

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY COLLEGE
CURRICULUM APPROVED: FA2000

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A. Department Information

Division: Humanities
Department: Art
Course ID: ART 161
Course Title: Digital Photography
Units: 3
Lecture: 2 hours
Laboratory: 3 hours
Prerequisite: None

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION: Focuses on visual communication and expressive images. Skills included are correcting and enhancing images using computers. Software such as Adobe PhotoShop is used. This course is designed both for Art Department certificate majors and the general public. Students will supply their own film or digital camera and output media supplies.

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II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: one

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- A. Read and critically evaluate the content of photographs.
- B. Distinguish and use the options the camera offers to best realize their unique photographic imagery
- C. Distinguish and use the options of a slide/negative scanner.
- D. Analyze and correct digital images using computer software.
- E. Evaluate digital images on the computer for various output devices.
- F. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of various output devices.

IV. CONTENT

- A. Principles of picture taking.
 1. Identifying the subject.
 - a. Excluding all but the subject.
 - b. Get the most informational angle
 2. Understanding available light
 3. Understanding studio (controlled) light
 4. Point of view
 - a. Your expectations of the scene.
 - b. What do you really see?
 - c. What do you think you see?

- B. Basic camera options
 - 1. The shutter
 - 2. The aperture
 - 3. The lens
 - a. What you see
 - b. What the lens sees
 - 4. The recording device
 - a. Film devices
 - b. Digital devices
- C. Scanner operations
 - a. Flat bed scanner
 - b. Film scanner (slide and negative)
- D. Software options for processing digital images.
 - 1. Resolution of the image
 - 2. Physical size of the image
 - 3. Contrast correction
 - 4. Color correction
 - 5. Shadow correction
- E. Output devices and considerations
 - 1. Inkjet printers
 - 2. Film recorders
 - 3. Photographic prints
 - 4. CD-ROM recorders
 - 5. Offset printing
 - 6. Permanence of output media
 - a. Image fade expectations
 - b. Paper (substrate) quality
 - c. Stability of dyes

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Computer demonstrations
- B. Lectures
- C. Individual assistance
- D. Customized intranet specific examples.
- E. Textbook assignments
- F. Supervised projects

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS: Two examples of supervised and individual assisted projects.

- A. Taking a photograph: A self-portrait without people
 - 1. Objective: To inform viewer about your values, or your daily life.
"This is who I am."
 - 2. Examples:
 - a. A still life of mementos such old toys and/or snapshots of the house where you spent your childhood.
 - b. Items that describe your day such as identification cards, keys, cell phone.
 - 3. Examples of unacceptable images for this assignment.
 - a. Your dog
 - b. Your car
- B. Correct the shadows in a photograph
 - 1. Entering the image into the computer
 - a. Directly import the image from digital camera
 - b. Scan the image from a slide/negative scanner.

2. In PhotoShop
 - a. Correct the image contrast using levels adjustments
 - b. In Levels mode, use individual channels to correct each color.
 - c. Use color range to select the shadow areas.
 - d. Feather the section to soften the transition
 - e. Hide the edges so that you can see your corrections clearly.
 - f. Return to levels with this selection to lighten only the shadows.

VII. EVALUATION

A. Methods of evaluation

1. Objective evaluation: Written tests:

Typical test questions:

 - a. What is film grain and how does it effect a photo?
 - b. Is film grain present in both digital and film images?
 - c. How does the size of the file (in megabytes) affect the output of your image?
2. Subjective evaluation: Completion of 10 photographs

Projects will be accompanied by creative material such as the original uncorrected image file. The image will be accompanied by digital word file recording the step involved to complete each photograph. Photographs will be evaluated on the following criteria.

 - a. Originality of the concept.
 - b. The clarity of the organization
 - c. Steps executed to complete the phonograph.
 - d. Success in achieving the original idea
 - e. Complexity of the work attempted

B. Frequency of evaluation

1. Two tests
 - a. Mid-term
 - b. Final
2. Completion of Photographs
 - a. One week will be allowed for each photograph.
 - b. All photographs will be submitted for grading at the end of the semester
 - c. All photographs will be we submitted as digital files.

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S)

- A. Real World Digital Photography, McClelland and Eismann, 2000, PeachPit Press
- B. PhotoShop for Windows and Macintosh, Weinmann and Lourekas, 1999, PeachPit Press
- C. The Art of Digital Photography, Ang, 2000, Amphoto Books
- D. **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Digital Photography, Greenburg, 2000,** MacMillan

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A film or digital camera and output
 One zip disk
 Output media supplies for hard copies.