

PHOTO 243: ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE SYNOPSIS

This document contains the general information for the Photo 243: Advanced Digital Photography class, for Spring Semester 2010. This material is provided to give the student information that will help them complete assignments, anticipate grading, and help gain the maximum educational experience from the class. This is a college level class and students will be expected to take and exhibit the appropriate level of personal responsibility for their performance and success in the course. This is also a “Web Enhanced” class using Blackboard/Vista.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will cover all the critical and foundational information about digital photography including

- ☛ Using advanced digital photo equipment
- ☛ Advanced editing and Digital Zone System techniques.
- ☛ Portrait and fashion retouching and other effects,
- ☛ High end digital printing techniques
- ☛ Using layers and masks for advanced editing, retouching, and 3D
- ☛ Panorama and Mosaic (multi-row panorama) techniques
- ☛ HDRI
- ☛ Digital Depth of Field Expansion and contraction
- ☛ Using portable and studio flash with digital photography
- ☛ Simulating other film and traditional art techniques, and
- ☛ Lens issues in the digital world.

A “WEB ENHANCED” CLASS

Photo 243 is now being run as a “Web Enhanced” class. That means that increasing amounts of resources and materials are online both on my own Web Site and on Blackboard/Vista.

It also means that all grading and testing will be done via your submissions to Blackboard/Vista. I will give you instructions for using both my site and the Blackboard Site in class. Those instructions will be both printed and in a video.

REQUIRED TEXT AND READINGS

The initial Digital or Film introduction texts will do fine. Other recommendations will be made throughout the class for additional reading materials.

However, the information supplied in the course handouts, department handouts, lab handouts, and lectures, **ALWAYS** takes precedence over any material in the texts or other resources. **And material presented in class takes precedence over any of the written handouts, so pay attention when I point out any changes!!!!** If you have a question about this or you read conflicting data... ASK!

ADDITIONAL READING MATERIAL

In addition to the required text listed, I would also recommend any and all books and magazines on and about photography you can lay your hands on. Additional reading in consumer magazine need to be read with certain skepticism since the material is more to sell copies than be accurate; but they can nevertheless provide a comprehensive overview of equipment and some techniques. I will add some recommendations to your reading as I become aware of them. Also look at other books used for the Basic and Intermediate classes. Even though those classes are film classes the core photographic material is the same.

Other reading may be suggested throughout the class. Digital Photography is an art and craft on the cutting edge of both style and technology. To remain competitive you will need to stay current with the latest in equipment, technology, and, most importantly, style.

COURSE FORMAT AND SCHEDULE

Photo 243 nominally consists of both lecture and lab time. WE used to have to break it up but now having the computers available we may well work in and out of lecture/lab/demo methodology as it seems best for the material. Generally at the first of class we will be very heavy on lecture time. By mid class it will be about even and by the end it will be heavy on the lab side.

Obviously lecture classes are crucial since that is when the core material will be presented to you. Lab classes, however, are very, very important as well. That is when I will be available to help you with lab work and you can learn from, interact with, and work with fellow-students. They are part of your class time and attendance will be noted so don't shrug them off as unimportant. In class we will discuss working at your own digital darkroom for assignment work. We may also do one or possibly more shooting 'field trips' to practice some of the material.

The only sources of information that you can absolutely rely on for upcoming topics, readings, assignments, etc are from me during lectures and on specific handouts concerning the topic or the event itself.

GRADING BASIS

This is an advanced college-level course that requires your attention, discipline, passion, and some hard work to complete successfully. All work performed, as assignments, tests, or other projects, as well as your attendance and participation in class will be given a grade based on the quality of your work as determined by the instructor. You will be required to do some or all of the following types of assignments:

- Photo projects involving shooting and/or editing digital images
 - Written reports or essays
 - Exams or tests on your retention of presented information
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GRADES & POINTS

Photo Projects will be graded from multiple perspectives: **technically** (how well it was conceived, exposed, shot, and edited; **aesthetically** (how well it is composed and whether the visual presentation helps convey the image's "story," and also **professionally** for such elements as following directions accurately, and turning it in on time and as asked for. A grading form/checklist is attached at the end so you can see what is needed for a good grade. Keep it as a checklist of what I'll be looking at when grading.

This work **MUST** be your own work and not that of another. **Turning in work that is not your own or is a copy of someone else's creative work will result in a failing grade and can subject you to disciplinary action with the Dean of Students.**

Tests will be assigned specific points per question based on difficulty or type. A wrong answer gains zero points, a correct one gains all the points assigned that question. *At the instructor's discretion* a partial right answer may receive partial credit. There will probably be a Final Exam.

