

DC125- Digital Still Photography for Non Majors

Chelsea Ann Cossu

MFA Studio Arts-University of South Florida

email ccossu@cdm.depaul.edu

course blog <http://teachingtoday.thecollected.net>

DEPAUL D2L <https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l>

CDM Computer Labs are available for software use outside of class -

<http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/academics/Pages/LabsAndResources/LabsandResources.aspx>

TUTOR available on 9th floor CDM building in the desk by the cage.

Summary Of Course

This course is an introduction to digital still photography. Students will explore concepts of photography as a descriptive and interpretive medium, discover relationships between individual photographers choices and their own photographic work. Discussions of context and cultural meanings will deepen understanding of the role of still photography as a conduit for communication and value.

Students will learn the fundamental concepts necessary to shoot, edit, manipulate, and print digital still photographs. Also, students will acquire the knowledge needed to analyze and interpret existing works. Students will be required to use their own digital still cameras, as well as the software Adobe Photoshop for this course.

What to Expect

We will begin by learning to use the settings on your own camera to realize your creative vision. 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 and visual data management through the use of Adobe Bridge, and the industry standard, Adobe Photoshop. Photoshop will be used in two stages, first as a postproduction tool in a standard photographic workflow, and then as a creative tool for compositing and collage. Every assignment will utilize a new skill in towards a cumulative knowledge of professional standards in imaging. Additionally, students will be challenged to think conceptually about their own visual development while acquiring technical skills.

There is no secret to becoming a great photographer, besides practice. Students should be constantly shooting, planning ahead for a self directed project at the end of the quarter, searching out inspiration, looking at other artists and photographers, visiting Museums and Galleries, as well as reflecting on the not so successful parts of their practice...

Make time to use the lab outside of class, CDM labs offer Photoshop on PC or Mac operating systems in LP and Loop Campuses or make arrangements to acquire the appropriate software.

Textbooks, Materials and Resources

D2L – outline, grades, assignments, syllabi, and links <https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l>

BLOG - we'll all use the same wordpress version, and set it up together in class, your work goes here... It's your course portfolio.

Digital Camera: this may be a point and shoot or DSLR, please use the same camera all quarter.

Two data cards for your camera.

USB thumb drives - at least 2GB (they fail, have a back up!)

External Hard Drive

Card reader / USB cord

Required Texts:

Your personal Camera Manual, find it online if you no longer have it.

Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age by Robert Hirsch ISBN:978-0-240-80855-0

PDF's on D2L posted throughout the quarter are also required reading.

Optional Materials:

Photoshop Cloud Monthly Subscription, Tripod, more memory, Sun Seeker App, ink jet photo paper,

LYNDA.COM online TUTORIALS

Optional Texts:

Criticizing Photographs: an Introduction to Understanding Images by Terry Barrett

Martin Evening's Photoshop for Photographers CS6

Prerequisites: none

Grading:	Addendum:	Grading Scale:
-Assignments 1-5 (10% ea.) 50%	- No late assignments will be accepted. - Assignments may only be made up in cases of emergency.	93-100:A
-Quizzes 1 and 2 (10% ea.) 20%		90-92:A-
		87-89: B+
		83-86: B
-Exercises 1-8 (varying %) 30%	- 2 Unexcused absences allowed, deadlines missed due to unexcused absence are not accepted late. - Any further absences will deduct a full letter grade from your total score.	80- 82: B-
		77-79: C +
		73-76: C
-Participation includes being active and prepared, with memory, images, and on task in class 10%		70-72: C -
		67-69: D +
		60-66: D

Assignments

Each of the 5 assignments will be individually explained in the lecture, with a rubric for successful completion. They are cumulative! Assignment sheets and lectures are also posted on D2L and my course TeachingToday blog, and will be available until the assignment is due. Check the date as well as the time due. The cut off time for online D2L submissions is computerized and will cut off at exactly the time posted (this may be different for different assignments). It is your responsibility to be sure your work is submitted on time.

