

DC 225 - Digital Still Photography - Spring 2013 - Brian Mellen

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Office hours: Th 3:00 to 4:30pm - CDM Rm. 526

Summary of Course:

This course is an introduction to the technique, history, and aesthetics of digital still photography and to the concept of photography as a descriptive and interpretive artistic medium. Students will learn the fundamental concepts necessary to shoot, edit, and manipulate digital photographs. DC 225 introduces students to theories, terminology, and applications of digital imaging technologies. Students will acquire the knowledge needed to analyze and critique existing work and their own. Use of Adobe Photoshop and Bridge will be extensively covered in this course.

Specific topics to be covered include: photographic design, image literacy and criticality, types of photographic output, digital camera technology, principles of exposure, post-production in the photographic process, historical artistic work, and relationship between photography and other media.

The student will be required to do a series of photographic exercises, culminating in a midterm presentation/emulation and a final photographic project. There will be readings, slide-lectures with discussions, and in class-studio work.

** Syllabus is subject to change*

Textbooks and printed resources:

Complete Digital Photography by Ben Long

Required Supplies:

It is mandatory for students to have a portable data-storage device, in order to transport image files and from the classroom when needed.

A memory card reader is also recommended.

Grading:

Attendance & Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Exercises	30%
Presentation/Emulation	20%
Final	20%

LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Grading Scale:

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-87, B = 86-83, B- = 82- 80, C+ = 79-77, C = 76-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-67, D = 66-63, D- = 62-60, F = 59-0.

A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work

Student responsibilities:

Each student is responsible for their time management and for meeting the expectations in the syllabus. The instructor is not responsible for reminding students of assignment deadlines in class. In the event of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor for an assignment sheet detailing any homework. If an assignment is listed on the syllabus you are still responsible for completing the assignment on time.

Deadlines:

The media world requires strict adherence to deadlines, therefore late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructors discretion. You will not be eligible for an A in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time.

Attendance & Participation:

This course demands class participation - attendance is mandatory. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late, or leaving before class is dismissed will be considered absent. You are allowed two (2) unexcused absences. After that, a one letter deduction for each absence will be taken from your final course grade. Excessive tardiness will also be penalized.

Quizzes:

Quizzes spread throughout the quarter will be given to students to test their knowledge of what they retained from coming to class and from the readings.

Exercises:

Technical exercises challenging students to execute concepts covered in class will be given throughout the quarter. Details will be given in class.

Presentation/Emulation:

Each student must deliver, for the class, a presentation on a selected photographer. The presentation is to be 3-5 minutes long, and should include digital images of that artist's work. Powerpoint may be used but it is not required.

In addition to the presentation, the student must also present (at least one) photograph that is a thoughtful emulation of the presented photographer's work. By thoughtful, I mean that creative interpretation is a valid part of emulating the work.

The photograph will be evaluated based on creativity and execution.

Final:

More details will be given later in the quarter.

CLASS SCHEDULE

** Syllabus schedule is subject to change*

Week One 04/02 and 04/04

Syllabus, What the human eye sees vs. the camera, Exposure Basics

Technical Exercise #1 - Mood Exercise (**Due 04/09**)

Readings: Digital Photography Ch. 1-4, 6

Week Two 04/09 and 04/11

Aperture, Shutter Speed, Basic Photoshop

Quiz #1 on 04/11

Technical Exercise #2 - Aperture/Shutter Speed Exercise (**Due 04/18**)

Readings: Digital Photography Ch. 5, 8, 11

Week Three 04/16 and 04/18

ISO, RAW Shooting, Composition, Rule of Thirds

Technical Exercise #3 - ISO Exercise (**Due 04/25**)

Readings: Digital Photography Ch. 10, 12, 17

Week Four 4 04/23 and 04/25

Quiz #2 on 04/25

Screening, Visual Elements, Design Principles

Readings: Digital Photography Ch. 13-16

Week Five 04/30 and 05/02

Midterm Presentations

Technical Exercise #4 - Depth of Field Exercise (**Due 05/09**)

Readings: Digital Photography Ch. 19-20

Week Six 05/07 and 05/09

Quiz #3 on 05/09

Technical Exercise #5 - Motion Blur Exercise (**Due 05/15**)

Basic Color Correction, Digital Makeup

Readings: Digital Photography Ch. 21-22

Week Seven 05/14 and 05/16

Advanced Color Correction and Manipulation, Output, Resolution

Technical Exercise #6 - Coverage Exercise (**Due 05/23**)

Readings: Digital Photography Ch. 23

Week Eight 05/21 and 05/23

Quiz #4 on 05/23

Technical Exercise #7 - Compositing Exercise (**Due 06/06**)

Compositing, Timelapse Photography

Readings: *Pepperman* 20-22

Week Nine 05/28 and 05/30

Meetings for Final Projects

Week Ten 06/04 and 06/06

Shooting Video with DSLRs

FINAL PROJECT DUE June 13, 2013 at 11:45am