

FILM 165 Digital Still Photography for Non-Majors
Spring 2021
Instructor: Travis Chandler, Lecturer

This class will consist of lectures, demonstrations and hands-on projects.
New class information will be available before 6pm every Tuesday on D2L.
Be sure to check it.

Office hours: Virtual.
Tuesday nights, 9:15pm to 11:15 pm. Other times available: please email to make an appointment.

Contact: tchandle@cdm.depaul.edu or travischandler@mac.com

An email reply can be expected within 24 hours

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the aesthetics of still photography. Students will learn the fundamental concepts necessary to shoot, edit & manipulate photographs and critically evaluate the images. Throughout the course you will work on defining your individual aesthetic utilizing established composition and design elements. You will be introduced to best practices in workflow, visual data management and Adobe Photoshop. Photoshop will be used in two stages, first as a post-production tool in a standard photographic workflow, and then as a creative tool for compositing and collage. Every assignment will utilize a new skill towards a cumulative knowledge of professional standards in imaging. Students will be challenged to think conceptually about their own visual development while acquiring technical skills.

Summary of Course:

In this course we will shoot, edit and critique a series of photography projects. These projects cumulatively provide guidance on the best practices of lighting and composing an image that tells a compelling story. Students will leave this course with a basic understanding of how digital cameras work, as well as how to use them creatively.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing DC 125, Students will be able to-

- Create well lit, well composed photographs.
- Analyze a photograph and make recommendations for improvement.
- Explain, in well-written prose, what a work of art is about and/or how it was produced.
- Comment on the relationship between form and content in a work.
- Assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words, using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.

OPTIONAL Textbook:

Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age by Robert Hirsch

ISBN-10 024081827X | ISBN-13 978-0240818276

Prerequisites:

None

Course Management System:

Assignments, feedback and grading will be given weekly online using the D2L system - <https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/home>. Students must check the information provided online each week. All images must be Jpegs, and should not exceed 2 MB. All assignments must be turned in to D2L, not emailed. Late assignments will have points deducted. Project 3 cannot be submitted late.

Grading Policy:

20% Project 1

20% Project 2

30% Project 3

20% Midterm exam

10% Participation

(one participation assignment will be assigned each week, worth 1 point each)

Late assignments:

- No late final projects will be accepted.
- The Final Project (Project 3) is due Tue. June 8th before 12pm (noon).
- A minimum of 1 point off per day late will be deducted from all other projects

Last day to drop this course with no penalty is Friday April 9, 2021

Equipment use:

Every student will need to have access to some kind of digital still camera. Yes, you can use your phone.

If you have access to a better camera, great. Use that. Otherwise use what you have. You don't need something fancy for this course.

You can check out very good still cameras from DePaul's equipment center for free (as long as they stay open):

<https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Equipment-Centers.aspx>

If you choose to buy a camera, any "point and shoot" with decent (better than 10x) optical zoom will work well for our class. Don't feel pressured to buy an expensive camera: This is an introductory course.

Additional Required Supplies:

This class requires the use of Adobe Photoshop. Here is a link to where you can get it free:

<https://offices.depaul.edu/information-services/about/news-and-updates/Pages/tech-tools-for-students.aspx>

For Photoshop specifically:

- 1) Navigate to Adobe's web page
- 2) Login with your @depaul.edu email address (@mail.depaul.edu will not work) and Campus Connect password
- 3) Select apps to install

Week-By-Week Schedule:

This is tentative and likely to change.

Most classes will also include a go-and-shoot participation project, so always have your camera.

Week 1:

Introductions. Discussion of syllabus. Overview.

Assignments:

- 1) Find your camera manual.
- 2) Bring in cameras and way to connect them next week
- 3) Read Light and Lens Chapter 1

Week 2:

Image file formats (JPEG, RAW, ETC.)

- Setting up image import
- High / Low project. Compositing.

Setting up projects, "save for web", basic tools,

resolution, image size, canvas, layers

Assignments:

Read Light and Lens Chapter 2

Week 3

Video screening (TBA).

Midterm terms introduced

Assignments:

Project #1 Assigned

Week 4:

Project #1 due, view and discuss.

Review for Midterm

Shooting around the school.

Assignments:

Read Light and Lens Chapter 3

Week 5:

Midterm exam

Composition, balance, rule of thirds, line, perspective.

Shooting around the school.

Photoshop: Image adjustments, color, levels, saturation, white balance.

Week 6:

Go over midterm

Guest Speaker

Street photography

Assignment:

Project #2 Assigned

-Read Light and Lens Chapter 4

Week 7:

Project # 2 due before 6pm, View and discuss.

Photo Critique.

Begin project 3 proposal.

Week 8:

Assignment #3 discussion (not due yet)

Watch video: TBA

Week 9:

Final project proposal due. Discuss.

Photoshop: Clone Stamp tool, image removal, masks.

Assignment: Have materials to work on in class next week.

Week 10:

Rough draft of final project due.

Finals Period: (Week 11)

Final Project Due before 12pm (noon).

Changes to Syllabus - This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

Online Course Evaluations - Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism - This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Academic Policies - All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

Students with Disabilities - Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd. Phone number: (312)362-8002 Fax: (312)362-6544
TTY: (773)325.7296

Course Policies -

Attendance: Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

Class Discussion: Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

Attitude: A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

Civil Discourse: DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be Socially Responsible Leaders. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undistruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.