Syllabus CIOS 258-TW1: Digital Photography

Instructor

Stephen Cysewski

Office

I no longer have an office. Please email me to arrange an appointment. I live near TVC so it is easy for me to get there.
EMAIL ....cysewski@gmail.com or ffsdc@uaf.edu

Course Information

All the course information is online: ....http://www.cysewski.com/digitalphotography/

Contact Information

Email any time. I check my email on a regular basis. If you have questions or need assistance just ask. If you need an appointment email me to make arrangements.

Dates and Time

The class will meet every Saturday from September 13th to October 25th. The course will meet from 9:00 to 3:00 in room 113 at TVCC, 604 Barnette.

Class Requirements

Required Books

- The Better Photo Guide to Digital Photography, Jim Miotke, Amphoto Books, 2005, ISBN 0-8174-3552-2
- Digital Photography: The Missing Manual, Chris Grover and Barbara Brundage, 2006, ISBN 0-596-00841-4

Internet Access

- Many of the lessons and resources used in this course will require Internet access. We have computers that you can use at TVCC and there will be time in the class to do some of the course activities.

Camera

- Having a camera will make this course valuable. A film camera will work as well as a digital camera. If you are thinking of purchasing a camera, or upgrading your old camera, wait until the course begins. I can offer advice and resources to help.

Course Resources

- I will have course handouts and web resources for each class. It is crucial to check this web site before, during, and after each course. http://www.cysewski.com/digitalphotography/CIOS258WLessonHandouts.htm
- On my syllabus web site at http://www.cysewski.com/digitalphotography/ there will be many web links to supporting information for this course.
- There is a web log for students to post their assignments at http://exploringdigitalphotography.blogspot.com/

Required Skills

This course assumes basic computer competence.

- You should be able to save and retrieve files.
- You should be able to navigate menus and dialog boxes
- You should be able to use email and to send attachments
- You should be comfortable using a computer and accessing the Internet.

Skills NOT Required

- You do not need experience using Photoshop. We have tried to remove that statement from the course description, but it keeps returning.
- You do not need previous experience with photography.

Course Description

Course Purpose: (Why on Earth am I taking this course?)

The purpose of this course is to become a good photographer! A good photographer can use ideas, vision, a camera and editing tools to create photographs that fulfill an explicit purpose or intention. Photography is not about the technical skill of photography, it is about using photographic tools to see, feel, and share.

The process of photography is:

1. Thinking and Feeling
2. Seeing
3. Taking
4. Selecting
5. Editing
6. Sharing
7. Reflecting
8. etc..

Photography is a means of communication. Some photographs become more valuable over time. There are many purposes and reasons to take photographs. Photography is a skill that will grow and change the more that you use and develop it. The process of photography is fun. The more you photograph, the more photographs you see.

Photographic Intention: (Why do I take photographs?)

A person takes photographs for a reason. There are many reasons to take photographs. When you photograph you have a frame of reference or intention to take a photograph. Thinking about the reasons for your photographs will help you organize your approach to photography. People can have multiple reasons to take photographs.

Seeing Photographs: (What do I see? Why do I take this specific photograph)

Assuming that you have a reason or intention to take a photograph you take photographs because you see something to photograph. You see something that fulfills your intention. The more photographs you take the more photographs that you see. A photograph is a specific moment in time. The moment in time is expressed through light captured by a camera. Seeing something to photograph and seeing like a camera are not identical. Being able to translate what you see into a photograph that expresses your original vision takes experience and technical knowledge.

Using a Camera: (How do I use a camera to capture what I see?)

Photographic techniques are tools used to fulfill your photographic intention. Cameras are a means to an end. Every decision that you make in setting the camera is a compromise, there is something gained and something lost. All cameras involve the same set of compromises.

A camera does not see like a human. A camera does not have the dynamic range of the eye. A camera does not have depth perception. A camera sees color differently then a human. A camera abstracts what a human sees.

It takes experience to be able to translate what you see into a photograph. To be able to express your intention, to be able to capture what you see, you must master camera technique. What is in your head, what you intended to do, or even the memory of the event is not the same thing that is in the photograph.

Photographic techniques are the tools you use to bring your intention, what you wanted to show, closer to the photograph, what you actually captured. Turning what you see in your mind into what people see in the photograph is the art of photography.