Written Assignments. If I should give you a written assignment here are some general rules about it.

1. If I can't read it... it does not exist. Meaning? Type or computer print it.
2. This is not an English class but computers have spell check. I expect you to spell correctly and use the right terms — especially photo-related terms — in your paper.

If I assign a written piece it is expected that the result will be your own thinking and work. Essay assignments at City College are run through an online resource and database called "www.turnitin.com" that checks a massive internal library of books, magazines, even graduate theses and dissertations for plagiarism and copying. I seriously grade down for using un-cited work that is not your own.

TRACKING GRADES

Grades will be given as a numerical score and shown in the Blackboard Grade Book. Keep track of these and make sure projects that you turned in are recorded with a grade.

GRADE MEANINGS

The following table will illustrate the value and meanings used to define and allocate grades. Especially in an advanced class such as this one, you should take these descriptions literally and honestly when evaluating your own work and the work you are about to turn in. A basic level of skill will be presumed as we start so we can be pretty objective about it.

You can download a blank copy of the grading form from Blackboard or my website to see the criteria for evaluation and the meaning of the numbers.

Letter	Value	Description of Work
A	100	EXCELLENT work. Your project is as good as anyone can possibly be expected to do for this level of class. Nearly perfect and beyond what was asked for.
B	89	GOOD/Above Average work. There may be a few small issues but generally it is a very good, above-average effort.
C	79	AVERAGE work. You did what was asked and all the parts were there, but several issues exist and just average effort is apparent.
D	69	FAIR/Below Average work, Directions were not followed, or, there are parts missing, shooting or printing or presentation is sub-par, numerous issues exist with work that should have been solved by now.
F	59-0	POOR work. This is Sub-standard work with major technical or aesthetic issues or where directions or requirements were generally ignored. Or it was not turned in at all (Zero Points)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments will have written instructions either in Blackboard or as an additional assignment sheet handout that may be printed or downloaded from my web site. These instructions are very important and will be the final arbiter of what is minimally required for the project and any additional criteria (other than noted above) for the

grading. The instructions for each assignment will list all items to be turned in to be considered complete. On some older assignment sheets (that I have not updated) the "Turn in" instructions are for CD submission. Ignore that and follow the instructions given in Blackboard and in class.

Each handout explains the requirements for that project, including a list of everything required to be turned in for that project. Read each project handout carefully as the particulars will vary with the different projects.

EFFECT OF FINALS

The final projects and/or final exam will have a **critical** effect on your grade regardless of how well you have done up to that point.

- ◆ If you do not take the final exam or do not submit an acceptable Final Portfolio or final Project as assigned, your maximum attainable grade *for the course* will be a "D" *regardless* of your other points earned to date.
- ◆ If your Final Project achieves less than 60% of the possible points your maximum attainable grade will be a "D" or,
- ◆ If your final Written Exam achieves less than 60% of the possible points your maximum attainable grade will be a "D"

Final projects are important to your grade! (They usually have more points than normal.)

EFFECT OF ATTENDANCE ON GRADES

Attendance is not just mandated by student policy, it is vital to your learning capabilities. The college has set very strict guidelines for instructors to follow relative to student absences and tardiness. The following standards have been set by the school.

- ◆ Three (3) consecutive unexcused absences or five (5) total unexcused absences in a semester will lower your final grade AT LEAST a letter.
- ◆ Also, tardiness is disruptive to the entire class and will not be tolerated. Unexcused tardiness will be counted as an unexcused absence. All unexcused absences (and tardiness) WILL count against your grade.

If you anticipate a legitimate absence then tell me BEFORE or have a really good excuse and a pathetic voice when you call from your hospital bed!

DROPPING THE CLASS

It is vital that you remember however, that although I *can* drop you automatically for unexcused absences, do not rely on my doing so... *because I won't*.

It is *your* responsibility to turn in the proper paperwork to the Admissions office should you have to drop the class. Depending on the amount and grades of work already turned in, failure to take yourself off of the roster through admissions COULD result in an "F" you didn't expect on your record.

Sometimes life gets in the way of the best plans, believe me I know and understand. But if you wish, or need, to drop, *you* must take responsibility for making sure that the admissions office has officially dropped you from the roster. Why is this so important? The reason is that if you are still on the school roster I *must* enter a grade for you at the end of the semester; and you will almost certainly get a major and negative hit on your grade. It usually becomes an "F."

