



Course Outline

2026-2027 Catalog

PHO 15 - Intermediate Digital Photography

Catalog Description

Transfer Status: CSU

Prerequisite: PHO 4

Unit(s): 3.00

Lecture: 34.00 Contact hours/68.00 Out of class hours/102.00 Total hours/2.00 Unit(s)

Lab: 51.00 Contact hours/0.00 Out of class hours/51.00 Total hours/1.00 Unit(s)

Total: 85.00 Contact hours/68.00 Out of class hours/153.00 Total hours/3.00 Unit(s)

Course Description: This course provides continued exploration in the advanced theories, vocabularies and techniques of digital photography. Emphasis will be on current issues in photography, portfolio development and advanced image editing and manipulation. Students will learn the basic theories of illumination and the utilization of a variety of light sources. Students will learn to manipulate color and black-and-white images, layers, special effects, photo restoration/colorizing, and filters to prepare images for print and web distribution.

Objectives

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

1. Analyze readings on digital photographic practice and theory.
2. Utilize artificial lighting equipment, systems, and backgrounds effectively in digital photographs images.
3. Create professional-quality, digital photographic images for submission to employers, galleries, or schools using professional image editing and presentation software.
4. Create digital images using advanced digital imaging techniques.

Course Content

Topic Titles / Suggested Time Topic

Lecture

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Lec Hrs</u>
Adobe Photoshop Workspace	1.00
Integrating Adobe Lightroom	2.00
Basic Photoshop Editing	2.00
Non-destructive Editing	3.00
Selection Tools	2.00
Photoshop Camera Raw	2.00
Working with Masks and Channels	2.00
Smart Objects/Filters	1.00
Photo Compositing	2.00
High Dynamic Range	1.00
Panoramic Images	1.00
Other Photoshop Tools	1.00
Preparing Files for Printing	1.00
Preparing Files for the Web	1.00
Assignment Introduction	3.00
Final Portfolio Introduction	1.00
Photography and Society	3.00
Critical Theory in Photography	3.00
Basic Studio Lighting	2.00
Total Hours:	
34.00	

Lab

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Lab Hrs</u>
Adobe Photoshop workspace	2.00
Integrating Adobe Lightroom	2.00
Basic Photoshop Editing	2.00
Non-destructive Editing	4.00
Selection Tools	3.00

Topics	Lab Hrs
Photoshop Camera Raw	3.00
Working with Masks and Channels	2.00
Smart Objects/Filters	2.00
Photo Compositing	4.00
High Dynamic Range	2.00
Panoramic Images	2.00
Other Photoshop Tools	4.00
Preparing Files for Printing	2.00
Preparing Files for the Web	2.00
Assignment Critique	8.00
Final Portfolio Critique	3.00
Basic Studio Lighting	4.00
Total Hours: 51.00	

Methods of Instruction

- A. Demonstrations
- B. Discussion
- C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- D. Lecture
- E. Problem-Solving Sessions
- F. Reading Assignments

Methods of Evaluation

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Portfolios
- C. Projects
- D. Homework
- E. Class participation
- F. Performance Examinations

Examples of Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Read the information provided by the instructor on artificial lighting. Be prepared to demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of studio lighting.
2. Read a magazine article supplied by the instructor on Adobe Photoshop techniques. Demonstrate this technique to the class.

Writing Assignments

1. Based on sources provided by the instructor, write a 1-page paper detailing how digital imaging has changed the work habits of photographers.
2. Read the essay "Criticizing Photographs" by Terry Barrett and write a 2-page paper discussing the different ways that photography is used across media, society, and art.

Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Research an advanced Photoshop image editing technique and be prepared to discuss in class.
2. Design and execute a photo illustration, photo montage or HDR image. Be prepared to explain your working method to the class.

Recommended Materials of Instruction

Faris Belt, A. (2011). The Elements of Photography: Understanding and Creating Sophisticated Images. *Routledge, 2nd*. 978-0240815152.
Hirsh, R. (2022). Light & Lens: Photography in the Digital Age. *Routledge, 4th*. 978-0367771935.

Minimum Qualifications

Photo Tech/Commercial Photo
Photography (Masters Required)

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