

Digital Photography

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Required reading: **Digital Photographer's Handbook**, Tom Ang
Russellbrown.com tutorials (free!)

Digital Photography is a three-credit course in the study of digital shooting, digital manipulation and enhancement, and digital archiving and output, with emphasis placed on **photography as an expressive art form and the development of critical thinking**. This course will cover technical information on: camera use and functionality, scanning negatives and prints, digital workflow and editing, professional functions of manipulating and enhancing, and printing correctly and effectively. The only software will only be covering in this class is Adobe Photoshop CS3 and Adobe Bridge CS3.

Assignments

There will be five scheduled critiques and you will be required to show a minimum of **six 11x17** (minimum size) **digital prints** from a **minimum of four contact sheets** (12 exposures each on 8.5"x11" digital paper) for each critique. Rise to the demands of your artistic expression rather than suppressing it with a lack of dedication. Your fifth assignment will be a published final portfolio or series that represents your best work from the entire semester with an artist's statement that will be relevant to the piece. All assignments must include at least two contact sheets shot from a digital camera (images cannot only be from scanned slides), and it is mandatory that all images be printed in the Grant Hall computer lab. Images printed from Walgreen's, Costco, Light Impressions, Color Reflections, etc., will not be accepted. The printing process in digital photography is just as important to learn as the printing process in a darkroom. Readings from the textbook will also be assigned regularly, and assessment quizzes will follow.

Final Exam on May 13 (subject to change)

It is mandatory for each student to attend the final exam. The exam schedule is determined by the University to avoid overlapping or conflicting examination times. Please be aware of your schedule as it pertains to the end of the semester and report any perceived conflicts to the instructor immediately. Grades will be posted on the UNLV web site the first Wednesday following the FINAL EXAM.

Grading

Your final grade is an average of your grades from the five critiques (20% each). Quality will encompass the technical skills demonstrated as well as the conceptual or creative effort put into the assignment. Your grade will be lowered a letter grade for each day an assignment is late.

A = work of exceptional quality
B = strong work
C = average work
D = poor work
F = work incomplete or of exceptionally poor quality

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. If more than three classes are missed or if partial attendance occurs (late arrivals or early departures) **your final grade will be lowered a letter grade per offence**. It is absolutely essential to attend class and be punctual, as to not miss important announcements and demonstrations. If you are late for a critique or do not have the completed assignment, you will be asked to not participate, and your grade will be lowered accordingly.

Computer Labs

These facilities are for you to use and enjoy. While using these facilities you will come in contact with expensive/delicate equipment. Therefore there are certain guidelines that must be adhered to. Do not consume food or beverages in labs. Absolutely no smoking. When you are finished working, make sure that you clean up everything to continue a safe, clean lab environment. If you observe someone abusing the labs, either through poor or careless work habits, bring it to their attention and notify me. This is your lab. Protect it and keep it clean. Lab open hours will be announced.

Mandatory Supplies

1. Minimum 1GB Flash Drive, any manufacturer
2. Minimum 10 Writable CDs (rewritable not recommended), and cases or sleeves
3. Card reader (should be able to read card in you camera - most read at least 4 different types: CF, SD, XD, etc.)
4. Film (color negative, color slide, b&w - whatever you would like to use)
5. Negative sleeves for film
6. Antistatic cloth
7. Dust blower (canned air or rocket)
8. Notebook for notes, handouts, and contact sheets

Non-mandatory (but highly recommended) Supplies

1. Digital camera that can shoot RAW images. JPGs are not acceptable. Any digital images **MUST BE SHOT IN RAW FORMAT**. Point and shoot cameras that shoot RAW are okay, but a digital SLR is recommended. (\$500.00-\$3,000.00+)
2. 35mm manual camera. If you need to purchase a camera, I suggest a new Canon Rebel K2. (\$199.95)
3. Tri-pod - it important that you get a tripod that can support the weight of your camera and lens, and that will not fall over if you let it go. (\$50.00+)
4. Cable release or wireless release (\$20+)
5. Light meter (if not a feature of your camera). (\$190.00+)
6. Different high quality digital printing paper (Good paper is supplied by the computer lab, but if paper runs out and/or you'd like to experiment with different types of paper, be prepared to purchase a box. **THE LAB RUNNING OUT OF PAPER WILL NOT EXCUSE ANYONE FROM TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME.**)
7. Portfolio book or box to keep prints nice and presentable.

These items may be purchased at Casey's Cameras (736.0890), Sahara Cameras (457.3333), Fry's Electronics, Best Buy, etc.

Assignments

Minimum six 11"x17" digital prints, and 4 contact sheets will be due at each critique.

Assignment 1 - Creep Show (Film Noir/Horror Film)

Create six images that are inspired by aspects from your favorite horror films or including film noir characteristics. How is lighting and composition used to portray a feeling or narrative? How is symbolism or text used effectively? How can you conceptually "creep out" your viewer? All images must be output in black & white, but will be shot in color digital, and color and black & white negatives (at least three prints from digital shoot).

