

DC 125 Digital Still Photography for Non-Majors 2020

August 20th,

Instructor: Mr. Chandler, Lecturer
Fall 2020

This class will consist of lectures, demonstrations and hands-on projects.

Lectures will be available through a link on our D2L page on Wednesday nights at 6pm. Assignment due dates will be announced in the lecture and posted on D2L. If you for any reason cannot watch the lecture at 6pm Wednesday, please watch the recording of the lecture as soon as you are able so you can keep up and get your work submitted to D2L on time.

Office hours: virtual, by appointment.

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

An email reply can usually 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 how modern digital cameras work.

Optional Textbook:

This book is not necessary to complete the course, but offers good information and great images to inspire you.

Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age by Robert Hirsch ISBN-10 024081827X | ISBN-13 978-0240818276

Photoshop:

Photoshop is required for this course. It is available to students (along with the entire Creative Cloud suite) for about \$20 a month: <https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/plans.html?plan=edu&promoid=8WLD53M9&mv=other>

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 always be between 1 and 3 MB. All assignments must be turned in to D2L, not emailed. Late assignments are deducted a minimum of 1 pt. for each day late.

Grading Policy:

20% Project 1

20% Project 2

30% Project 3

20% Midterm exam

10% Participation (each participation project is worth 1 point, for a total of 10 points)

Last day to drop this course with no penalty is Tuesday September 22, 2020

Equipment use:

You are welcome to use a nice camera, but it is not necessary for this course.

You may use your phone camera, but please do not add any filters.

You can check out very good still cameras from DePaul's equipment center (if they are open, I'm not sure if they are. Call first for sure): <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.

The *Final Project (Project 3)* is due Wednesday November 18, 2020.

Week-By-Week Schedule:

(This is tentative and likely to change.)

Week 1:

Introductions. Discussion of syllabus. Overview.

Assignments:

Find your camera manual.

Figure out how it connects to your computer.

Get Photoshop up and running on your system

Week 2:

Image file formats (JPEG, RAW, ETC.)

Setting up image import

Participation project (at least 1)

Setting up projects, "save for web", basic tools, resolution, image size, canvas, layers

Week 3:

Camera operating modes, sensors, lenses.

Difference between optical and digital zoom Camera types. Lighting.

Photoshop Tools.

Week 4:

Video screening (TBA).

Participation project (at least 1)

Project #1 Assigned

Week 5:

Project #1 review.

Review for Midterm

Week 6: Midterm

Week 7:

Composition, balance, rule of thirds, line, perspective. Shooting around the school.

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

- Participation project (at least 1)
- Project #2 Assigned

Week 8:

Project # 2 due

Begin final project proposal. Video screening (TBA)

Assignment #3 discussion (not due yet)

Photo Critique.

Week 9:

Final project proposal due.

Watch video: TBA

Photoshop: Clone Stamp tool, image removal, masks.

Participation project (at least 1)

Week 10:

Project 3 rough draft due

Work on Final Project.

Finals Week (Week 11)

Final Project Due before 6pm. Screening of final projects.

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 view each lecture and read each class posting on D2L in a timely fashion. They will be posted before 6pm each Monday. Please watch the lecture in its entirety as soon as you are able. Assignment due dates will be available on D2L.

Class Participation: Student participation will be assessed using participation exercises. Each exercise is worth 1 point, for a cumulative 10 points toward your overall grade.

Attitude: A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course.

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.