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

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

Class Time: 2:00-4:50  
Days: Tuesday/Thursday  
Room: VA119

Instructor’s Name: Cynthia Harrison

Instructor's Contact Information:  
Office: VA 118  
Office Phone: 507-268-2673  
Cell: 651-399-0667  
Email: cynthiaharrison@caspercollege.edu (best method of contact outside of office hours)

Office Hours: M through TH 8:30 am – 9:00 am, T/TH 12:00 PM – 1:00 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: ART 1110 (2-D Design)

Goal:
This is an introduction to the medium of digital photography. The goal of this class is for the students to understand and appreciate photography’s unique attributes as a means of visual communication utilizing the power and possibilities of digital imaging. Students will develop skills with the medium’s hardware and software, develop and realize their own personal aesthetic style of photography, as well as gain experience in image conceptualization and realization, critical thinking and image critiquing.

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:

Concept
Concept reflects the strengths and weaknesses of your ideas for each assignment. The qualities of your ideas are reflected in the visual statement of your ideas. The slickest visual design cannot replace the lack of strong concepts that drive your rationale for your use of type, image, line, color and form, etc. Your use of these design elements is measured against the stated aspirations of your concept and the appropriateness to the requirements of the assignment or design challenge.

Process
Concepts rarely arrive fully formed. Ideas require a research process of exploration and trial and error to develop into mature finished work. What range of idea development did you use in creating effective work? Did you take risks? Assessment of your process will be judged by the aggressiveness and depth spent in development through written statements, rough sketches, mock-ups or comps, and any other collateral materials.

Technique
The technique score reflects the craftsmanship, exactitude, and neatness with which the final product is executed. This includes the appropriate and skillful use of technical software to achieve the final product.

Design principles
Your adeptness at thoughtfully employing design principles and spatial relationships will also be assessed.

Outcome
The outcome score reflects assessment of the finished product, which is the sum of your entire process as applied to the particular assignment or design challenge.

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®
ISBN-10: 0-133-81671-0

by Scott Kelby

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.
  - a portable hard-drive (preferable) and save your work to Google Drive
  - Some kind of 3-ring binder to for digital contact sheets, handouts, and readings.
  - A tripod may be needed but is not required.
  - Headphones for listening to tutorials online

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  Intro to class
      Review of syllabus
      Equipment
      Erik Johansson Video

Class B

Guest Lecture: Wyoming Camera Outfitters
Video: Exposure basics video -
Photography Assignment:
Take 5 pictures to show in next class.

WEEK TWO

Class A

Due: Critique Student photos (5)
Video: Lightroom Basics ~ Lynda.com

Class B

In-Class Assignment:
Lightroom and Photoshop for Photographers:
  Getting Started
  Chapter One (10 pts)
GETTING READY TO USE LIGHTROOM WITH PHOTOSHOP

Photography Assignment:
Pick two compositional techniques Research and shoot

WEEK THREE

Class A  Due: Critique Student photos (10)
  Video: Learning your personal camera functions
  Lecture: Exposure Compensation
  Homework: Research Exposure Compensation
            Write a short essay on how it works

Class B
In-Class Assignment:
Lightroom and Photoshop for Photographers:
    Chapter Two (10 pts)
    LIGHTROOM–PHOTOSHOP ROUNDTROIP WORKFLOW

Photography Assignment:
Pick two compositional techniques Research and shoot

WEEK FOUR
Class A Due: Critique Student photos (10)
    Video: Learning to Shoot Photographically By Bill Fortney, Kelbyone.com

Class B
In-Class Assignment
Lightroom and Photoshop for Photographers:
    Chapter Three (10 pts)
    MANAGING PHOTOS IN LIGHTROOM’S LIBRARY MODULE

Photography Assignment:
Pick two compositional techniques Research and shoot

WEEK FIVE
Class A
    Due: Critique Student photos (10)
    Video: Behind the Lens: In-Depth Portfolio Reviews, with Joe McNally and Scott Kelby

Class B
In-Class Assignment
Lightroom and Photoshop for Photographers:
    Chapter Four (10 pts)
    PROCESSING PHOTOS IN LIGHTROOM’S DEVELOP MODULE

Photography Assignment:
Pick two compositional techniques Research and shoot

WEEK SIX
Class A
    Due: Critique Student photos (10)
    Video: Photographing the Moon, Stars and Milky Way By Jennifer Wu

Class B
In-Class Assignment
Lightroom and Photoshop for Photographers:
    Chapter Five (10 pts)
    LIGHTROOM TO PHOTOSHOP FOR COMBINING PHOTOS

Photography Assignment:
Pick two compositional techniques Research and shoot

WEEK SEVEN
Class A
    Due: Critique Student photos (10)
    Video: TBD

Class B
In-Class Assignment
Lightroom and Photoshop for Photographers:
Chapter Six (10 pts)
LIGHTROOM TO PHOTOSHOP FOR SELECTING AND MASKING

Photography Assignment:
Picking two compositional techniques Research and shoot

WEEK EIGHT
Class A
Due: Critique Student photos (10)
Video: TBD

Class B
Fall Photography Field Guide (Kelbyone.com)

In-Class Assignment
Lightroom and Photoshop for Photographers:
Chapter Seven (10 pts)
LIGHTROOM TO PHOTOSHOP FOR RETOUCHING

Photography Assignment:
Picking two compositional techniques Research and shoot

WEEK NINE
Class A
Due: Critique Student photos (10)
Video: TBD

Class B

In-Class Assignment
Lightroom and Photoshop for Photographers:
Chapter Eight (10 pts)
LIGHTROOM TO PHOTOSHOP FOR SPECIAL EFFECTS

Photography Assignment:
Picking two compositional techniques Research and shoot

WEEK TEN
Class A
Due: Critique Student photos (10)
Video: TBD

Class B

In-Class Assignment:
Printing

Photography Assignment:

WEEK ELEVEN
Class A
Due: Critique Student photos (10)
Video: TBD
Lecture: TBD

Photography Assignment:

WEEK TWELVE
Class A
Due: Critique Student photos (10)
Video: TBD
Lecture: TBD
Class B
Photography Assignment:

WEEK THIRTEEN
Class A
Due: View Student photos (Movement)

Class B
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)

Love, One (alone, whole), Wet, atmosphere,