

This course description will be replaced with one currently under review by College Council.

COMD

COMD 2330: Digital Photography

New York City College of Technology
The City University of New York

Department of Communication Design

COMD 2330 – Digital Photography

Course Description :

This course will explore the foundational concepts of light and exposure in photography. The student will develop framing and compositional skills as well as an understanding of the unique formal properties of photography. Students will become acquainted with a wide range of contemporary photographers and gain an understanding of how photographic style can transform subject matter. Using professional lighting equipment, cameras and software, the student will gain hands-on experience capturing, processing, and printing digital images.

2 cl hr, 2 lab hrs, 2 cr

Prerequisites :

COMD 1162 Raster & Vector Graphics OR MTEC1001 OR IMT1100

Course Objectives :

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES	ASSESSMENT
Use professional vocabulary to discuss technical and aesthetic issues in photography.	Students will demonstrate competency in homework and in-class writing assignments.
Frame and compose photographs in ways that transform ordinary subjects into visually arresting images.	Students will demonstrate competency in applying principles of composition in hands-on photography assignments.
Manipulate shutter speed and aperture for creative effect.	Students will demonstrate competency in applying principles of exposure in hands-on photography assignments.
Use professional vocabulary to discuss technical and aesthetic issues in photography and lighting.	Students will demonstrate competency using technical and aesthetic in discussions and research projects.
Analyze both the aesthetic value and the technical competency of one's own work, the work of one's peers, and the work of professional photographers.	Students will display competency through in-class discussions, written compare and contrast exercises and writing an exhibit review.
Develop the skills necessary for collaborative team	Students will display competency through in-class

work.	team projects.
Operate compact digital cameras, dSLRs, tripods, light meters, strobe lights and continuous lights.	Students will display competency through two quizzes on textbook reading covering these topics and in-class hands-on exercises.
Demonstrate proficiency in digital darkroom techniques and the color correction workflow including optimizing global and local tonal range, removing color casts, increasing contrast, and sharpening.	Students will display competency in using in digital darkroom techniques and the color correction workflow in the creation of final prints.
Prepare a basic photography portfolio.	Students will demonstrate competency in assembling a group of final photographs.

General Education Outcomes:

General Education Outcome covered:	How the outcome is assessed:
<p>Thinking Critically The student will demonstrate the ability to evaluate strengths and relevance of arguments on a particular issue.</p>	Evaluate through class critique to determine how well students were able to advance their project concepts through creative, critical and technical decisions.
<p>Social Interaction The student will demonstrate the ability to work in teams, including people from a variety of backgrounds, and build consensus.</p>	Evaluate the collaboration and integration of the team with a rubric for creative and critical team performance and project outcomes.
<p>Lifelong Learning The student will demonstrate an understanding of the important relationships between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life goals.</p>	Evaluate through class discussion and written tests if students have developed a sensitivity and awareness of professional ethics.
<p>Thinking Critically The student will demonstrate the ability to evaluate strengths and relevance of arguments on a particular issue.</p>	Evaluate through class critique to determine how well students were able to advance their project concepts through creative, critical and technical decisions.

Teaching/Learning Method :

- Discussion and readings
- Hands-on Photo Shoots
- Editing, Color Correcting and Printing Photos
- Photo Gallery Visits
- Peer-to-peer review
- Self-reflective learning log

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Required Text :

London, Stone, Upton. (2008.) *Photography: The Essential Way*. Pearson.

Required Equipment :

Each student will need access to a **camera** to complete his or her assignments. It is strongly recommended that this camera allow manual control over exposure.

Attendance (College) and Lateness (Department) Policies:

A class roster roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. Only two absences may be allowed. After two absences, a student may be withdrawn because of unsatisfactory attendance (code WU). Students arriving after the roll is taken will be marked "late." Students may be notified at the earliest opportunity in class after they have been absent or late. After being absent two times or equivalent (2 lateness = 1 absence), a student may be asked to withdraw from the class (code W before the College drop deadline) or may be withdrawn from the class (code WU).

Academic Integrity Standards :

You are responsible for reading, understanding and abiding by the NYC College of Technology Student Handbook, "Student Rights & Responsibilities," section "Academic Integrity Standards." Academic dishonesty of any type, including cheating and plagiarism is unacceptable. "Cheating" is misrepresenting another student's efforts/work as your own. "Plagiarism" is the representation of another person's work, words or concepts as your own.

