



Digital Photography Undergraduate Course Information Guide

Course Number: CCA 167, 2 or 4 credits, 10 Weeks
Delivery Formats: Online Async

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Course Description

Students learn in this course to take artistic digital photos. They will analyze photos they have taken prior to the course and discuss if they fulfill criteria to be seen as art. Several theories of artistic expression will be discussed. Rules of composition, light, exposure, colors, etc. will be reflected upon. In a second step the students will develop the competence to alter their digital photos with a program like "Photoshop Elements". They will be able to change the expression of their photos and combine different shots, creating their personal piece of art. As a final product, students will create a portfolio with about 5 photos including detailed descriptions of their work.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Define and analyze a creative process, defining the concept of creativity and describing the components of a creative process in the field of digital photography.
- Explain how engaging in a creative process affects your perception of the world.
- Define indicators of artistic expression and reflect on the elements necessary to consider a photo a form of artistic expression.
- Analyze digital photos in terms of their artistic style and expression.
- Create artistic digital photos and alter them electronically using computer software.
- Discuss the process of the creation of an original work of art using a digital camera and specific software.

- Demonstrate technical ability in taking digital photos, discuss the concepts, themes, or ideas expressed through this medium, and discuss the limits and possibilities of this technology in the creative process.

Learning Strategies and Resources

We will analyze photos we have taken prior to the course and discuss if they fulfill criteria to be seen as art. Several theories of artistic expression will be discussed. We will discuss the lighting of our photos. We will develop the competence to alter their digital photos with a program like Photoshop Elements. Students will create a portfolio with about 5 photos including detailed descriptions of their work.

Required Readings

Books and learning materials are available at the DePaul bookstore, at <http://depaul-loop.bncollege.com>, or through alternative sources.

Peterson, B. (2015). Learning to See Creatively, 3rd edition. New York: Amphoto Books. ISBN:1607748274.

Optional text: Miotke, J. (2005). The Betterphoto Guide to Digital Photography. New York: Amphoto Books. ISBN: 0-8174-3552-2.

Students will need Adobe Photoshop Elements (version 4.0 or higher) to participate in this course. An alternative to Photoshop you can use krita at krita.org. This is freeware which fulfills almost the same functions.

A digital camera that can shoot pictures in 5 megapixels each or more is required. For more information on camera specifications, contact the instructor.

Additional readings may be available on Electronic Reserve, at the [DePaul Library](#). Login to Ares Course Reserves and select the course. Log in using your Campus Connect User ID and password. You will then get a page listing the courses in which you're enrolled that have readings posted in Ares. Click on the title of this course and the list of our electronic reserve readings will be displayed.

Learning Deliverables

Your contributions to the weekly discussions will be graded. First postings should be elaborate and 350 to 400 words long. At least two replies to your peers should be 150 to 200 words long and go into detail. All submissions to the submissions section of the course will be graded. We will pay special attention to the final portfolio.

Assessment of Student Learning

Grading Practices

We all start at a different competence level. For this reason, you are evaluated if you demonstrate and gain competence. If you are a complete novice in the area of digital photography, you will be evaluated on the competence you gained, not on the "expert

level" of your assignments. On the other hand, assignments of poor quality constantly handed in late or lack of participation in the Forums may cause that a student to fail this course.

Distribution of Grade Points

Graded Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Module Activities and Online Discussions	70%
Final Portfolio	30%

Grading Scale

A = 95 to 100	A- = 91 to 94	B+ = 88 to 90
B = 85 to 87	B- = 81 to 84	C+ = 77 to 80
C = 73 to 76	C- = 69 to 72	D+ = 65 to 68
D = 61 to 64	F = 60 or below	INC

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Course Schedule

Week or Module Title or Theme	Readings / Learning Activities	Graded Assignments
Week 1, Module 1: Introductions	Course Syllabus One or two modules of your interest	1.1 Introductions Discussion 1.2 Best Shot Discussion
Week 2, Module 2: Creativity and the Act of Creation	Read Two of the following articles: The two authenticities of the photographic media. Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism	2.1 Website Analysis 2.2 Internet and Library Articles Summary

	<p>When the Artwork Takes the Pictures.</p> <p>The Photograph as a Receptacle of Memory.</p> <p>On steering clear of creativity. Journal of Visual Art Practice</p> <p>Assessing and accessing creativity: an integrative review of theory, research, and development.</p> <p>How creatives define creativity: Definitions reflect different types of creativity.</p> <p>Photography's dualistic controversies.</p> <p>The Case Against Objectifying Art.</p> <p>Escaping reality: digital imagery and the resources of photography.</p> <p>How should creativity be defined?</p>	<p>2.3 List of 5-7 Indicators</p> <p>2.4 Art and Creativity Discussion</p> <p>2.5 Photo Equipment Discussion</p> <p>2.6 Dictionary of Photography Terms Discussion</p>
<p>Week 3, Module 3: ...and There Was Light</p>	<p>Read pp. 128 to 141 of the textbook about lighting and discuss the conscious use of different light sources.</p> <p>Search for and read on the Internet sources about the conscious use of light in photography.</p>	<p>3.1 White Balances</p> <p>3.2 Light Scenario</p> <p>3.3 The Perfect Illumination Discussion</p>
<p>Week 4, Module 4: Photo Shooting with Attention to Detail</p>	<p>Read pp. 46–127 of the textbook about indicators of good photography (Rules of composition, use of lines, shape, form, patterns, color, frame, contrast, focus, angle, etc.).</p> <p>Research at least two articles dealing with professional photography.</p>	<p>4.1 Indicators of good artistic photography</p> <p>4.2 The Perfect Shot Discussion</p>
<p>Week 5, Module 5: Discussing the Best Shots</p>		<p>5.1 Photo Feedback Discussion</p>

		5.2 Expert Photo Discussion
Week 6, Module 6: Retaking the Best Shots with Rigorous Attention to Detail	Read Textbook pp. 46 to 127	6.1 Improved Shots Discussion
Week 7, Module 7: Putting it all together	Download and read Adobe Photoshop Elements User Guide pp. 231-244	7.1 Photo Improvement Discussion
Week 8, Module 8: Extreme Alteration	Adobe Photoshop Elements User Guide pp. 260 to 299.	8.1 Altering Photo Assignments 8.2 Alterations Discussion
Week 9, Module 9: Combining Different Pictures	Adobe Photoshop Elements User Guide pp. 151 to 174.	9.1 Image Parts 9.2 Photo Combination 9.3 Combining Images
Week 10, Module 10: Course Wrap Up		10.1 Portfolio

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Course Policies

For access to all SCPS and DePaul University academic policies, refer to the following links:

[SCPS Student Resources Website](#)

[DePaul Student Handbook](#)

The [D2L Course Website](#) for this course.

Course Syllabus

The official syllabus for this course that includes course dates, instructor information and quarter specific details will be provided by the course instructor by the start of the course and available on the course D2L website.

Course Registration

To find out when this course will be offered next, you can go to the [SCPS Registration website](#) for details on how to register for the course.

For information on how this course can apply to your program, contact your academic advisor.

School of Continuing and Professional Studies

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