

# Beginning Digital Photography

Fall Semester 2008, Mendocino College, Ukiah, California

Instructor: Tobin Keller

Consultation times: during lab of class, via E-mail, or from 1-2pm Monday by appointment. Phone: 707 513 7113 email: [tkeller@mendocino.edu](mailto:tkeller@mendocino.edu)

## **ART88.1: Beginning Digital Photography, Room 1270**

**Units:** 1.5 units: 1.5 hours lecture / 1.5 hours laboratory per week

**Credit:** Grade or Credit / No Credit

**Schedule:** Mondays and Wednesdays 11am to 12:30pm, January 23 to May 23

February 4 Last day to enroll in full-semester classes with instructor permission

February 14 Last day to drop full-semester classes without grade notation

**February 18 Washington's Day observed**

February 22 Last day to apply for credit/no credit for full-semester classes

**March 24-28 Spring Break**

April 25 Last day to withdraw from full-semester classes

**May 23 Final Meeting 10:30 am – 12:30 am**

May 23 Semester Ends

**Supplies Needed:** Digital Camera, Note taking equipment, Binder w/ 8x10 plastic sleeves for notes/projects, Presentation Portfolio, USB "flash" drive

## **Course Description**

*Introduction to the digital photographic process, current technologies, and the fundamental artistic principles that produce powerful images.*

## **Course Overview**

Instructor will lecture and or lead the class through a step-by-step demo (printing, editing, etc.) at the beginning of most classes. Students will use the remaining lab time to work on self-paced exercises or portfolio projects, with individual tutoring available from the instructor during class time. The technical aspects of capturing and editing digital images will be addressed, as will the fundamentals of composing intriguing images. Photoshop will be used for editing images and both laser, and inkjet printers will be used to output assignments. Periodic special focus topics will include: fundamentals of scanning, digital cameras, and Art principles. Individual projects will be assigned for midterm and finals, which students can work on during lab time or outside of class. On the project due date, student projects will be presented to the class for discussion and feedback.

## **Course Objectives**

- 1) *Students will become familiar with a variety of current photographic technologies.*
- 2) *Students will learn about the basic mechanical processes that lead to the correct exposure of an image and the creative concepts necessary to capture an artistic composition.*
- 3) *Students will learn how to push their photographic hardware and software to do what they want it to do, rather than allowing their equipment's default settings to change their original intention.*

## Class Policies

**Attendance:** Students may be absent without penalty provided that all missed quizzes and the midterm are made up, projects are completed on time, and the student shows a grasp of the material missed during lecture in their project and exam results. The final exam may not be made up if missed. Attendance is not used as criteria to improve a student's grade. Late projects and missed quizzes may be made up within one week of the deadline by arrangement with the instructor. More than 4 unexcused absences can result in being dropped from the class. If tardy, students should enter classroom with a minimum of disruption to the class in progress.

**Use of Class Equipment & Materials:** Color printing requires a great deal of expensive toner, for which the budget is limited. In order to have enough toner for every student to use, color printing can only be used for final printouts when working on assignments and projects. The black and white printers can be used for developing concepts up to the final printouts. The use of the printers is for class-related work only. No personal projects are allowed. Excessive use or personal use of the printer can result in being dropped from the class. If you have a project that you feel justifies a quantity of color prints, please clear it with the instructor.

## Grading System / Learning Assessment

*Grading is based on a total score of 100 points, distributed as follows:*

Item	Date/Deadline	Points
Mid-term Quiz	Monday, March 17	20
Mid-term Portfolio Review	Wednesday, March 19	10
Self-evaluation	Wednesday, May. 14	10
Final Quiz	Monday, May. 19	10
Final Portfolio Review	Friday, May 23 10:30am – 12:30am	50
Total 100		100

**A:** 100-95 points **B:** 70-94 points **C:** 45-69 points **D:** 20-44 points **F:** 15 points or less

**Late assignments will lose 1 point for each day late.**

**Extra credit projects may be done for 5 points each.**

**Critique dates to be determined:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Turning in Assignments and Portfolios

Through out the semester a series of "shooting" assignments will be given. Photo's can be taken either on student's own time or during the lab portion of the class. When an assignment is due, students will submit an image for discussion and feedback from the class. The best images will be presented as a portfolio for a grade at midterms, and again at finals. Portfolios will be evaluated both on the images' technical merit (exposure, print quality, presentation), and their aesthetic quality (use of composition elements introduced in class).

### ***Exams***

Tests will be composed of a combination of multiple choice questions, fill-in-the-blank questions, and brief essay questions. Exams will generally be focused on the technical aspects of photography.

### ***Critiques***

When shooting assignments are due, they will be presented to the class to be critiqued. Critiques are a very valuable opportunity not only to receive feedback on one's own work but to see the variety of work being produced by other students as well. Participation in critiques is important, and the instructor reserves the right to make participation on critique days mandatory (your grade may be on the line!).

### ***Outside Assignments***

It is assumed that students will be shooting photos outside of class time. Students without access to computer equipment with Photoshop at home may use the computer lab (room 1280) outside of class time (signup at the beginning of the semester).

### ***Copyright Issues and Plagiarism***

This should not be an issue as all photographs submitted for a grade in this class must be captured by the student and no other. No exceptions. If an image is found not to be the student's own it is grounds for sever disciplinary action, including a failing grade for the class.

### ***Use of Computers***

***Deep Freeze:*** College computers use a software utility called "Deep Freeze" to protect the hard drive from corrupted files or changes to programs. Once the computer is shut down and/or restarted, the hard drive reverts to its basic setup no matter what changes have been made to the setup during student work time. Essentially this means: DO NOT work from files saved on the hard drive and do not save work on the hard drive or the files will be lost if the computer crashes and you have not archived it onto a CD or other portable memory. While working on files, saving them on the network is good to start, but might be slow for working on open files. Students encouraged to work from, and save files to, USB drives whenever possible.

***Set-up / Clean-up:*** At beginning of class, students will log-in to their computers to access their password-protected directory where their working and final files are stored. At the end of class, students should log-out of their computers. Otherwise, anyone using the computer afterward will have access to that student's files.

***School Network:*** Each computer has a link to the school network (MCS Server 01) accessible via "My Computer". Students will have access to the network through individual accounts, which require a username and password. When personal accounts are created be sure to make a note of your user name and password.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of class accounts may not be created for all students. The guest account can then be used:

*Username:* room1270

*Password:* room1270