Grading :

Quizzes	10%
Class participation	10%
Exhibit Review	10%
Shooting assignments	30%
Midterm Portfolio	20%
Final Portfolio	20%

Topics :

WEEK	Lecture Topic	Laboratory Exercise	Reading Assignment: (Homework topic. Assignments determined by individual instructors.)
1	Course Overview, The Grammar of Photography: foreground/background relationship, angle of view, composition including the rule of thirds, emphasis and	Lab: describing and interpreting photographs	Chapter 14, Seeing Photographs 3 paragraph description of a photograph

	balance, contrast of sharpness, contrast of light and dark		
2	Camera Operation and Handling How the camera works, best practices, workflow	Lab: Zooming, Focusing, Auto Focus (AF) Points, ISO, Setting resolution, Shooting Modes: Program, Shutter and Aperture Priority, and Manual, Histograms, Deleting Images, file management, Camera Resolution, Image Resolution, File Formats: jpg, tiff, RAW,	Chapter 1, Getting Started, Chapter 2, Camera Composition Exercises.
3	Shutter Speed and Capturing Motion Working with motion, freezing motion, motion blur	Lab: How a camera's light meter works, stops, when to use a tripod, camera shake, reciprocity, shutter priority, freezing motion, motion blur	Chapter 2, Camera, pp. 18-22, Chapter 4, pp. 66-81, pp. 212-13 Motion Studies
4	Aperture and Depth of Field Using shallow depth of field for subject isolation and story telling, Perspective vs. Depth of Field, How a Photograph Shows Depth	Lab: Aperture priority, depth of field factors: aperture, subject proximity, focal length, sensor size, Achieving Shallow Depth of Field with a Compact Digital Camera	Chapter 2, Camera, pp. 24-27, Chapter 3, Lens, 54-61 Shallow Depth of field
5	Exposure Challenges How the camera's meter works and when to override it	Lab: Exposure meters, Overriding auto exposure, Dark subjects on light backgrounds, Light subjects on dark backgrounds, backlighting, Exposing scenes with high contrast, High Dynamic range	Chapter 4, Exposure, Sensors, and Film Contrast of Light and Dark
6	Digital Darkroom: Metadata and keywords, Evaluating a photograph for quality, Improving the impact of the image with cropping, tonal range and contrast adjustment,	Lab: Camera RAW adjustments for all file types, reading the histogram, adjusting global and local tonal range and contrast, noise reduction, sharpening, Black and white conversion	Chapter 8, Image Editing Begin Midterm Project

	hue/saturation		
7	Ink jet Printing- types of photographic output including permanence, dyes vs. pigments, media, resolution, gamut and color profiles, soft proofing	Lab: Midterm portfolio printing	Chapter 9 Printing and Display Continue Midterm project
8	Quiz, Midterm Critique		Exhibit Review
9	Lighting Direction and Quality, Lenses- Transforming the subject with light. Light direction: front, side, back. Qualities of light: intensity, contrast, spotlight vs. floodlight, lighting ratios, using distance and light size to control light intensity and contrast, Lens Focal Length: short, normal, long, Close-ups with an extension tube.	Lab: Artificial light, Introduction to studio lighting with strobes, using a flash meter, lighting ratios, spotlight vs floodlight, still life shoot	Chapter 3, Lens, Chapter 11, Lighting, pp. 180-189 Lighting Direction
10	Basic Portrait Lighting: Using a main and fill light in a classic portrait, Consider the power of pose and expression	Lab: Shoot portraits with varying poses: front, three-quarter, profile, Lighting: Fill and Key, and background light for separation. Practice the photographer-talent relationship, broad and short lighting, reflectors	Chapter 11, Lighting, pp. 189-197, pp. 204-206 Portraits
11	Portrait Lighting: High and Low Key Creating mood and character with lighting in studio portraits.	Lab: shoot portraits with glamour lighting and with side light	Chapter 11, Lighting Begin Final Project
12	Creative Expression with Light Painting with Light, Strobe Lights with Slow Shutter	Lab: experiment with long exposures for creative effect	Chapter 11, Lighting, pp. 200-203, p. 211, Review Continue Final Project

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13	Digital Darkroom- non-destructive editing, local color correction	Lab: layer masks, layer blending modes, adjustments	Chapter 8, Image Editing Continue Final Project
14	Quiz, Final Portfolio Support	Lab: printing final projects	Continue Final Project
15	Student presentations and class critique of final assignment.		