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

Date Created/Updated (Month, Day, and Year): July 24, 2019