Selecting, Evaluating, and Archiving Photographs: (My photographs are everywhere, how do I get organized?)

If you do not organize your photographs you will be overwhelmed? If you do not develop a method of organizing your photographs you might lose the photographs and the memories that they contain. Sometimes what you see later, in a photograph, is different from and maybe even better then your original intention. It is important to make your photographs accessible and easy to view. A good organizing and archiving system provides a method to think about and re-experience and re-evaluate your photographs. It is important to see your photographs from different contexts and perspectives; a photograph can grow and change as your experiences change. If you do not have a method for selecting, grouping, and archiving photographs you will not be able to re-appreciate your photographs. Before doing major selecting, wait to make judgments on your photographs. Sometimes it takes time to appreciate what you have taken; it is too easy to focus on the details or the flaws in the photograph and to miss the actual value of the photograph. Let time pass, at least a month, before evaluating your photographs.

Editing Photographs: (The photograph does not look right, now what do I do?)

Editing or enhancing a photograph clarifies and expresses your original photographic intention. Photoshop. Lightroom, and Picasa are tools to improve or clarify your original intention. Using cropping, straightening, editing, adjusting the dynamic range, sharpening, cleaning up small details, and adjusting color are means to clarify a

photograph. Using software to adjust an image is as important as using a darkroom to print an image, software is an integral part of digital photography.

Sharing Photographs: (I want to share my photographs with others?)

Sharing photographs is making a commitment to the selected photographs that these photographs are good enough to share. There is always the balance between perfect, good enough, and laziness, at some point it is necessary to evaluate and share your photographs. The motivation to share improves the entire photographic process. By making your photographs available you will be able to review and reflect upon what you have done.

Course Method

Attendance for this course will be crucial. I will be using lecture, demonstrations, projects, and activities to teach this course. I will be creating experiences for you to reflect upon and to share. We will be exploring photography from many aspects. I will expect your participation and contribution to make this course work.

We will not be using the course text books as the primary teaching tool for the course. I chose the digital photography book because of its clear explanation of essential photographic concepts. There are many methods of editing and sharing photographs. I will be using Internet resources to provide content and reference materials for editing and sharing photographs.

Most assignments will be posted to the course web log; you will become a permanent member of this web log. In order to post you will need to be invited. I will send invitations to all registered students. You can look at student work from the previous semester. My goal is that this web log will become a community of current and former students.

Course Web Information

CIOS 258 Exploring Digital Photography Web Log .... http://exploringdigitalphotography.blogspot.com/

Photographic Stuff Web Log (Thoughts on Photography) .... http://wanderingphotography.blogspot.com/

My Photography Web Site (Links to many of my photography sites)..... http://www.cysewski.com/photo/index.html

Useful Photographic and Technical web links...............http://www.cysewski.com/UAF/technews/TechNews.htm

Course Assignments and Projects

There are 9 course projects in this course. There is also a final portfolio. The projects and portfolio are described in the syllabus. There is a grading template that you can use in the syllabus. You can track your projects using the syllabus project list. We will also have at least four photo walks. The walks will be planned depending on weather and opportunity.

Course Grading

This is a **graded** class, you may audit the course. The assignments are designed to help you deepen your understanding of the concepts of photography. Even if you are auditing the course the assignments will be valuable.

You will get points for completion of the work. All work will be posted to the course web log. I will be notified when your projects are posted to the web log. If you want to show me your projects in class, before posting it to the web log, let me know. If there are problems with a project I will let you know and you can improve it for project points. When the project is complete you will get the assignment points. For a project to earn points it must be posted to the web log. There is a list of assignments and dates in the course syllabus.

There is a final **portfolio** presentation that is worth **600** points. You will create a portfolio of at least ten photographs, that you took as part of a photo project this semester, and share it in public using a tool like Picasa Web Albums, Flickr, Blogger, a personal web site, or any other public method that you choose, even printing. Post the location of the portfolio to the course web log. During class I will want you to share the portfolio with the other students. The portfolio sharing is not a competitive activity!

We will have a series of Photo Walks or field trips contingent upon the weather and opportunity.

Course **attendance** is important to me. Points are given for attendance.

The class is organized so that there will be time at the end of class to work on lessons and projects and also to discuss your projects. Please use this time well. There will not be enough class time to complete the projects in class and you will need to do significant work outside of class. There are computer labs at TVCC 604 Barnette.

