



PHO 2356.01W - Intro to Digital Media

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2021

* Online *

Instructor: Brandon J. Hudson, Adjunct Instructor

Office Location: WTFA 221

Office Hours: Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs – 12:30 – 1:30 pm or by appointment

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

Introduction to Digital Media (IDM) is an intensive semester-long course in which you will learn the technical and conceptual tools to understand the basics of digital media as well as begin to learn the language of the visual imagery.

Using a free website, you will also learn to communicate and present your work to a wide audience.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- how to edit and archive digital files using digital asset management software (Lightroom and Photoshop)
- an understanding of the photographic vocabulary
- how to analyze and interpret photographic images
- effective critique by participation in critical evaluation regarding your own work and the work of others
- create a professional digital portfolio of images

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Software Required: Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom (accessible through school email)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

account) additional Apps to be determined

Digital Camera: Students may use a Digital SLR Camera, Digital Point-and-shoot, or a Smartphone camera for this course

Computer with capability of running Adobe Software (Mac computers are available to use in our Photo Mac lab during specific times in the Wathena Temple Fine Arts building). You will need to make arrangements with me in order to use these computers.

Memory Cards: If using digital cameras - i.e. Compact Flash (CF), Secure Digital Card (SD card).

External hard drive: Highly recommend to keep your files saved and backed-up
(two hard drives would be better for backup system)

Optional Textbooks: ***Digital Media & Society***, Lindgren
A Short Course in Photography – Digital, London and Stone, 4th edition
The Enthusiast's Guide to iPhone Photography, Duggan
The Medium is the Massage, McLuhan & Fiore

Additional Readings: TBA throughout the semester

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

- This course will consist of a series photographic and digital assignments to assist you in achieving the objectives of this course. Most weeks you will work on various combinations of shooting, editing, file management and participating in critiques and discussions.
- This will be a fun learning experience so please bring your energy and enthusiasm and a willingness to share into this class. It is important to participate in the D2L Discussions and turn in your assignments on time.
- Each assignment you are expected to submit your images, contact sheets and/or webpage links into D2L. In addition to submitting your work, you will also be required to submit a final digital portfolio of your best work by creating a free website. You will be graded on the quality and content of the images, as well as the effort you put into making it.

Student Responsibilities:

With an online class, you have a lot of freedom for when you can participate. I expect you all to be checking in on this class at least twice a week and to keep up with all of the assignments, readings, demos and tutorials on your own. I am able to see the dates of your last login so can tell if you haven't been following along. Please be careful not to fall behind or lose track of things.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

If you have any issues or need more assistance with learning the content of this course, it is up to you to contact me and let me know that you need help. I will be more than happy to go through things with you one-on-one via Zoom, YouSeeU (on D2L), or in person at the Photo Mac Lab on campus until you understand how to do something. Do not hesitate to ask.

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

Assessments

Critique & Discussion Participation - 20%

Assignments - 60%

Final Portfolio (Website/Blog) - 20%

Your final grade will be derived from the following sources:

1. **Class Participation:**

The way you participate in D2L discussions & critiques is extremely important. You should put in a lot of effort to get your ideas across clearly and ask good questions. With the online critiques, it is important to express your thoughts and feelings about the images being presented. You will get more out of this class the more you put into it, so keep up with the readings and tutorials and share comments or questions with the class to help us have a broad dialogue about everything we learn in this course.

2. **Assignments:**

You have 8 main assignments in this course. They will be assessed based on how well you grasped the techniques needed for it, as well as the level of interest that your work has. Each assignment, unless otherwise noted, will be given a numerical grade. The works technical and conceptual ideas will be considered. I will provide the Grading Rubric for each assignment so you will have a better idea of how your grade is calculated.

3. **Final Project:**

Students will submit a final portfolio in digital format by creating their own website using a free website-builder. Visual interest, ease of use and overall quality of work will determine your grade.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Expectations

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

You are expected to shoot new pictures for this class. You are expected to participate in all assignments and critiques. Since this class is online, you are expected to communicate with me if you have any issues regarding this class and the content.

Due Date

All assignments and exercises are due on the date and time given by the instructor. Work must be finished on time so we can include it in the critique which is where you get to share your work and receive feedback from everyone. It's your time to show off your skills! If you miss a deadline I will reduce points off of your assignment grade. Assignments will not be accepted if they are more than a week late, unless you have a reasonable excuse. All images must have been shot and edited this semester for this class only.

Attendance

Attendance will be based on if you are keeping up with the 8 main assignments and posting on our discussion boards. For every assignment not turned in on time, you will be counted absent. **Note: A total of 4 absences 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.

Statement concerning COVID-19 Pandemic

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

<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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L (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 at Wathena Fine Arts 221, but appointments are encouraged to make sure I'm there.

RESOURCES:

Some Camera 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>

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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General Photography Resources:

<https://www.aclu.org/free-speech/know-your-rights-photographers>

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.

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](#)

<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>

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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.

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Calendar:

- WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE 1ST CLASS MEETING

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.