



湖北工业大学
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Digital Photography
Course Code	ARTS 1611
Semester	Summer 2025
Course Length	5 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	N/A

Course Description:

This course explores the conceptual, technical, and historical foundations of digital photography. Students will engage with photography as both an artistic medium and a cultural tool, developing the necessary skills to create, analyze, and discuss photographic works critically. Through a combination of lectures, hands-on workshops, field assignments, technical demonstrations, critiques, and discussions on photographic history and contemporary practice, students will gain both theoretical and practical expertise. Emphasis will be placed on establishing solid organization and foundations in the craft of digital imaging using Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop as well as an introduction to using the web to present ideas and images.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Teamwork** – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate technical proficiency in camera operation, exposure control, composition, and post-processing techniques;
- Apply principles of photographic theory and history to their own creative practice;
- Critically analyze photographic images, articulating their formal, conceptual, and cultural significance;
- Develop a cohesive photographic portfolio that reflects personal vision and technical mastery;
- Engage in constructive critique discussions, providing and receiving feedback to enhance photographic work;
- Understand the ethical considerations and contemporary impact of digital photography in global media;
- Present photographic work professionally, including print preparation and exhibition planning.

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials Requirements:

Text:

- Barbara London, Jim Stone, John Upton, *Photography*, 12th Edition (2016). Pearson.
- Students will receive a series of teacher-generated handouts and worksheets.

Necessary Materials:

- A digital camera that has manual settings
- A flash drive or external hard drive to store, back-up, and transfer images (500 MB minimum size).
- Access to and use of a computer and internet outside of class
- Adobe Photoshop Lightroom
- Manual for their camera (either printed or electronic format)

Course Requirements:

Participation and Critique Engagement (10%)

Active participation in discussions, critiques, and peer feedback is essential. Students will be expected to articulate constructive insights and demonstrate a growing critical vocabulary.

Technical Assignments (25%)

There are eight photography assignments in this course focusing on key technical skills such as exposure control, composition, lighting, and post-processing. Grades will be based on the application of design principles, creativity, effort, and craftsmanship. You must retain the original digital file to submit to the instructor if requested for assessment purposes. Images must be taken on or after the start of class and be your original work. No images may be downloaded from social media.

Midterm Project – Thematic Photo Series (20%)

Students will produce a portfolio of 5-7 original images that demonstrate their technical proficiency and conceptual growth, centered around a chosen theme. The portfolio should include a 2-3 page artist statement discussing the themes,

techniques, and inspirations behind the work, and analyzing their work in relation to photographic history and theory.

Critical Analysis Paper (15%)

A 1,500-word paper analyzing a significant photographic work or movement, photographer, or theme in the history of photography, incorporating historical context, visual analysis, and theoretical frameworks. The paper should analyze how the chosen subject has influenced contemporary photographic practice and cultural discourse.

Final Project and Portfolio (30%)

The culmination of the course will be a self-directed final project, consisting of a refined photographic series presented in both digital and printed formats. Students will create a cohesive series of 8-10 photographs on a theme of their choice, accompanied by a 3–4-page artist statement and presented in a class exhibition. The series should reflect the technical and conceptual skills developed throughout the course and demonstrate an understanding of photography's role in visual culture.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Participation and Critique Engagement	10%
Technical Assignments	25%
Midterm Project	20%
Critical Analysis Paper	15%
Final Project and Portfolio	30%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Percentage of available points	Grade
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
<60	F

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, and major ones provided in writing.

ARTS 1611 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Introduction to Digital Photography Course Overview & The Role of Photography in Contemporary Society	Ch. 1-2
L2	Photographic History & Critical Analysis The Evolution of Photography – Early Processes to Digital Revolution	Ch. 16
L3	Fundamentals of Camera Operation Basic Functions of a Digital SLR Camera (DSLR) - ISO, Shutter Speed, Aperture, Lens Length, Exposure	Ch. 2-3
L4	Technical Foundations	Ch. 2-3

	Camera Modes and Manual Settings	
	Assignment: Digital: Shoot at either dawn or dusk; shoot with the camera set to “daylight” light balance.	
L5	Introduction to Software	Ch. 8
	Digital Darkroom Software, Applications and Photographic Equipment	
L6	Basics of Adobe Photoshop for Photographers	Ch. 8
L7	ISO and File Types	Ch. 4
L8	Exposure and Focus	Ch. 4
	Understanding Light and Exposure Compensation	
	Assignment: Take 50 photos about “focus and exposure” for homework and select 10 best images for presentation in next class	
L9	Composition and Framing Techniques	Ch. 4
L10	Image Processing & Editing	Ch. 8
	Introduction to Digital File Formats and File Management	
	Assignment: digital: Photograph something that is invisible	
L11	Color Correction and Retouching Techniques	Ch. 7
	Assignment: digital: Shoot three (different) environmental portraits using lights	
L12	Photography and Modernity – Cultural and Historical Contexts	/
	Midterm Project and Portfolio Submission	
L13	Developing a Critical Eye – Analyzing Photographs	Ch. 15
	Assignment: Create a forgery of a photograph in the history of photography by a photographer you most admire.	
L14	Fieldwork and Applied Techniques	/
	Outdoor Photography – Working with Natural Light	
L15	Studio Photography – Artificial Lighting and Flash	Ch. 12
	Assignment: Shoot on your own initiative	
L16	Image Sequencing and Storytelling through Photography	Ch. 3
L17	Printing & Presentation	Ch. 10
	Printing Techniques and Color Management	
	Assignment: Shoot on your own initiative	
L18	Mounting and Presenting Work Professionally	Ch. 10
L19	Ethical Considerations in Photography	Ch. 10
L20	Contemporary Practices & Thematic Approaches	Ch. 16
	Documentary and Street Photography	
L21	Conceptual and Experimental Photography	Ch. 13
	Assignment: Shoot on your own initiative	
L22	The Impact of Social Media and Digital Platforms	Ch. 10, 16
	Critical Analysis Paper Due	
L23	Portfolio Development & Individual Projects	/
	Individual Project Consultations	
	Writing Artist Statements and Project Rationales	
L24	Group Critique Session – Refining Final Projects	/
L25	Final Presentation & Exhibition Planning	/

Accommodation Statement

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor’s attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.

