



EAST TEXAS A&M
— U N I V E R S I T Y —

Basic Photography

PHO 2357, Section 02E

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

Mon/Wed: 2:00 PM – 4:50 PM

Location: Wathena Temple Fine Arts 201/203

Instructor: Brandon J. Hudson, MFA

Office Location: Wathena Temple Fine Art 221

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5450

University Email Address: brandon.hudson@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials

Textbooks: There is no mandatory textbook. Supplementary readings may be assigned throughout the semester.

Course Description

Students learn elements of photography through an investigation of digital photography's basic techniques and aesthetics, emphasizing the creative use of DSLR and mirrorless camera controls, raw file processing, digital imaging software, digital 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 competence in the following:

1. An understanding of the anatomy of a camera
2. An understanding of aperture/shutter/ISO relationships and their effect on the photographic image
3. How to process RAW files

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

4. How to organize and archive files with Adobe Lightroom Classic
5. How to make color correct inkjet prints using Lightroom Classic to control color, contrast, etc
6. Effectiveness in critiques by participation in critical evaluation regarding your own work and the work of others

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students should be familiar with ETAMU's D2L Brightspace learning management system.

Instructional Methods

This course will consist of a series of lectures, in-class exercises and outside-of-class assignments to assist you in achieving the objectives of this course. Each week students will work on a combination of making photographs, post-production, printing photographs, in-class exercises, participating in critiques or discussions of readings, and quizzes.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Active class participation is critical to your success in this course. **This course will meet face-to-face but will utilize ETAMU's D2L Brightspace to share information about the course and for students to submit assignments.** Grades will be posted to D2L. Students should regularly log into D2L for this course.

Students are expected to schedule work time outside of class meeting times to create and finish class projects. I recommend scheduling 3-6 hours per week outside of meeting times to complete your assignments.

Students will have access to computer labs with software needed to complete video assignments and exercises. Students will need to schedule time to work in the lab outside of class meeting times to access the software.

OPEN LAB HOURS:

MONDAY:	5:00 – 8:00 PM
TUESDAY:	5:00 – 8:00 PM
WEDNESDAY:	5:00 – 8:00 PM
THURSDAY:	2:00 – 8:00 PM
FRIDAY:	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

(Other times may be available in the Print Lab, using the Mac Computers in there – ask me. The Photo Studio is available outside of class by reservation through Checkout only.)

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Students will need to use the following:

AVAILABLE IN CHECKOUT:

- **DSLR or mirrorless camera.** Cameras are available from the 2nd floor check out in the Wathena Fine Art Building on the Commerce campus. Note: *Find the instruction manual and read it / make sure that the camera is in good working order.*
- **Tripods.** This will be helpful to have for many of the assignments. If you do not own one, you can check out a tripod from the Wathena Fine Art 2nd floor check out.

YOU WILL NEED TO PURCHASE THESE:

- **SD card - Class 10 card with a minimum of 64gb capacity.** I have had very good luck with SanDisk SD cards.
- **An external hard drive.** This should be Mac compatible. If you work with a windows computer outside of class, you should find a hard drive that will work with both OS. Ideally your hard drive will have 500 GB - 1 TB of space. **YOU CANNOT SAVE YOUR FILES ON THE COMPUTERS IN THE DIGITAL LAB.**
- **Materials/Props for assignments.** Optional. You may choose to purchase or bring materials and props from home for certain assignments.
- **Smaller Tripod.** You may decide to purchase a cheaper tripod that's lighter and smaller to use for your projects outside of class. It's optional, but helpful if you aren't able to get one from Checkout when you need one.
- **Printing Costs:** The University charges for the cost of ink
- **Red River Ultra-Pro Satin Printing Paper** – 11 x 17 (individual sheets can be bought from Checkout)

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

Shooting Assignments – 60%

Technical Exam / Visual Essay – 15%

In-Class Exercises / Class Participation (including discussions/critiques) – 10%

Final Prints – 15%

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance:

Attendance is required and is recorded at all class meetings. Arriving to class late or leaving early may result in an absence. Being more than 10 minutes late on a critique day will result in a late grade for the project being critiqued. Please note that working on the project while critique is being held in the computer lab will result in both an absence and a late grade on the critique assignment. **Note: A total of 4 absences from any class meetings may result in being dropped from the course or impact your overall grade.** Here is a link to the [University attendance policy](#).

Due Dates: All assignments, discussion, and projects are due on the date and time given by the instructor. Any work that is late will be reduced by one full-letter grade. Assignments will not be accepted if they are more than one week late.

Coursework: All work must be completed during this semester for this course only.

AI usage: Although AI has valid and important contemporary uses, the use of AI in this course will not be permitted to complete coursework without the instructor's permission. Any use of AI should be discussed with the instructor in advance and will be determined on a case-by-case basis if there is an important rationale for its use to complete coursework. If AI is utilized without the instructor's express permission, it will be considered academic dishonesty.

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.

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [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 East Texas A&M University 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>

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma Waters 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](#)

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 911.

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.

ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at ETAMU, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

SEE COURSE CALENDAR ON D2L PAGE

Resources:

Competitive Camera, Dallas: <https://competitivecameras.com>

Garland Camera: <https://garlandcamera.net>

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/>

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