

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** ART 381 **TITLE:** Beginning Digital Photography

Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours

Method of Grading: Letter Grade Only

Recommended Preparation:

ART 351

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU; UC

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Catalog Description:

Teaches photography using a digital camera and computer. Computer proficiency is required. Covers the principles of composition, use of natural light and visual awareness. Students use Adobe Lightroom to organize, edit and display photographs. Proficiency using a digital camera is developed. Students create photographs that are projected and critiqued in class. Extra supplies may be required.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the digital camera.
2. Develop proficiency using the Macintosh and demonstrate the ability to use the computer to import, store, organize and present digital photographs.
3. Communicate personal expression through the photographic medium.
4. Demonstrate, through their digital portfolios, a refined knowledge and understanding of effective composition.
5. Critically analyze and evaluate their work, the work of their peers and the work of professional photographers.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the digital camera.
2. Develop proficiency using the Macintosh operating system and demonstrate the ability to use the computer to import, store, organize and present digital photographs.
3. Communicate personal expression through the photographic medium.
4. Demonstrate, through their digital portfolios, a refined knowledge and understanding of effective composition.
5. Critically analyze and evaluate their work, the work of their peers and the work of professional photographers.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

1. Overview of computers and associated devices.
 - A. Computers: Processing needs, memory, storage, desktop machines, and portable and laptop devices.
 - B. Portable storage media: Devices, limitations and costs.
 - C. The Macintosh operating system.
 - a. Launching applications.
 - b. Copying files.
 - c. Using portable storage devices.
 - d. Mac/PC compatibility.
 - e. USB.
2. File management and digital asset organization.
 - A. Creating an organized and systematic filing system.
 - B. Effectively retrieving and backing-up
3. Exploration of Composition including:
 - A. Figure / Ground.
 - B. Foundations of composition using light, line shape and shadow.

- C. Portraiture.
- D. Use of black and white.
- E. Creating relationships between visual elements within the composition.
- 4. Examining themes created by photographers that include.
 - A. Sebastiano Salgado
 - B. Cole Thompson
 - C. Henri Cartier Bresson
 - D. Chris Jordan.
 - E. Fan Ho.
 - F. Robert Frank.
- 5. Understanding how photographs communicate personal expression.
 - A. Class presentation of photographs of master and of student photographs.
 - B. Understanding how residual meaning is conveyed in photographs by presenting unified bodies of work that are presented as:
 - a. Themes.
 - b. Suites.
 - c. Series

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Critique
- C. Discussion
- D. Individualized Instruction
- E. Observation and Demonstration
- F. Other (Specify):
 - 1. Lecture with digital (visual) presentations, and classroom discussion of digital imaging workflow. Includes PDF's, podcasts that develop conceptual thinking. (See SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
 - 2. Classroom demonstrations covering file management, computer skills, digital presentation software. (See SLOs: 2, 4)
 - 3. Individual student-teacher conferences. (See SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
 - 4. Digitally presented lectures to illustrate assignments and to present the work of prominent photographers whose work demonstrated good composition. (See SLOs: 3, 4, 5)
 - 5. Critique of student work. (See SLO: 5)

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Write a two page report of a photographic exhibit from a gallery of a museum.

Reading Assignments:

Reading from The Digital Photography Book. Scott Kelby

Chapter 1. Going digital.

Chapter 3. Using the correct lens.

Chapter 4. The golden rule of landscape photography.

Chapter 5. Using diffused light.

Chapter 7. Using strong light.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Exams/Tests
- C. Papers
- D. Portfolios
- E. 1. Presentation portfolio assessment. (See SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- 2. Two examinations. (See SLOs: 1, 2)
- 3. Participation during class discussions and critiques. (See SLOs: 3, 4, 5)
- 4. Writing a museum report. (See SLOs: 3, 4, 5)

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Scott Kelby. *The Digital Photography Book: Part 1*, 3rd edition ed. San Francisco, CA: Peapit Press, 2014

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Course Originator: Richard Lohmann