

PHOT-150: BEGINNING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Effective Term

Fall 2026

CC Approval

12/05/2025

AS Approval

12/11/2025

BOT Approval

12/18/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Photography (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

PHOT - Photography

Course Number

150

Department

Photography

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Beginning Digital Photography

Short Title

Beginning Digital Photography

CB03 TOP Code

1011.00 - Photography

CIP Code

50.0605

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

C - Clearly Occupational

Rationale

Non-Substantive update to keep the course current.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

Explore the world of fine art and commercial digital photography. This course builds on foundational photography skills of basic camera operation and digital workflow processes while focusing on digital imaging processing and editing, the digital darkroom, and printing. Students use industry standard software, create fine art/commercial photographic imagery, survey the evolution of various

photographic genres, and evaluate the aesthetic, cultural, and political development of Photography in historic and contemporary cultures.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

Advisory Prerequisite(s)

Completion of PHOT-120 with a minimum grade of C.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00

Activity Hours

108.00

Outside of Class Hours

54

Total Contact Hours

108

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Hybrid	Permanent
Entirely Online	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Translate concepts and experiences through images.
2.	Demonstrate proficiency in using industry standard software as a means of personal expression.
3.	Present finished portfolio for peer, professional or academic review.
4.	Evaluate and critique photographs and receive criticism from others.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Demonstrate strategies for digital workflow using industry standard software.
2.	Explore and refine a personal photographic style and expression.
3.	Critique artwork using art concepts within a historical and contemporary framework.
4.	Demonstrate a knowledge of various presentation strategies for a body of work.
5.	Develop skills used to critically evaluate photographs.
6.	Develop and maintain a quality photographic portfolio.
7.	Integrate ideas and aesthetic principles drawn from a diverse range of cultural sources and backgrounds.
8.	Effectively utilize camera controls.
9.	Apply aspects of composition and design for effective visual communication.
10.	Examine photography as a major communication medium in contemporary society.
11.	Appreciate the historical development of the camera and the process of photography.

Course Content

1. Cameras and society
2. Traditional vs. Digital Photography
3. Camera exposure and light metering systems (manual to automatic)
4. Camera controls: the film/sensor sensitivity, shutter, and aperture relationship
5. Exploration of major Photographic genres
6. Computer and software basics
7. Color Management
8. Digital Workflow
9. Layers, channels and selections
10. Techniques for color balance, exposure and contrast
11. Text layers
12. Extended Dynamic Range
13. Compositing
14. Organization, storage, presentation, or application of photographs and digital photo media
15. Career opportunities and new directions in photography

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Critique	Students critique each other's proofs in small groups.
Discussion	Students discuss an assigned reading on photographing various skin tones.
Lab	Students alter their photographs on the computer using tools such as dodge and burn.
Lecture	Instructor lectures on racial bias in the history of photography.
Activity	Students research a photographer and take photographs based on the photographer's style.
Other	Writing such as self reflection, artist statement.

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Critique	Record video presentations of photographs for class to view.
Discussion	Students discuss an assigned reading on photographing various skin tones.
Lab	Students alter their photographs on the computer using tools such as dodge and burn.
Lecture	Instructor records or presents a live lecture on racial bias in the history of photography.

Activity

Students research a photographer and take photographs based on the photographer's style.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Chat Rooms
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
 Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation**Methods of Evaluation**

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Portfolios	<p>Portfolio of finished photographs based on in-class assignments that demonstrate successful application of materials, concepts, and techniques covered in this course.</p> <p>For example: After an introductory podcast lecture and discussing the works of Michael Kenna and Todd Hido covering the concept of low light photography and reciprocity failure, create images that use this technique in the creation of 5 prints for critique.</p>
Class Participation	<p>Participation in critiques, class discussion, and studio maintenance.</p> <p>For example: After an introductory lecture and review of handouts containing key formal and critical terms, students will participate in a work-in-progress oral group critique. Students will be assessed for participation, proper use of terminology, and relevant comments regarding basic formal and material issues. Overall performance in critiques throughout the semester will be figured into the final grade.</p>

Assignments**Reading Assignments**

1. Selected readings from text, periodicals, and instructor-generated handouts. For example: Read and prepare to discuss "How to Do Things with Pictures" by William J. Mitchell. Read the handout covering key formal and critical terms used in content-oriented critiques.

Writing Assignments

Written project proposal outlining a discrete material, conceptual or pictorial problem and developing a photographic project to address said problem. For example: 1. Each Project has as a component a 'Thoughts and Reflection' section. As a requirement for the projects, students must write in their journals what the objective of the project was and cite and elaborate how the image(s) produced satisfies the project objective.

Performance: Via a podcast or multi-media presentation on a digital photographer, describe the artist's techniques and conceptual ideas relating to their work. If you are researching a commercial photographer, list their clients. Discuss why you were initially drawn to your subject's work. Why do you feel his/her work is important? How does your subject's work relate to your own?

Outside-of-Class Assignments

Completion and presentation of a final review portfolio for assessment by peers and instructor.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials**Material Type**

Textbook

Author

Conrad Chavez

Title

Adobe Photoshop Classroom in a Book

Edition/Version

1st Edition

Publisher

Pearson

Year

2025

ISBN #

0135376327

Material Type

Other required materials/supplies

Description

Jump/Flash/USB Drive, Inkjet printing paper, \$25 lab fee

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity**How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?**

Lectures and discussions address historic and contemporary exclusionary practices in photography, student work can reflect personal, cultural, societal, political issues. Course materials reflect student concerns as well as contemporary issues in photography.

Course Codes (Admin Only)**CB00 State ID**

CCC000281882

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No