating digital photographic images as well as the aesthetic principles needed to create high

quality work using digital cameras and editing software. The course also examines the theoretical principles of photography criticism in order to sharpen students' understanding and appreciation of photography as an art form.

Course Outcomes

1. Students will learn the most important functions of Photoshop, as illustrated through Photoshop Elements.
2. Students will learn the general features of digital cameras.
3. Students will learn the basics of photographic control that pre-date digital technologies---e.g., shutter speed, focus, aperture, etc.
4. Students will gain the ability to appreciate and critique the aesthetic and persuasive aspects of photographic images.
5. Students will be exposed (no pun intended) to communication/photography professionals who use digital photographic technologies in their work.

Course Policies with Equipment (also see policy sheet, to be passed out in class)

Guy Gray will be available throughout the semester to help you learn all the equipment stored in the TV studio in Alumnae 213. *Students who take advantage of Guy's expertise will produce superior projects.* **WARNING: IF YOU SCHEDULE TIME WITH GUY OUTSIDE OF HIS NORMAL HOURS, THEN YOU MUST SHOW UP ON TIME.** Otherwise, this lack of courtesy will be reflected in your attendance/participation grade. **YOUR GRADE WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED IF YOU DO NOT RETURN EQUIPMENT BACK TO GUY ON TIME.**

Please see the policy page which will be passed out in class this semester. Two copies will be provided. Please sign and keep one and return the copy.

Weekly Assignments/Absences

Weekly photo assignments turned in after the due date cannot receive higher than a "D" grade. This is because we plan to show those assignments to the entire class, and we need to stay on schedule. **There are no exceptions unless you can provide written medical documentation.**

All photos turned in (except when noted by the professor) must be your own work, shot this semester and exclusively for any particular assignment.

In general, assignments (including all requirements such as tests, written work, etc.) must be turned in or taken on or before the day indicated on the syllabus. If a student is ill, a written medical excuse is needed to complete assignments after the scheduled time indicated on the syllabus.

In general, I expect you to turn in all assignments when they are scheduled on the syllabus. You should not make plans, nor allow others to make plans, that prevent you from taking an exam or turning in assigned work on the day indicated on the syllabus. On occasion, circumstances arise that are beyond your control. In these cases, I will allow you to take an exam at an alternate time, but **ONLY** if you speak with me about it at least a week in advance and you take the exam before the time the class is scheduled to take it. If you have an emergency on the day of the exam, I will expect you to contact me as soon as possible afterwards and to provide documentation to explain your absence. I will not offer a make-up exam unless I receive legitimate documentation.

Backing Up Your Work

Under no circumstances should the work you turn in---whether it be a paper or a jpg file---be the only copy of it you have. Always back up your work digitally. In case there is a dispute about whether work was turned in, or work is lost, you will need to access a back up copy. On the rare occasion in which a student claims work was turned in and I cannot find it, a student may be asked to demonstrate that they indeed complete the assignment prior to the due date. This can be done if you have your original file stored safely, so again: back up your work!

Classroom Behavior should be as indicated in Cedar Crest's Classroom Protocol Policy:

“Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest Honor Code. Such behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment should be free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to their Cedar Crest College education.”

Plagiarism

Plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty is a violation of the CCC Honor Code. A discussion of plagiarism and potential penalties for plagiarism can be found in the Customs Book and other campus publications. Potential penalties at Cedar Crest College include failure for the assignment, failure for the course, referral to the Dean of Students for suspension or dismissal from the College.

As the *Faculty Handbook* and the *Customs Book* note, "it is dishonest to present oral or written work that is not entirely the student's own, except as may be approved by the instructor. Students must follow the requirements of the instructor regarding when and how much collaboration with other students is permitted. Any language taken from another source, whether individual words or entire paragraphs, must be placed within quotation marks and attributed to the source, following the citation format specified by the instructor. Paraphrased material from an outside source must also be attributed. In addition, if the student is indebted to another source for a specific perspective or a line of argument--regardless of whether the student has directly quoted

the source or not--that debt must also be acknowledged."

Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic conduct and a violation of the Honor Code. I will respond to evidence of plagiarism, whether deliberate or accidental, by failing the plagiarized assignment; I further reserve the right to give the student who plagiarizes an "F" for the course if I feel the circumstances merit it. Further, according to Cedar Crest college policy on plagiarism, I am required to give the name of a student who plagiarizes to the Provost. As stated above, additional penalties for plagiarism are possible.

Students with Disabilities

I am happy to make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities, under the terms of the ADA. Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with me during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center. I will need to receive official notice of a student's accommodations in order to provide these.

Attendance Policy and Grades for Attendance and Participation:

Five points will be removed from the attendance portion of your attendance and participation grade for every unexcused absence. *If a student is absent 4 or more times in the semester, the following may result: the student may be failed for the course.* If you are absent and are ill, you need to have a **valid written medical excuse** (by your physician) for your absence, in which case the absence will be excused. If you are a student-athlete, please inform the professor of your status and circumstances at the beginning of the semester. If you are late to class, it is your responsibility to let the instructor know at that end of that particular class, to make sure you are not marked absent for that day. This must be done on the day you were late. Three late arrivals will equal one unexcused absence, regardless of the cause.

“Participation” is based on a student asking/bringing in questions about the material, responding to questions from the instructors, responding to other student comments, and initiating new topics of discussion. Talking at inappropriate times or other distracting behavior (see “Classroom Protocol” above) will detract from a student’s overall participation grade.

In most cases, a student typically cannot achieve a participation grade that is higher than their attendance grade. Concerns about your grade should be discussed with me as soon as possible in the semester.

Requirements of the Course/Grading:

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
4 Photo Exercises (not graded)	10% total
3 Photo Assignments	30% (10% each)
P. Elements Projects (tentative)	Part of A & P grade
Short Test on DP Basics	10%
Photo Critique Paper	10%
Final Project & Paper	30%
Attendance & Participation	10% total

TOTAL: 100%

Final letter grades on a 10% scale. + and -'s are given.

Tentative Schedule of Classes*

**Changes May Occur and Will Be Announced In Class*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Materials and Activities</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
8/25	Overview and Syllabus Overview of G2 Functions/Basics of DP	
9/1	Workshop #1 Exposure and Focus	Photo Exercise #1 DUE, which is: *Bring in Two New, Two Old Pictures L/S: Ch. 1, 2
9/8	Workshop #2 Light and Color	Photo Exercise #2 DUE L/S: Ch. 3, 4
9/15	Workshop #3 Composition	Photo Exercise #3 DUE L/S: Ch. 10, 11
9/22	Workshop #4	Photo Exercise #4 DUE
9/29	Catch-Up on Exercises, In-Class Critiques History/Criticizing Photographs <u>Test on DP Basics</u>	Barrett, Ch. 2 BRING BARRETT TEXT

Photo Assignments #1 & 2 ASSIGNED

- 10/6 History Continued/Criticizing Photographs Barrett, Ch. 3
Guest Lecturer possible today: Actual Date TBA
- 10/13 **NO CLASS:** Fall Break
- 10/20 Photo Assignment #1 Workshop Photo Assignment #1 **DUE**
Work on Andrews Book
(every day until end of term, so
bring Andrews text!)
- 10/27 Criticizing Photographs Barrett, Ch. 4
Photo Assignment #2 Workshop Photo Assignment #2 **DUE**
- 11/3 Criticizing Photographs Barrett, Chapter 5
Continue Work on Andrews
- 11/10 Photo Assignment #3 Workshop Photo Assignment #3 **DUE**
Continue Work on Andrews
- 11/17 Catch-Up/Work on Andrews Barrett, Ch. 6 & 7
Criticizing Photographs
- 11/24 Catch-Up/Independent Work on Final Projects
- 12/1 Final Projects Presented to Class Final Projects **DUE**
Photographic Critique Paper **DUE**
- 12/8 NO CLASS (Follow Friday Schedule)