CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
ART 2245 Digital Photo for Art Majors
Fall/2015

Lecture Hours: 2  Lab Hours: 4  Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: 9:00-11:50  Days: Monday/Wednesday  Room: VA119

Instructor’s Name: Cynthia Harrison

Instructor's Contact Information:
Office: VA 118
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(best method of contact outside of office hours)

Office Hours:
M through TH 8:30 am – 9:00 am, M-TH 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM in Room VA 118

Course Description:
Investigation and application of some of the fundamentals of pictorial arrangement and expression within the realm of digital photography. Assignments are based on compositional problems. Some of the primary concerns are pictorial structure, balance, movement, contrast, theme, spatial relationships and color relationships. Additionally, the design and conceptual development of an assignment are emphasized coupled with high quality execution, originality and clarity of presentation.

Statement of Prerequisites:

Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

• Communicate creatively through the medium of photography using individual expression and conceptual awareness.
• Use basic camera manipulation tools, such as, focus, shutter, and aperture.
• Acquire working knowledge of basic Photoshop tools such as, sizing, selection, tonal correction, and layering.
• Demonstrate how to properly output to both print and web media and proper techniques of manipulation of image resolution.
• Demonstrate critical thinking by participating vigorously in discussions on the social construction of our visual world and what impacts that has on our daily lives.
• Develop listening skills through active participation in self-critique and critique of peers.
• Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity
• Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities

Course Objectives:
Students will experiment capturing images with their digital camera through exercises in both use of camera function and design principles. They will also complete a series of step-by-step workbook exercised that introduce the photographer’s workflow from Adobe Lightroom to Photoshop.

Methodology:
This course will be organized around a series of assignments which may be either technical or conceptually themed. The resulting images will be presented by the student to the entire class, and critiqued in an open, supportive and respectful forum in which all students will be expected to participate. Student critiques will not play a part in grading each assignment, but will be used to assist students in thinking more critically of their own work as well as the work of others.
Lab hours will be spent learning imaging software and working with images at the computer, including printing with occasional lab hours used to create new images at instructor discretion. Lectures will include, among other topics, basic and advanced camera operation, technical considerations with digital photography, software, toning and printing.

NOTE: As photography is often impacted by situational and/or environmental considerations, students will be expected to spend time (a couple hours) outside of class to complete assignments.

*Lack of available free time will not be accepted as an excuse for substandard work.*

**Evaluation Criteria:**

You will be expected to attend all classes and lectures, complete all assignments, and participate fully in classroom discussion. Each assignment will include a specific grading rubric. From an overall perspective assignments will be evaluated on concept, process, outcome, technique, and utilization of design principles.

The following five criteria are the overall basis of evaluating each assignment:

**Depiction of Assigned Theme**
- Does the photograph fit into the assigned theme? Did you carefully read over the theme description before taking the photograph?

**Center of Interest and Composition**
- Does the photograph have a center of interest? Or is the subject lost within the photograph? This does not mean the subject should be centered in the photograph.
- Does the photograph incorporate one of the following composition techniques: rule of thirds or framing?
- Does the photograph have an interesting or distracting background?
- Does the photograph show its original composition or was the photograph cropped significantly changing the original composition?
- Does the photograph show enough face/subject or is it hidden?

**Evidence of Creativity and Uniqueness**
- Is the photograph interesting or dull?
- Is the photograph creative or plain?
- Is the photograph original or something everyone else captures?
- Does the image lack imagination?
- Does the image bring out the emotion from the viewer?

**Technique to Capture Perfect Exposure and Lighting**
- Is the photograph overexposed (too light)?
- Is the photograph underexposed (too dark)?
- Is there glare in the photograph?
- Is the color or tint off due to the light source or camera settings (flash, exposure, white balance)?

**Clarity, Sharpness, and Focus**
- Is the photograph completely in focus and sharp?
- Is the wrong subject in focus?
- Is the photograph pixelized? This may occur if you have your camera on a low resolution setting or if you crop your photograph with the incorrect pixel dimension.
- Is digital photo noise present (blotchy or pale areas or specks) in your photograph? This may occur when you shoot in low light conditions, your
photograph becomes underexposed (to dark), and you significantly correct the photographs exposure in Photoshop.

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Required Text:
Adobe® Lightroom® and Photoshop® for Photographers Classroom in a Book®

by Scott Kelby

Learn your camera video:
As each student will have a different camera this video will be different for everyone. There are many resources for these informational videos. I highly recommend the videos from michaelthemaven.com.
Approx: $40

Materials:
This is a basic list. Students may need to purchase other materials as projects dictate. All of supplies do not need to be purchased immediately but as the need arises.
- Students will be required to provide their own digital camera.
  - Camera can be either an interchangeable lens SLR or fixed-lens point-and-shoot, but must have the ability to manually adjust both shutter speed and aperture (manual mode).
    Also, it must be able to write raw files in addition to jpegs. Camera phones are not acceptable.
- 1 jump drive (USB, 8 Gigs or greater) or a portable hard-drive (preferable).
- Blank CD-R disks to submit files.
- One - two 9x12” manila envelope for turning in your photos.
- Some kind of 3-ring binder to for digital contact sheets, handouts, and readings.
- A tripod may be needed but is not required.