Assignment 2 - Exemplify Emotion (Images from Words)

Choose excerpts from literature, poems, song lyrics, etc., and use your photographic skills to create illustrative images that demonstrate the emotion of the piece. The words can be researched or your own original writing. How does color and lighting apply? Text is not mandatory as part of the image, and should only be used to enhance the piece, not take it over. All images must be color.

Assignment 3 - Hidden Revealed (Night Photography)

Create compelling images taken only at night and outside. Experiment with available light, long shutter speed, and additional lighting sources not including a flash or studio strobe or continuous lighting. The use of light and/or blur should be relevant to your subject matter. What does the dark mean to you? What do you do outside at night? What do you want to see or not see in the dark?

Assignment 4 - Super Powers (Cartoon/Comic Book)

Using attributes from cartoons and/or comic books (any colorful illustration), create images that push your scene and color to the limits. This assignment will rely on interesting shooting just as much as the incorporation of heavy digital manipulation.

Assignment 5 - A Body of Work Publication

Using an online publication site, you will upload (and pay for) your own book of your work. This publication can be a portfolio of your work (any work is okay - previous photographs, paintings, etc.) or one body of work...anything you'd like to put out into the world for people to possibly purchase.

Course Calendar

Jan 22 Introduction & syllabus, Quiz 1
HW: Read pages 12-18, 38-42, 226-227. Buy materials, bring cameras to next class.
Optional reading: pages 19-37

Jan 24 Reading Quiz 1
Technical review
Presentation on Assignment 1
HW: read pages 66-85, 96-99, 234-235 Shoot for Assign 1, bring memory card, card reader, flash drive, and cds to next class.

Jan 29 Reading Quiz 2
Workflow & archiving demo
Go over contact sheets
HW: read pages 114-123, 238, 240-241, 244-247, 270-274, 276-281, 288, 318-319, 322-329 Re-shoot digitally.

Jan 31 Reading Quiz 3
Converting to B&W demo, Lab, answer questions
HW: Read pages 50-51, 214-223, 228-230, 348-357
Bring in color film to scan, anti static cloth, dust blower

Feb 5 Reading Quiz 4
Scanning and printing demo
Lab, Look at contact sheets, answer questions
HW: Print

Feb 7 Assignment 2 Presentation
Lab, answer questions
HW: Print.

Feb 12 **Assign 1 Critique**
HW: Read pages 102-113, 232-233, 239, 242-243, 250-269, 320-321, 332-333
Find text for assignment 2 & start shooting. Bring images to work with to class

Feb 14 Reading Quiz 5
Color enhancement demo, Lab, answer questions, contact sheets
HW: Shoot/reshoot

Feb 19 Lab, answer questions
HW: Print

Feb 21 Lab, answer questions
HW: Print

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Feb 26 Assignment 3 Presentation
Lab, answer questions
HW: Print

Feb 28 **Assign 2 Critique**
HW: Shoot

Mar 4 Lab, show contact sheets, answer questions
HW: Shoot and/or Print

Mar 6 Lab, show contact sheets, answer questions
HW: Shoot and/or Print

Mar 11 Assignment 4 Presentation
Lab, show contact sheets, answer questions
HW: Print

Mar 13 **Assign 3 Critique**
HW: Read pages 94-95, 100-101, 128-133, 260-263, 282-287, 289-317, 336-345
Shoot

Mar 18 SPRING BREAK!

Mar 20 SPRING BREAK!

Mar 25 Reading Quiz 6
Manipulation demo
Lab, show contact sheets, answer questions
HW: Shoot and/or print
Optional reading: 86-87, 138-208.

Mar 27 Lab, show contact sheets, answer questions
HW: Print

Apr 1 Lab, show contact sheets, answer questions
HW: Print

Apr 3 Lab, show contact sheets, answer questions
HW: Print

Apr 8 **Assign 4 Critique**
HW: Read pages 360-363, 369, 374-375. Gather prints for semester portfolio selection, or come up with idea and present for publication assignment

Apr 10 Reading Quiz 7
Publication demo
Go over ideas with students, show contact sheets, answer questions

HW: Read pages 210-211. Gather work for publication/Shoot for publication

Apr 15 Digital demo for shooting work for publication/cd.
Lab, show contact sheets, answer questions
HW: Work on publication

Apr 17 Lab, show contact sheets, answer questions
HW: Write Artist Statement/Text for publication & print

Apr 22 Lab, go over text
HW: Work on publication/edit text

Apr 24 Lab, answer questions
HW: Work on publication

Apr 29 Lab, answer questions
HW: Work on publication

May 1 **Critique Assignment 5**/Publication (in computer lab - on line
demos/presentations)
HW: Review all images from semester and pick top 10

May 8 Show images for semester portfolio selection (can be soft copies or on contact
sheets)
HW: Final edits to top 10 images

May 10 Lab, work on cd, answer questions
HW: Finish cd

May 13 FINAL - Email all final images, return work, clean up lab