FINAL GRADES

Your final grade will be determined by your semester's cumulative points as a percentage of the total possible points. That percentage will yield a letter grade based on the following table:

90% - 100%	=	A
80% - 89%	=	B
70% - 79%	=	C
60% - 69%	=	D
0% - 59%	=	F

TRACKING YOUR GRADE

In Blackboard you can track the growing accumulation of points as assignments, etc. are graded and added to the total. The indicated total shows where you would be if you did no more work and can show the effect of dropping out without alerting records.

ASSIGNMENT TOPICS

At the end of this course syllabus there is a *tentative* list of class topics and assignments by week.

Each assignment will usually (but not always or necessarily) have two weeks to complete from the time it is given until it is due but at least will include one weekend. You will need to follow along in your chosen text as we cover these topics.

I've not given the precise dates or instructions for the assignments here because I do not want you working ahead; trying to anticipate what will be needed. Doing that in the past has always led to a student having to do the project over because they did what they THOUGHT would be needed before hearing the actual assignment.

PROJECT / ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

Read all project instructions carefully and listen closely to any modifications given in class for the specific instructions to be followed for that project.

For this course however, *unless specifically noted otherwise* in the project handout, submissions will be files submitted into the Assignments section of Blackboard/Vista. This is to facilitate critiques and demos of techniques and skills and to provide a double check on submissions since you will be able to see what has been turned in and officially graded as we go along...

Any exceptions, such as for printed assignments, will be spelled out when an assignment is given.

Failure to follow the instructions will be reflected in the project grade up to and including being considered incomplete. When in the slightest doubt... ASK!

TESTS

I believe the proof is in the image and you will be asked to show (and be evaluated based on) your growing skills via the quality of your photo projects. However from time to time, if, based on the incoming work, I think something has been missed; I may give short ad hoc quizzes to determine the absorption and retention of material covered in the classes. Any test I give will be based on materials provided by me IN CLASS so your best review material is your class notes. And there will likely be a final

Photography is more art than science. Nevertheless there are scientific underpinnings that you must know in order to be free to create using the medium. Those are the things I would test on so I will try to warn you in advance of topics that "you would need to know" should there be an exam. I do not give trick questions.

DIGITAL FILES FOR PROJECTS

Unless specified otherwise, regardless of how you shot the images, the finals for class will need to be converted to 8-bit JPEG format. The shot that is the "final," i.e. the one you want to be graded, should be renamed as "yourname_projectname_final" For example: "jsmith_texture_final.jpg." The final files need to be sized to 100 ppi and 1,000 pixels on the longest dimension. There are both written instructions and a video on this available through Blackboard and my web site.

Printed Assignments. If the assignment calls for prints to be turned in, you may make these on your home printer, at school, or can even have an outside lab make the prints for you. I'll talk about some options for this when the time comes. However, remember, especially if you are intending to print them at home, I will grade them with the same criteria I would apply to ANY photo print for tonalities, color, etc. If you do not have a photo quality printer than have them done elsewhere. When a printed assignment is requested, print quality is part of the grade component.

DEADLINES

All projects are to be submitted by end of the due date. Grades will be deducted 10% for being late and then a point for every day it is late thereafter unless I have given specific permission to be late. I have set up Blackboard so that there is a cut-off date for submission, usually a full week after the due date. After that cutoff date no submission will be accepted into the system... there wouldn't be enough points left to make it worth your time.

A project will be returned ungraded if it is incomplete and points will be deducted as above. However, the project must be corrected and resubmitted or it will achieve a grade of zero (0) points.

If you are having a problem, talk to me BEFORE a project is due, not after.

If some technical interferes with your uploading of a project or renders the file unreadable, I'll return it to you for correction and, despite what the computer indicates, will not take of points for being late.

CLASS CRITIQUES

Following the grading of projects, they will be critiqued in class. This is NOT a forum to embarrass anyone but a chance to learn and let the entire class learn together from observances about each other's work and how to improve them digitally.

This is an advanced level class. The goal is to get you to be doing professional quality work. I will be showing you the tips and techniques to improve your work with each critique.

Generally projects turned in late *will not* be included in the class critiques. So if you want feedback on them, get them in on time.

CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR

You may leave the instructor, David King an E-mail (preferred) or phone message (generally pointless) as follows:

- Email: dking@sdccd.edu (the most reliable means of contacting me.)
- Appointments can be arranged as needed.
- My office phone is: **619-388-3649** but is *far less reliable* as a way to contact me than by email.

MY WEB SITE

My personal web site, www.ndavidking.com has a page reserved to be a resource for you and other students. If you log on and go to the "SDCC" page there is a lot of material for you. You can scroll down to your class for copies of class materials and other handouts such as datasheets. These are often in MS Word format and some are large files that contain photo illustrations so be patient as they download. Also there are links to other resources such as a student news and announcements page. And, if you want to see some of my work you can open the "Gallery" page. Additionally on my site there is a "Links" page with links to many online photo related web sites. A video on Blackboard steps you through the logging on process.

CELL PHONES

When you come into class there is a simple rule regarding cell phones:

Unless you are a medical doctor on-call or a parent with a sick child at home (AND tell me that is the case)...

TURN THE *#%@*^@ THING OFF ! ! ! ! !

You will be able, despite your fears to the contrary, to actually survive for the class duration without getting a call (or making a call). It is an amazing historical fact that just a few years ago you actually had to wait until you got home to have access to a telephone and yet most of those students managed to survive the ordeal (though a few were found quivering in a heap by the campus police dialing an “air phone” and mumbling, “Can you hear me?” over and over, they responded to therapy and have recovered). You can therefore survive for a few hours!

This ban includes texting!!!!

Let your friends know your class schedule and when you are NOT available for calls. Do not use vibrate since I will wonder why you are smiling, nor use the high frequency ring tones because seeing others all look around when I can’t hear anything is still a good clue. If the phone is more important than class then please spare us the interruption. Use your phone but do it somewhere else.

COMPUTER USE

You will be able to use the school computers for your assignments both during the lab class and during directed lab periods. But the reality is, if you want to get serious about digital photography then you need to have a computer with sufficient power and applications to download, convert, edit, and then print or transmit your images. In class we will discuss the minimal requirements for a sufficient computer along with some recommendations.

Also, you are free to bring in your own laptops for use during lab periods.

However, do NOT work or play with the school’s or your own computer when I am trying to lecture to the class. That is rude and distracting, and won’t be tolerated. Since you are not paying attention to class material I will mark you as having an unexcused absence for that day. Remember: 3 such days will equal a final letter grade. And, when I see it happening, I will either lock the computer out and you will lose any data or work you had, or, if it is an email session that looks juicy enough, I may run it through the projector to share with everyone.

INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE OR DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

We have very clear guidelines from the administration stating we are not to tolerate any offensive language or behavior that would be disruptive to the educational process or offensive to the class. In my classroom this is a zero-tolerance position. I may only warn you the first time if I think it was a slip, otherwise even the first time takes you out of class for the rest of the day. The second time takes you out of the class for the rest of the semester. New school policies also dictate that we turn in a report to the Dean and the VP of Student Affairs so it is on file.

We have, overall, a dedicated and talented group of students who have signed up for the class to learn. Photography is not an easy topic and an even harder profession. Disruptive behavior that is distracting or offensive makes it harder to deal with an already hard topic. So don’t even think about it.

**PROBLEMS WITH THE
INSTRUCTOR**

It happens sometimes. There may be a personality conflict, or you feel the instructor did not give you proper credit on something or perhaps unfairly singled out an image of yours during a critique. Any number of things in a venue as dynamic as a creative skills class can lead to a student feeling they have a problem with the instructor. If it should happen, then there is a set protocol and “chain of command” for you to follow to address the situation.

Your first stop is the instructor themselves. Common courtesy demands, and efficient resolution depends on your first making an appointment and talking to them about your issues. Do not be intimidated by this. We really are here to help you learn and if something is standing in the way we will do all we can to correct it including, if it is necessary, helping to get you into another section of the class.

If, after meeting with the instructor you feel the issues were not resolved to your satisfaction the next step is the Chairperson of the Department. Currently that is **June Richards**. She will ask if you have spoken with the instructor and if not you will be sent back down to try that first.

If after meeting with instructor and then the Chair you still feel the situation is unresolved then you can make an appointment with the Dean of the Arts and Humanities School. Currently that is **Minou Spradley**. She too will ask if you have worked your way up the chain of command.

If you still have not received satisfaction then the Dean can recommend the next steps for you to take. This may involve a group meeting to mediate the situation.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

This list shows the basic, minimal equipment and supplies you will need in order to complete the assignments for the class. The good news is that apart from the camera itself, the supplies cost will be far less than it would be for a film-based class but could still end up being over \$100.00 in addition to the cost of the shooting equipment.