The assignments are designed to simultaneously exercise technical skills such as file management, best practices, and Photoshop postproduction skills, while expanding the critical understanding of photography, and honing a personal system of visual expression. Again, the lessons in the class are cumulative, and skills discussed in reference to a previous assignment will be used again and again without special instruction.

The BLOG – This is your personal portfolio used to display your work for feed back and a formal critique. You must post your work here. Critiques are designed to expose a student to a variety of perspectives and opinions, to gather constructive criticism.

Students will complete a final 5th assignment using the skills developed in throughout the course to complete an individually directed final project of sufficient scope to demonstrate competency in technical skills and conceptual development. Assignments are never to be turned in via email. Any assignment emailed to me without invitation, will be ignored.

Output - Each assignment will be completed and posted on your profile, with parameters to be discussed with each assignment. Each output method has specific technical requirements. If those requirements are not met, points will be deducted. All files should be named with a consistent naming convention all quarter, including at least the date and your name.

EXAMPLE FILE NAME: 20120820cossu_papercrane034.jpg

Attendance

Please, sign in for each class period.

Absence

You are allowed 2 unexcused absences. After that, a one letter deduction for each absence will be taken from your final course grade. If you miss a class, you will be responsible for seeking the information you missed. Watch the lecture under the tab "RECORDINGS" on D2L. You may also visit my office hours to ask questions. Excused absence require that you please provide some sort of documentation. Try to arrange your makeup work prior to the absence. Communication is the key to staying on top of your work.

Tardiness - Students arriving more than 15 minutes late, or leaving before class is dismissed will be considered absent. Please be punctual. Excessive Tardiness will also be penalized.

Late Work - I will not accept late work. However, I offer a re-do on one bad grade assignment. Take advantage of that!

Email

You may always feel free to use email to ask questions, and if I am able to answer them I will respond to your email you within 1 work day. If you don't get a response, kindly email again, just in case. Please use reason when considering the timestamp on your email – if you sent it late in the evening and we have class first thing in the morning, there's a chance I won't see it in time, so plan ahead.

Use Email Best Practices for this class and everyday communications, everyone will appreciate it:

- Please Do use a clear and concise subject. For example: DC125 or 225-(section ####) question about settings on camera
- Do Not reply to emails I send the entire class.
- Instead, make a new one, with a pertinent subject line.
- Please Do include links, and full explanation of what I can help with.
- Please Do include a screenshot or capture if you need to show me something (Mac: Command,Shift,4 draw a box around it and it will be on your desktop. PC: Printscreen key)
- Do Not abuse email for submitting any other images, homework or assignments on time or late.

If your question cannot be effectively answered via email, I look forward to meeting during my office hours.

Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be subject to the faculty council rules on the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Online Instructor Evaluation

Course and instructor evaluations are critical for maintaining and improving course quality. To make evaluations as meaningful as possible, we need 100% student participation. Therefore, participation in the School's web-based academic administration initiative during the eighth and ninth week of this course is a requirement of this course.

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at External Link

<http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course, as well as all other courses in which independent research or writing play a vital part in the course requirements, should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report, or other assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

Student Success Resources

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 **Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD)**. We now have two fully-staffed office locations for faculty and students to use as a resource.

Our email is csd@depaul.edu and our website is www.studentaffairs.depaul.edu/csd

Lincoln Park Campus Student Center Room 370
Loop Campus Lewis Center Room 1420

phone x51677
phone x28002

DCI25-_____

Spring 2013

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of this syllabus.

PRINT _____

SIGN _____ DATE _____

Informal survey, for directing pertinent information, check all that apply...

GOAL(s) for this course:

- Just to fulfill credits to graduate.
- I'm genuinely interested in photography!
- I'm here because I need this as a prerequisite for another class.
- I have a camera and I need to know how to use it!
- I already know photo, and thought it would be fun to take a class.
- OTHER:

What camera are you using?