Note: your final project will require additional materials depending on the format you choose to present your work – mattes, mounts, frames, book materials, etc.

Assignments:
Assignments are expected to be completed on time and the student ready for their presentation when called. Failure to be prepared on time will mean a 25% reduction of the project’s final score.

Assignments may be redone for a higher grade, but only if the original assignment was completed and presented on time. There is no guarantee that the redone assignment will procure a better grade. Due dates for redone work will be no later than two weeks subsequent to the original due date.

Evaluation Specifics (700 total points)
1. Book Assignments (80 pts)
2. Assignments, including presentations of work (220 pts)
3. Final Project (200 pts)
   Concept development and proposal = 50 pts
   Technical, aesthetic and artistic quality of final prints = 125 pts
   Presentation and self-critique = 50 pts
4. Participation and enthusiasm in critiques and class discussions (125 pts)
5. Quizzes (75 pts)
Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: See college website for withdraw date.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

SCHEDULE:

ALL ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZES AND DUE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE INSTRUCTORS DISCRETION.

WEEK ONE

Class A
Intro to class
Review of syllabus
Equipment overview

Class B
Guest speaker: Chris from Wyoming Camera Outfitters – Exposure and lenses
Photography Assignment: Take 5 pictures to show in next class.

WEEK TWO

Class A
Due: Critique Student photos
Homework: Learn your Camera Video – Recommend michaelthemaven.com

Class B
In-class: Chapter 1 ~ Getting Ready To Use Lightroom With Photoshop
Photography Assignment: Begin Compositional Guidelines Booklet

WEEK THREE

Class A
Labor Day ~ No class
Class B

**Critique:** Student photos – Compositional Guidelines Booklet WIP
**Due:** Chapter 1 (10 pts)
**Photography Assignment:** Continue Compositional Guidelines Booklet

**Homework:** Research Exposure Compensation For your Camera
Write a short essay on how it works – A paragraph or two

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**WEEK FOUR**

Class A

**In-Class:** Chapter 2 ~ *Lightroom–Photoshop Roundtrip Workflow*

Class B

**Critique:** Student photos – Compositional Guidelines Booklet
**Due:** Chapter 2 (10 pts)
**Photography Assignment:** Continue Compositional Guidelines Booklet

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**WEEK FIVE**

Class A

**In-Class:** Chapter 3 ~ *Managing Photos In Lightroom’s Library Module*
Chris from Wyoming Camera Outfitters demo and into to Printing.

Class B

**Critique:** Student photos – Compositional Guidelines Booklet
**Due:** Chapter 3 (10 pts)
**Photography Assignment:** Continue Compositional Guidelines Booklet

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**WEEK SIX**

Class A

**In-Class:** Chapter 4 ~ *Processing Photos In Lightroom’s Develop Module*

Class B

**Critique:** Student photos – Compositional Guidelines Booklet
**Due:** Chapter 4 (10 pts)
**Photography Assignment:** Night photography – Give it a try

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**WEEK SEVEN**

Class A

**In-Class:** Chapter 5 ~ *Lightroom To Photoshop For Combining Photos*

Class B

**Critique:** Student photos – Compositional Guidelines Booklet
**Due:** Chapter 5 (10 pts)
**Photography Assignment:** Continue Compositional Guidelines Booklet

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**WEEK EIGHT**

Class A

**In-Class:** Chapter 6 ~ *Lightroom To Photoshop For Selecting And Masking*

Class B

**Critique:** Student photos – Compositional Guidelines Booklet
**Due:** Chapter 6 (10 pts)
**Photography Assignment:** Continue Compositional Guidelines Booklet

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**WEEK NINE**

Class A

**In-Class:** Chapter 7 ~ *Lightroom To Photoshop For Retouching*

Class B

**Critique:** Student photos – Compositional Guidelines Booklet
**Due:** Chapter 7 (10 pts)
**Photography Assignment:** Continue Compositional Guidelines Booklet

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WEEK TEN
Class A
  **In-Class:** Chapter 8 ~ *Lightroom To Photoshop For Special Effects*
Class B
  **Critique:** Student photos – Compositional Guidelines Booklet
  **Due:** Chapter 8 (10 pts)
  **Photography Assignment:** Continue Compositional Guidelines Booklet

WEEK ELEVEN
Class A
  **Guest speaker:** Jason Whitman Photographer
Class B
  **Due:** (10 pts)
  **Critique:** Final Book for Composition Project

WEEK TWELVE
Class A
Class B
  **Photography Assignment:**
  Final Project ~ Photo Series

WEEK THIRTEEN
  **Photography Assignment:**
  Final Project ~ Photo Series

WEEK FOURTEEN
  **Photography Assignment:**
  Final Project ~ Photo Series

WEEK FIFTEEN
  **Photography Assignment:**
  Final Project ~ Photo Series

FINALS Week
  **Present Final Project ~ Photo Series (200 pts)**