

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: PHT 164

Credits: 3

Course Title: Introduction to Digital Photography

Course Description: Teaches the fundamentals of photography including camera function, composition, and image production as they apply to digital imagery. Lecture 2 hours. Laboratory 3 hours. Total 5 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: Instruction in basic principles of photography using digital tools.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisites: Computer literacy at a modest level. This means feeling comfortable working at a computer, as well as familiarity with negotiating program menus and knowing how files are saved and stored. A camera with manually adjustable aperture and shutter is required.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Explain the photographic process—how an image is formed digitally and on film;
- b. Name the key components of single lens reflex (SLR) cameras;
- c. Control exposure in camera with good results;
- d. Use shutter speed to control motion;
- e. Use depth of field for compositional effect;
- f. Use lens focal length for compositional effect;
- g. Use light, shadow, and texture as elements of composition;
- h. Use adjustment layers (curves, levels, etc.) to control tone and color balance;
- i. Discuss basic resolution and color quality terms and concepts;
- j. Apply resolution and color quality concepts for image acquisition and reproduction;
- k. Resize images and convert file formats;
- l. Use various selection tools effectively;
- m. Use *Unsharp* filtering appropriately;
- n. Mount prints suitably for display; and
- o. Discuss ethical and property rights issues involved with manipulation of images.

Major Topics to Be Included

- a. Single lens reflex (SLR) camera operation
- b. Image acquisition: digital capture and film
- c. Exposure
- d. Depth-of-field
- e. Movement control
- f. Lens perspective effects and focal length
- g. Composition
- h. Lighting
- i. Inkjet printing: contrast and color balance
- j. Print presentation and critique

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