MASC 2460: Digital Photography

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

This course is intended to move you from "taking snapshots" to becoming a visual communicator. You will explore the technical as well as the aesthetic dimensions of digital photography. On the technical side the focus will be on camera handling and basic photo editing techniques. At the aesthetic dimension, you will learn to "see" with a camera and to create carefully composed, meaningful quality images. You will also gain a general understanding of the historical and current developments in the photography industry.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/24/2009 - Present
C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Your eye and the camera's eye: different ways of "seeing"
2. Digital SLR-camera basic settings: file size, color space, ISO, white balance, exposure
3. Workflow: camera > computer > Photoshop: image size, resolution, download images
4. Photoshop basics: cropping, straighten, histogram and levels, layers, jpg. and psd.files, flattening
5. Understanding light 1: shutter settings and motion
6. Understanding light 2: aperture & shutter settings and depth of field
7. Exposure: Photoshop: understanding and reading histograms, burning & dodging
8. Elements of composition
9. Composition: From paintings to photography
10. Why captions? Writing captions
   Photoshop: Laying out and printing an image with caption
11. Photo ethics and manipulations of photos
12. Creating a photo layout with several images and captions
13. The impact of photography on society
14. Intro to camera check-out and facilities
15. Hands on practice: camera settings, exposure metering, histogram, camera care
16. Continuing the workflow: camera > computer > printer, Intro to printing
17. Understanding light 3: Exposure metering in high contrast situations (over/underexposure, bracketing), hands on practice
18. Understanding light 4: Physics and Emotion (The RGB and CMYK color models, the color wheel, complementary and analogous colors)
   Color management in the work flow from camera to printer
19. Understanding light 5: Sources and quality of light
   (ISO vs. White Balance, color temperature, seeing color cast) Photoshop: color saturation, color corrections
20. Seeing in Black and White
21. Photoshop: from color to B&W; B&W and tonal range
22. Photojournalism:
   categories, history, ethics
23. Model Release Contract
24. Why captions?
   Writing captions
   Photoshop: Laying out and printing an image with caption

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. describe a DSLR camera and exposure basics.
2. demonstrate an understanding of light and how to use it for best photographic results.
3. apply the language of composition in a visual medium.
4. apply basic editing skills to improve photos in grayscale and color in Adobe Lightroom.
5. print quality photos in greyscale and color.
6. prepare an efficient workflow from taking images to editing and exporting your work.
7. employ critiques, both giving and using constructive photo critique as an important means of learning.
8. develop their own photographic ideas and style.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies
   None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted