



PHO 2357.002 Basic Photography 1

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2020

MW 11:00 – 1:50 pm

Wathena Temple Fine Arts, Room 201/203

Instructor: Brandon J. Hudson, Adjunct Instructor

Office Location: WTFA 221

Office Hours: MW 10 – 11 / 2 – 3

Office Phone: 903-886-5208

University Email Address: brandon.hudson@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Basic Photography 1 is a foundation course using a mixture of lectures, demonstrations, assignments, field trips and critiques. Students learn elements of color photography through an investigation of the basic techniques and aesthetics of digital photography, with an emphasis on creative use of DSLR camera controls, raw file processing, digital imaging software, archiving and an awareness of the critical issues in contemporary photography.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to demonstrate the following:

- an understanding of the anatomy of a camera, light meter and accessories.
- an understanding of aperture/shutter/ISO relationships & their effect on the photographic image.
- how to edit, archive and process RAW files using digital asset management software
- put into practice the rules of composition & design by implementing technical solutions & inkjet printing
- how to analyze and interpret photographic images through written essay
- an understanding of the photographic vocabulary and color theory by participation in critical evaluation regarding their own work and the work of others.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course will consist of a series of photographic assignments and exercises to assist the student in achieving the objectives of this course. Each week students will work on various combinations of shooting and post-production assignments, participate in critiques of both student and professional works along with discussions, readings, etc.

Student Responsibilities:

Attendance is required and is recorded at all class and lab meetings. Every student will be responsible for all information given during scheduled class and lab times.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

- *Instead of a textbook, it is recommended that students get a Lynda.com account, an online tutorial for software and photographic information.*

- *Short readings from various sources will be assigned throughout the semester*

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Grades -

During the course of the semester your progress will be ascertained by various projects, tests and assignments. There will be a Final Portfolio. You will receive a grade each time you turn in an assignment so that you may assess your progress. The grades will be determined by how interesting the pictures are and how well they are crafted. The final portfolio is the most important grade. The final portfolio will contain 12 of your best works from the projects and outside work. As the semester proceeds, I will identify, through discussions and critiques of projects, the criteria used to evaluate your photographs.

Evaluation for your Final Grade will be based on the following:

- (1) Your ability to deal visually with the world through photography and the evident growth in that ability.
- (2) Your ability to control the camera functions and processes of photography.
- (3) Your attendance and participation at all scheduled class functions.
- (4) Your mid-term exam on technical controls of the medium and Slide Presentation, which is a way to improve your own photography and share ideas about our chosen artist's works.

Extra Credit

I will give an additional 1.5 points for every Art Photography Exhibition you attend. The extra credit will be added to your grade. To receive credit, simply turn in a typed description of the exhibition. Please

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include the name of the photographer, where it was held and a short description of your opinion of the photographs, using some specific photographs as examples. (Example: if you go to 4 exhibitions and turn in the required half page, you would receive 6 points. So if your Final Grade is 84, you would receive a 90 instead.)

Assessments

The Final Portfolio will count 30% of your Final Grade. All Assignments will make up another 40%. Participation (attendance in class and participation in critiques) will count 10%. The Mid Term Exam, Written Assignments and Slide Presentation will count 20%.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Expectations

I expect you to shoot at least 250 images per project. To learn photography, it is essential to shoot a lot of pictures. You are expected to shoot new pictures for this class. You are expected to attend all classes.

Some memory work is required in this class. In the beginning before you have the opportunity to learn from experience you will need to memorize the technical controls. As the semester proceeds, I will identify, through the discussions of assignments, the criteria used to evaluate your photographs. Please ask questions when you do not understand, and disagree whenever you think my opinions are incorrect. This process will help us to better understand each other.

Due Date

All assignments and exercises are due on the date and time given by the instructor. Work must be finished at the beginning of the critique class to be counted as on time. Any work that is late will be reduced by one letter grade. Assignments will not be accepted if they are more than a week late. All images must have been shot, processed and printed this semester for this class only.

Attendance

Attendance is required and is recorded at all class and lab meetings. Every student will be responsible for all information given during scheduled class and lab times. **Note: A total of 4 absences from any class meetings (lecture or lab) can result in a failing grade ("F") for the course or dropped from the class.** Excused absences are listed under Class Attendance (A13.02) in the A&M-Commerce Procedures. Verifiable excuses for absences must be turned in to the instructor.

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Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will have access to a Macintosh computer and print lab equipment with all the software needed to complete photographic assignments and exercises. Students will need to provide the following:

- **DSLR camera** (*Find the instruction manual and read it.*)

***Note: There are digital cameras in Check-Out for students to use on day-to-day basis.**

-Memory Cards for cameras i.e. Compact Flash (CF), Secure Digital Card (SD card).

-External hard drive (*two hard drives would be better for backup system*)

***Note: Students must have an external hard drive by the 2nd week of class**

- Printing costs (including Inkjet Paper)

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Please contact me through email: **brandon.hudson@tamuc.edu**

You may stop by my office but appointments are encouraged. Office hours are 10-11 and 2-3 on Monday/Wednesdays.

UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The Instructor reserves the right to make adjustments and changes to this calendar. Any changes will be mentioned in class or via email.

Your final grade will be derived from the following sources:

1. Class Participation:

The way you conduct yourself in class is extremely important. You should come to lectures and labs with questions from the assigned reading. Note taking during lectures and labs is essential. During critiques I want to hear your thoughts and feelings about the photographs being presented.

2. Lab Participation:

Labs will generally be devoted to learning software and inkjet printing.

3. Assignments and Exercises:

You will have several visual assignments that are will be turned in as your portfolios. Exercises will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

4. Presentations and Exams:

You will choose a photographer (with my approval) to create a slideshow and 2-page essay, plus a mid-term technical exam.

5. Final Portfolio:

Students will submit a final project that will consist of their strongest photographs from past assignments and new work.

Calendar:

- WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE 1ST CLASS MEETING

Resources:

Competitive Camera, Dallas

Fort Worth Camera

Arlington Camera

Adorama, <http://www.adorama.com>

B&H Photo, <http://www.bhphotovideo.com>

Freestyle, <http://www.freestylephoto.biz>

A good resource to compare cameras is DP Review: <http://www.dpreview.com/>

External Hard Drive Resources

Be sure to get an external hard drive that is compatible with MAC computers and/or MAC and PC if you work with a PC outside of class

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