ALL WORK MUST BE DONE WITH THOUGHT AND CARE.

Grade Scale	
90 to 100%	A
80 to 89%	B
70 to 79%	C
60% to 69%	D
59% or Lower	F

Important Academic Calendar Dates

Fall Semester 2008

First day of instruction/late registration begins ....*Thursday, Sept. 4*

Deadline for late registration and fee payment, 6 p.m. (last day to add classes) ..*Friday, Sept. 12*

Deadline for 100 percent refund of tuition and fees ....*Friday, Sept. 12*

Deadline for student-initiated and faculty-initiated drops

(course does not appear on academic record) ....*Friday, Sept. 19*

Deadline for 50 percent refund of tuition (tuition only, no fees refunded) ....*Friday, Sept. 19*

Freshmen progress reports due ....*Friday, Oct. 10*

Deadline to apply for fall 2008 graduation ....*Wednesday, Oct. 15*

Deadline for student-initiated and faculty-initiated withdrawals (W grade appears on academic transcript)

 ....*Friday, Oct. 31*

Registration and fee payment for spring 2009 semester begin ....*Monday, Nov. 17*

Thanksgiving holidays (campus closed) ....*Thursday - Sunday, Nov. 27- 30*

Last day of instruction ....*Friday, Dec. 12*

Final examinations ....*Monday - Thursday, Dec. 15 - 18*

Deadline for faculty to post grades, noon ....*Tuesday, Dec. 23*

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may result in failure on exams, papers, projects, or courses. The entire purpose of this class is to acquire useful skills. To cheat is to lose the opportunity to acquire skills.

Student Support Information

TVC Student Assistance Center

The Student Assistance Center provides services that contribute to a successful learning experience and transition to a career. Services are available by appointment and on a walk-in basis.

Staff at the center recognizes the unique concerns of adult and returning students. Services include pre-admission advising, academic assessment and placement advising, financial aid information and application, and assistance with choosing a major. Ongoing academic advising, degree planning and course selection are available.

For more information, contact Student Assistance, UAF Tanana Valley Campus Center, 604 Barnette Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701, telephone (907) 455-2851, or visit online at http://www.tvc.uaf.edu/studentassistance.html

Disabilities Services

Disability Services, a program of the Center for Health and Counseling, provides services for UAF students with disabilities to ensure equal access to educational opportunities. Services are free of charge and available to any student who qualifies as a person with a disability.

Some of the services provided include note takers, readers, audio-taped texts, test proctoring and other alternative testing arrangements and sign language interpreters. Other available resources include enlarged print and other adaptive materials and assistive technology at the Assistive Technology Lab. Disability Services also provides referral to other campus and community resources, advocacy for students needing accommodations from faculty and staff, and advocacy for students experiencing physical accessibility problems.

To discuss eligibility and available services, call the Center for Health and Counseling at (907) 474-7043 or TTY (907)474-7045 and schedule an appointment with the coordinator of Disability Services.

Course Schedule Fall 2008 CIOS 258 TW1

Date	Lessons
9/13	• Course Introduction: Why on Earth am I taking this course and how does it work? • Photographic Intention: Why do I take photographs? • *Gaffney, Lacey, and Noble Photo walk. (No Cameras)*
9/20	• Photographic Seeing: The Essential Camera Concepts: How does the camera work? • Applying the Essential Concepts: How does the camera work? • *Creamer's Field Boreal Forest Trail (With Cameras)*
9/27	• Digital Concepts: Camera skills specific to the digital camera? • Selecting, Evaluating, and Archiving Photographs: My photographs are everywhere, how do I get organized? • *Gaffney, Lacey, and Noble Photo walk. (With Cameras)*
10/04	• Editing and Enhancing your Photographs: The photograph does not look right, now what do I do? • More editing and enhancing skills: composition, cropping alignment, and perspective. • *Student selected Photo walk (With Cameras)*
10/11	• More editing and enhancing skills: Local adjustments, cloning, retouching, sharpening, noise, and creating an editing workflow • Sharing Photographs: I really like these photographs I want others to see them? • *Student selected Photo walk (With Cameras)*
10/18	• Work day for the final portfolio • *International Friendship Day Pioneer Park (Photo Walk)*
10/25	• Sharing the Final Portfolio
11/01	• No class, last day to submit work for credit!

