



Syllabus: ART 104 Intro to Digital Photography

Course Information

Course Prefix/Number: **ART 104**
 Semester: **Spring 2017**
 Class Days/Times:
Monday + Wednesday
12-245

Credit Hours: **3**
 Course Title: **Intro to Digital**
Photography
 Room: **ART # 401**

Instructor Information:
 Name: **Serge J-F. Levy**

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 Office location: **ART # 401**
Central Campus
 Office hours: **By appointment**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this class is to familiarize you with the art and craft of writing with light. We will be learning how to use digital materials to write with light.

In order to write with light we will develop an understanding of how a lens and camera mediates the world we experience and see before us. Depth of field, shutter, focus, choreography, and composition are all part of what will make the most effective and powerful picture for you. Through a series of small assignments, we will explore the technical aspects of using a camera and also explore the conceptual nuances of working with the medium of photography.

In the beginning of the semester we will also develop a workflow for acquiring, downloading and processing our photographs through digital means. We will become proficient in the workflow of saving our files for web usage, professional application, and print output. Additionally, we will discuss aesthetic and technical concerns relative to the photographic print as distinguished from computer monitor or PDA/smarthpone viewing.

Each student is required to have their own digital camera with manual function capabilities and a 2TB external hard drive to store and transport your photographic files. You will be expected to bring your files with you to every class. Contact me for current camera and portable drive recommendations.

TOCC has cameras available for loan for the semester.

The computers on campus have the Adobe CC Suite which includes Bridge and Photoshop that will be necessary for class assignments.

The course will combine readings, writing, lectures, Powerpoint presentations, visits to the CCP print collection and the Arizona State Museum, movies, critique, research and of course intensive involvement in your photographic practice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Acquire a beginning understanding of the history of photography.
2. Learn how a camera works.
3. Develop an understanding of the manual functions of a camera.
4. Develop a working understanding of image processing software and file management.
4. Develop a personal vision and find your artistic voice.
5. Learn the unique qualities of working with photography as a medium: versus painting, drawing, 3D, printmaking, etc.
6. How to create a body of photographic work.
7. The art of sequencing and editing a body of work.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) :

Outcome 1: Students will comprehend camera technique that is translatable to digital and analogue processes:

By learning the fully manual functions of their cameras, students will know how a camera works and how to have complete creative control over the aesthetics of their photographs.

Outcome 2: Students will learn digital techniques using image processing software.

Through the use of Adobe Photoshop and the implementation of image file layers students will learn how to process their photographs and develop art of the highest aesthetic.

Outcome 3: Students will develop a portfolio of images that represent a distinct concept.

Each student will finish the class with a portfolio of up to printed images around a central theme. The portfolio will be sequenced to develop an idea of each student's choosing.

Outcome 4: Students will learn about the history of photography and also be conversant with contemporary practitioners in the field.

Students will have an understanding of the key figures that have contributed to the development of the field of photography in addition to voices practicing outside of the established canon.

Outcome 5: Ability to translate an idea into photographic language.

Beyond student's education they may be asked by clients to translate an idea into visual language. Through the process of assignment work students will ascertain the skills necessary to visualize concepts.

Course Structure:

Students will create 5 separate projects in which they will explore the vast possibilities of working with photographic materials:

1. The Devil Is In the Details

Due: **Critique is on August 30th.**

2. Portraiture

Due: **Critique is on September 15th.**

3. Landscape

Due: **Critique is on September 29th.**

4. One Up

Due: **Critique is on October 18th.**

5. The Grande Finale (for now)

Due: From now on, every week you will have new work. Additionally, you will make a **research presentation to the class on October 27th**

Due: **Critique is on November 29 or December 1.**

For the final project students will present their highest quality work in exhibition/portfolio format: high quality prints, sequencing, artist statements, and portfolio presentation will all be considered when grading your work.

All 5 projects engage students in:

1. Considering the history of photography relative to their own goals as photographers.
2. The unique qualities of creating photographic work.
3. Familiarizing students with contemporary digital hardware and photo editing software.
4. Develop a concept for their work as a visual artist.
5. Discovering and realizing personal voice.
6. Developing a critical voice.
7. Developing professional artistic practices.
8. Demonstrate self-reflection, formative evaluation and critical thinking.

MATERIALS:

Most art & design materials are supplied.

Cameras will be available on loan. Please treat this loaner with care and return it in the new condition that you received it. If you decide to use your own digital camera it must have the capability to make RAW files. If you have questions about this, please don't hesitate to ask.

Supplemental items as needed to be supplied by students when announced. Failure to come to class appropriately prepared will lead to lowered marks on the project.

EVALUATION AND GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 + below	F

Assignments	600
Attendance & class participation	400

TOTAL POINTS: 1000

Students are expected to take notes during lectures, videos and films and are responsible for the content presented.

Students are expected to come to class, prepared, with all necessary research, materials and prior requirements.

Students are encouraged to bring any concerns they may have about the course and course content to the attention of the instructor well BEFORE assignments are due. ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL. Instructor reserves the right to drop students after 4 (FOUR) absences.

HIMDAG CULTURAL COMPONENT:

Tohono O'odham traditions and cultural beliefs will be discussed as relevant to course topics, and only as appropriate to the Tohono O'odham Nation's traditional standards for sharing information.

The predominant pedagogical practice in this course is that of group demonstration and other forms of demonstrative non-verbal communication.

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS:**ART 104 Intro to Digital Photography, POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS:**

1. Except in the case of an excused emergency, students are expected to attend each class.
2. Late arrivals will count against attendance record. Two late arrivals or early departures constitute one (1) absence.
3. Class participation and preparation are essential to student success.
4. Students are responsible for clean-up of their particular and general work areas.
5. Failure to clean up will result in a loss of grade points.
6. Students must read textual material, prepare for projects, and complete required research prior to the class in which assignments are due.
7. Students are expected to come to class prepared for class and having done any preliminary work required as per the chronology.
8. Students are expected to stay in class and work diligently throughout the whole time. Frequent/ continued exiting from the class during the class period will constitute one (1) absence.
9. No cell phone use is allowed during class. Use of cell phones during class, unless permitted by instructor, is a violation of the T-So:son. Unsanctioned use of cell phone during class constitutes one (1) absence.
10. Four (4) absences will lead to being dropped from the class.
11. Plagiarism (that is using another's work) is a serious offense.
12. Late work is marked down for each day of tardiness.
13. Failure to submit a project results in a grade of zero (0). An F is a better grade!
14. No work accepted after the last class.
15. Students are responsible for the safe utilization and return all tools and materials. Failure to do so will result in a fee charge for replacement of tools or withholding of grades until tools are replaced. The tools belong to the TOCC!
16. Students are required to obey all state and federal regulations. Breach of any established law that constitutes either a felony or misdemeanor will result in immediate exclusion from the class.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.