

AR282/Photography II: Introduction to Digital Photography
Fall 2012
Bixler 132 (Bixler Library Computer Lab)
Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:50

Professor Gary M. Green
Office: Roberts 210
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Office Hrs: Wed. 10 - 1 by appt.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Description and Goals: This course will allow students to master the basics – creatively and technically – of digital photographic techniques and materials. The class will provide a primer for Adobe Photoshop, the appropriate hardware (scanners and printers), and digital cameras. The class will also introduce and explore color photography, its history, methods, and materials and a survey of contemporary work in the medium. Although the curriculum introduces many aspects of digital craft, assignments and projects will include the use of traditional techniques as well. Critical to the course is the continued exploration of photography as a language of visual expression within the fine arts. Students will be using digital and traditional cameras. Prerequisite AR281.

Required Text: There are no required texts but from time to time books and hand-outs will be offered as suggested or required reading. Books, periodicals and/or articles on reserve will be available in the Bixler Art Library. In addition, it's expected that you will regularly view and review periodicals, web sites, and exhibitions that relate to photography as part of the fine arts.

Required Equipment: Though some equipment can be loaned, each student should have access to their own film and digital camera. If you have any questions about this, please ask or see me outside of class time.

Working Outside Class: The course will require substantial amount of time be spent outside of class time beyond reading of assigned texts. Shooting assignments, developing film, and printing photographs (traditionally and digitally) take considerable amounts of time and you should prepare and plan well so that you're not having to rush or skimp on the quality of your work. It is important that you think through your assignments and work methodically and carefully in order to produce high quality photographs. Take your work seriously and allow yourself the necessary time to do it properly. The darkroom and photography studio (now in Roberts Hall!) are available to you during any time the building is open. There is also a private print darkroom in the Roberts darkrooms that is available to you by signing up. The computer lab is available whenever the Art Library is open and no other classes are scheduled in there. **NOTE:** For you own safety and that of your fellow students, please make sure all doors that you unlocked and opened are closed and locked when you leave.

Working in the labs: It is essential that you be sensitive to your fellow workers in the lab by observing proper darkroom and digital lab rules and common courtesy. The result will be peace and harmony as well as many hours of enjoyable and productive work. **Also:** Please keep the lab and darkroom areas clean and follow all procedures regarding setting up and breaking down, including saving chemistry that is still useable and properly discarding the chemistry that is exhausted.

Food and drinks in the darkroom present a health hazard and are strictly prohibited from any working area of the darkroom! 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 will need either a portable backup drive or a flash drive 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.

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VENDORS

Local: COLBY BOOKSTORE

PHOTO MARKET, 945 Forest Avenue, Portland (797-7100)

HUNT'S PHOTO & VIDEO, 220 Maine Mall Road (next to Petco & Gateway) South Portland (773-3393)

Web Orders: B&H PHOTO, 420 Ninth Avenue, New York City (www.bhphotovideo.com).

CALUMET PHOTOGRAPHIC (www.calumetphoto.com)

FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES, Hollywood, CA (www.freestylephoto.biz).

EPSON (www.epson.com)

Suggested Web Sites:

- www.aperture.com Aperture Quarterly
- www.blindspot.com Blind Spot
- www.moma.org Museum of Modern Art
- www.sfmoma.org San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- www.guggenheim.org Guggenheim Museum

Museums and Galleries

PORTLAND

Portland Museum of Art

Institute of Contemporary Art at MeCA

MAINE

Colby College Museum of Art!

Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick <http://academic.bowdoin.edu/artmuseum/>

Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport

Bates College Museum of Art, Lewiston <http://abacus.bates.edu/acad/museum/>

University of Maine Art Museum, Bangor, Maine

BOSTON

Museum of Fine Arts www.mfa.org/

List Visual Arts Center at M.I.T. <http://web.mit.edu/lvac/>

Fogg Museum at Harvard University

Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)

NEW YORK CITY

Museum of Modern Art

Metropolitan Museum of Art <http://www.metmuseum.org>

Whitney Museum of American Art