EQUIPMENT:

- DIGITAL SLR CAMERACamera must have adjustable focus, shutter, and aperture. This must be a true DSLR, or high-end "Rangefinder" (e.g. Leica M8) and it MUST be one that you can manually set exposure and focus and which has at minimum, an APS sized chip.
- TRIPOD The best you can afford
- SHUTTER (CABLE) RELEASE Electronic or mechanical 9-12" long
- COMPUTER (Optional)(See notes above)
- MEMORY/STORAGE Flash media cards of sufficient capacity for 30 frames at maximum quality
- FLASH CARD USB READER..... for transferring files
- SENSOR CLEANING FLUID/BRUSH/SWABS

SUPPLIES:

- CDs or Pen Drive to transport working files from the class computers to your home computers
- Notebook for class notes 1 book
- (Optional) Mounting Boards and larger envelopes..... Enough for assignments you need to print

GENERAL COSTS:

PLEASE NOTE! PHOTOGRAPHY, AS A STUDENT OR AS A PRACTICING PHOTOGRAPHER, IS NOT AN INEXPENSIVE ACTIVITY. FOR FILM-BASED PHOTO CLASSES, IT IS COMMON FOR STUDENTS TO HAVE TO SPEND UPWARDS OF \$300.00 FOR SUPPLIES OVER THE COURSE OF A SEMESTER. THE DIGITAL CLASS WILL PROBABLY NOT COME TO THAT AMOUNT BUT IT MIGHT GET CLOSE IF YOU DO A LOT OF YOUR OWN PRINTING.

ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE:

OUR PRIMARY EDITING TOOL IS PHOTOSHOP AND CS4 IS LOADED ON ALL OF THE COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM. DURING THE CLASS I WILL BE EXPOSING YOU TO SOME ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE FOR CREATING SOME OF THE IMAGES SUCH AS HDR, DEPTH OF FIELD, PANORAMAS AND MOSAICS. ALL OF THESE APPLICATIONS CAN BE DOWNLOADED ON YOUR HOME COMPUTERS AS TRIAL VERSIONS WITHOUT COSTS. THESE TRIALS WILL ALL LAST LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS.

TOPICS BY WEEK:

Note that this table is only a rough guideline of how the class may go. Depending on the dynamics and specific needs (or speeds) of a particular class, the sequence of topics may be modified on the fly. When a lecture ends early you may use the rest of the time for lab work.

Week	1 st Day	2 nd Day	Assignments / Notes
1	Class ground rules/Introduction	Lecture: Review: Exposure Control and Digital Zone System	
2	Lecture: Workflow for photo editing. Review Color Space.	Lecture: Color System Management from shot to print	Download editing datasheet and diagram
3	Lecture: HDRI	Lecture: Printing Review and Prep; Profiling, printers and outsourcing your printing	Download HDRI Datasheet
4	HOLIDAY	Lecture/Demo: Using Layers and Masks. Review of sharpening	Download Sharpening datasheet
5	Lecture/Demo: Portrait, Fashion, and special effects retouching	Lab Time	Download Portrait lighting styles handout HDRI Due
6	Critique HDRI	Lecture: Lenses for Digital Photography / Using Filters / plug-ins	Portrait/Fashion Retouching Due
7	Digital Depth of Field	Critique Portrait Retouching	Open Depth of Field Assignment
8	Lecture: Sizing and scaling images Electronic Flash and Flash fill	Lab Time	Download Flash Datasheet Depth of Field Enhancement Due
9	Lecture/Demo: Simulations of photo and traditional art technologies	Critique Depth of Field	Open Simulations Assignment
10	SPRING BREAK		STAY SAFE !!!!!
11	Lecture: Retouching old photos	Lab Time	Open Retouching Old Photos Simulated Processes Due
12	Lecture: Panoramas and Mosaics	Critique Simulations	Open Pano/Mosaic Assignment Retouching Old Photos Due
13	Lecture: 3D Photography	Critique Old Photo retouch	Open 3D Assignment Open
14	Lecture: Mat Cutting	Lab Time	Panorama/ Mosaic Due
15	Critique Mosaic/Pano	Lab time	
16	Review Final + Lab Time	Lab Time	Open Final Exam 3D Anaglyph Due
17	Critique 3D		Final Exam Due