Course Projects Fall 2008 CIOS 258 TW1

The course projects are to get you actively involved in the process of learning photography. Most of the projects are submitted to the course web log at http://exploringdigitalphotography.blogspot.com/ . All the submissions should have thoughtful use of grammar and spelling. Grading, except for the final portfolio, will be on completion. If you do the exercises with thought and care you will get full points, if you just do "busy work" I will ask you to do the project again. The portfolio will be evaluated by the thought and care you put into the presentation.

Date Assigned	Date Due	Project Descriptions	Points	Atnd
9/13	9/20	**Photographic Intention: Why do you take photographs?** Describe, briefly, five photographs that you did not take, but wished you had? See the http://www.unphotographable.com/index.shtml. Post your description of the five photographs to the course web log. **Photographic Seeing: The Essential Camera Concepts: How does the camera work?** 1. Look on the web for a single photograph that you like, post the URL to the photograph to the course web log. **AND** 2. Also look on the web for a photographer that you like and post a URL to a web site that shows the photographers work.	**200**	**40**

9/20	9/27	*Bring your camera and your camera manual to class*
		
		 Look up three reviews of your camera and summarize their conclusions.
		 Use http://www.dcviews.com/ to find information on your camera.
		 List the three review sites and also list **three** strengths and **three** weaknesses about your camera to the course web log.
		 AND
		 Read your camera manual and answer the following questions. Not all cameras will have specific settings for these tasks. If you do not have the manual you can probably find one using a Google search.
		     How do you adjust the ISO?
		     How do you adjust white balance?
		     How do you adjust the exposure compensation?
		     How do you set file size and compression?
		     How do you set the exposure meter mode?
		     How do you set the camera for macro focusing?
		     How do you turn off the flash redeye reduction?
		 You do not need to post your answers to the course web log. If you are having difficulty finding these settings ask me.
			200	**40**

9/27	10/04	Cameras these days work to prevent you from making mistakes, the easy modes and program modes are set to work most of the time. In order to learn to control your camera you need to make it so that it does **not** take pictures correctly. Create photographs that document and show the following common errors. Post the photographs to the course web log.
		   1. Subject Blur/Partially Blurry Photographs
		   2. Motion Blur/Totally blurry photographs
		   3. Depth of Field/Wrong plan of focus
		   4. Over exposure/Washed out
		   5. Under exposure/Too Dark
		   6. Incorrect White Balance balance/Wrong color
		 You will be given a handout listing common photographic scenarios. You will describe the photographic problem and then recommend appropriate settings to your camera to meet the photographic problems. You will turn in the handout next class. This assignment will summarize and consolidate your camera skills.
			400	**40**

10/04	10/11	**Editing and Enhancing your Photographs: Composition, cropping, alignment, and perspective.** Look up one photo editing procedure on the web. Provide the link to the photo editing procedure to the web log, and then apply the procedure to one of your photographs. Post the original photograph and the edited photograph to the web log. You may use Photoshop, Elements, Picasa, or Lightroom for this exercise. **Editing and Enhancing your Photographs: Dynamic range, shadows, highlights, color, and other global adjustments** Using Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, Adobe Lightroom, or Picasa edit an individual photo in three different ways so that it represents alternative interpretations of your intention. Describe the different tools that you used and evaluate the results. Post the original photograph, the three interpretations, and the description to the course web log.	**200**	**40**
10/11	10/18	**Local adjustments, cloning, retouching, sharpening, noise, and creating an editing workflow** I will describe a few common photographic editing scenarios. I want you to describe how you would optimize your photograph using a photo editing tool. There are many different solutions. Describe the commands that you would use to remedy the problem.	**400**	**40**
10/18		**No Assignment, work day.**	**0**	**40**
10/25	10/25	**Share Portfolio** Create a portfolio of at least ten photographs, that you took as part of a photo project this semester, and share it in public using a tool like Picasa Web Albums, Flickr, Blogger, a personal web site, or any other public method that you choose, even printing. If you are sharing using the web post the location to the web log. During class I will want you to share the portfolio with the other students and discuss your intention or purpose for creating your portfolio.	**600**	**40**
11/1	11/1	**No class, last day to submit work for credit!**		
TOTAL			**2000**	**280**