

AR138 / Introduction to Digital Imaging  
Fall 2012  
Bixler 132 (Bixler Library Media Lab)  
Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 – 11:50 a.m.

Professor Gary M. Green  
Office: Roberts 210  
859-5643 / ggreen@colby.edu  
Office Hrs: Wed. 10 - 1 by appt.

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

**Description and Goals:** This class is a non-photo-based introduction to the computer as a tool for two-dimensional design as well as creating, processing, and manipulating images within the context of the fine arts studio. Through assigned work, classroom demonstrations and critiques, and assigned readings, students will learn the basics of hardware (Macintosh computer, scanner, ink jet printer) and software (Adobe Photoshop) and will be expected to apply that knowledge and those skills to a variety of projects exploring both artistic and technical issues. This class will also present an introduction to basic art concepts and movements as well as a selection of notable artists and their working processes. While the digital platform contrasts with traditional two-dimensional media by nature, students will be expected to become proficient in the same formal concepts, principles and vocabulary covered in AR131. (This course may be used as a prerequisite for AR281 in lieu of AR131.)

**Required Equipment and Supplies:** Students should have at least a 4 GB flash drive for saving files, or, ideally, a portable backup drive. Students will also need to purchase inkjet paper (Epson Ultra Premium Matte Paper), which is available at the bookstore and many online suppliers. You will also be asked to collect papers, magazines, materials, fabrics, etc. to be scanned and used for a variety of course projects. Because there is no storage space in the lab, it is suggested you have some kind of folio, bag, or other way of storing and transporting these various materials.

**Working Outside Class:** The course will require substantial amount of time be spent outside of class time beyond reading of assigned texts. Take your work seriously and allow yourself the necessary time to do it properly. The computer lab is available whenever the Art Library is open and no other classes are scheduled in there.

**Working in the labs:** It is essential that you be sensitive to your fellow workers in the lab by observing proper digital lab rules and common courtesy. The result will be peace and harmony as well as many hours of enjoyable and productive work. **Drinks in the computer lab should be covered. Please, no food in either work space!**

**Required Materials:** Assignments may require a variety of traditional and digital materials so there is no one list of needed supplies aside from film and inkjet printing paper, which will be available in the bookstore and from other vendors. We will discuss the varieties and qualities of various papers during the semester but you should begin with Epson Ultra Premium Presentation Paper in a Matte surface, which has been ordered for you at the bookstore. In addition, you should have either a portable backup drive or a memory stick to protect and transfer your work.

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** Students are responsible for all course material covered during all classes. Because of the amount of work that we will cover and produce in class, good attendance is of great importance. Three unexcused absences from class will result in the reduction of one letter grade. More than three unexcused absences may result in being dropped from the course and may also result in a failing grade. If you cannot attend class for a legitimate reason, you are still responsible for the material missed as well as any assignments given. **Please arrive on time, as it is disruptive to everyone when you walk in late. Repeated lateness will also reflect on your grade.**

**Important:** Please turn off all cell phones during class time. **Also:** Headphones, earbuds, etc. are **not permitted** during any class activities including lab and darkroom sessions.

**Academic Honesty:** All students are expected to know and honor the college's code of academic honesty. Any suspected case of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students and ultimately can result in the failure of the course. Trespasses include, but are not limited to, plagiarism of written material and false authorship of artistic material.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the level of commitment to the course and the extent to which finished assignments reflect genuine understanding of the course content. Effort will be taken into account but will not be considered equal to tangible growth in both skill and visual awareness. Factors to be considered include attendance, quality and quantity of assigned projects, level of interest and enthusiasm, and classroom behavior.

*Course grades are defined as follows: A, the student has mastered the material of the course and has demonstrated exceptional critical skills and originality; B, the student has demonstrated a thorough and above average understanding of the material of the course; C, the student has demonstrated a thorough and satisfactory understanding of the material of the course; D, the student has demonstrated a marginally satisfactory understanding of the basic material of the course (only a limited number of D grades may be counted toward the requirements for graduation); F, the student has not demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of the basic material of the course.\**

While I do not give letter grades for most assignments — it is the nature of our discipline to consider process and growth over a single result — I am always glad to meet with students to give them a general idea of their ongoing grade should they feel that is helpful or if I feel it is necessary. In addition, I would like to meet with each student individually on or around midterm to discuss his or her progress and grade up to that time. Each student will be responsible for making an appointment to see me during the midterm period.

**Problems and/or questions:** Students are encouraged to see me to discuss any and all problems concerning their work in this course. I am available to meet with you on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Please make an appointment to make sure I'll be in. *Please don't hesitate to contact me to make an appointment or to stop by my office.* I will do my best to accommodate your needs.