Course Syllabus

COM 1190 Basic Photography/Designers

Credits: 3 Class Hours: 3

Course description from catalog including prerequisites and co-requisites:

An introduction to basic digital photography, focusing on skills useful for a graphic designer. Topics include basic operation of a digital camera, composition, camera controls, exposure, and basic image enhancement for creative use. An advanced digital point and shoot or digital SLR camera is required.

Prerequisite(s):

This course is appropriate for those who are familiar with the personal computer and Windows or Macintosh.

Semester Availability: Fall, Spring
Not part of a Tennessee Transfer Pathway

Instructor Information:

Name: Pam Hawkins
Email: pam.hawkins@nscc.edu
Office Phone: 615-353-3414
Office Location: C107E
Office Hours: Students should make an appointment to insure the instructor’s availability.
  • Monday 9-10 am, 1-4:30 pm
  • Tuesday 9-10 am, 1-4 pm
  • Wednesday 12-2 pm and 3:30-5:30
  • Thursday 9-10 am, 2-3:30 pm

Textbook and Other Materials:

Textbook: The Beginner’s Photography Guide by Chris Gatcum

ISBN: 1465449663
Supplies:

- Purchase of a digital camera, point & shoot or DSLR, minimum of 8 megapixels. Must meet certain criteria, which will be discussed in class.
- Tripod and camera bag
- Storage card and appropriate card reader
- Battery charger and extra set of batteries or battery pack
- USB Flashdrive and three ring binder for notes and handouts

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify the standard parts of a digital point & shoot camera and explain each function.
- Apply knowledge of their camera operations to create properly exposed and focused photographs.
- Apply knowledge of aperture settings to achieve photographs that demonstrate both shallow and maximum depth of field.
- Apply knowledge of shutter speeds to achieve photographs that demonstrate stopped and blurred motion.
- Identify and apply the elements of composition used in the creation of successful photographs.

Course Competencies:

- Without notes or other materials, identify the basic parts of his / her camera.
- Without notes or other materials, identify the basic shooting modes icons of his / her camera.
- Without notes or other materials, identify and operate the controls of their digital camera and explain their function.
• Given specific shooting assignments, demonstrate a working knowledge of basic exposure.

• Given specific shooting assignments, demonstrate a working knowledge of focus and depth of field.

• Given specific shooting assignments, demonstrate a working knowledge of shutter speed.

• Given specific shooting assignments, apply composition techniques in shooting.

• Given specific shooting assignments, increase the creative aspects of their photographic ability.

• With notes and other resources, define a set of photographic terminology.

• Without notes or other materials, evaluate and critique photographs on the merits of their technical and aesthetic components.

• Without notes or other materials, list the basic file formats & color modes that the camera captures.

• Without notes or other materials, choose what resolution is appropriate for shooting and demonstrate how to set it on the camera.

• Without notes or other materials, identify the various parts of the histogram and evaluate exposure based on histograms.

• Without notes or other materials, demonstrate how to download files from their storage card and burn files on a CD.

• With notes or other materials, connect to the NSCC server to upload photographic images.

• With notes or other materials, execute simple repair and touch-up on an image, using the healing brush and patch tools in Photoshop.

• With notes or other materials, demonstrate the use of the Crop tool in Photoshop.

• With notes or other materials, demonstrate how to straighten a crooked image in Photoshop.
The following are general education competencies intended to support the course outcomes:

• Locate, evaluate, and use multiple sources of information when researching and choosing which digital camera to purchase for class.

• Participate as team members given in class shooting assignments that require group effort.

• Use critical thinking skills to evaluate their success in achieving the objective of the shooting assignments, and to analyze other photographs.

• Use and adapt current technologies to complete all shooting assignments and other course requirements.

Topics to Be Covered:

Topics include basic operation of a digital camera, composition, camera controls, exposure, and basic image enhancement for creative use.

Course Assessments:

The following performance assessments will be used to demonstrate students’ understanding, knowledge and skills:

Quizzes will be given to access their knowledge of the terminology and program content taken from reading assignments in their textbook, handouts, and videos. Students will execute weekly shooting assignments. Students will submit Midterm and Final Portfolios. Midterm and Final exams will be given.

Notice of Right to Retain Student Work:

The Visual Communications program reserves the right to retain certain selected examples of student work for teaching purposes, promotional purposes, and as part of the permanent collection.
Grading Scale:

Letter grades will be calculated according to the following scale. A grade of “C” or above must be earned in all COM or PHO courses to meet prerequisite and graduation requirements.

A = 93-100
B = 85-92
C = 77-84
D = 70-76
F = Below 70
FA (see below)
FN (see below)

Per TBR policy, a student who does not officially drop or withdraw from a course, but receives a failing grade, will receive an “FA” if the last day of attendance was earlier than two-thirds into the part-of-term. That date equates to the last day to withdraw from the course.

An FN is awarded to students who never attended class.

Semester Grade Breakdown:
Quizzes/Assignments 30%
Midterm Exam 15%
Camera Functions Assessment 5%
Studio Project 10%
Final Exam 20%
Final Portfolio 20%

Make-up procedures for missed assignments and work:

Students are responsible for all material covered and projects assigned according to the established deadline dates. A zero will be recorded for any missing assignments. There are no make-up exams or projects accepted past the due dates unless a doctor’s excuse can be provided. If you stop participating in the class for any reason, you should officially withdraw from the course. Lack of participation on a weekly basis could affect your final grade. Standard NSCC policies are also adhered to—provided in the content below.

Attendance Policy:

A student is expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories. You are expected to attend all classes, to be on time, and to stay until class is dismissed: absences or tardiness for any reason will affect your daily grade. Any student arriving late or leaving early will be considered tardy: two such occurrences will count as one absence. Students missing more that one-third of any class will be counted absent even if they attend the remainder of that class session.
Absences are counted from the first scheduled meeting of the class, and it is the responsibility of each student to know the attendance policy of each instructor in whose class he/she is enrolled. If a student is absent from a class, he/she should give an advanced explanation to the instructor. Absences in a course may affect a student’s final grade. The student is responsible for all assigned work in the course regardless of excused or unexcused absences. Tardiness may also affect a student’s final grade.

Per TBR policy, a student who does not officially drop or withdraw from a course, but receives a failing grade, will receive an “FA” if the last day of attendance was earlier than two-thirds into the part-of-term. That date equates to the last day to withdraw from the course.

An FN is awarded to students who never attended class.

**Student Communication Channels**

It is the student’s responsibility to check D2L and MyNSCC email on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students. Students are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. D2L contains specific course information and MyNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

**Technology Statement**

Nashville State's classes are considered to be web-enhanced. Faculty have an expectation that students will use a computer and the Internet to complete assignments, engage in online discussions, and access various course materials through Desire2Learn (D2L) course shells. Computers are available for student use at each campus during campus open hours.

**ADA Compliance Statement**

Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you wish to request any special accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Access Center at 615.353.3741 or 615.353.3721.

**Classroom Misconduct**

Nashville State Community College has a zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Please consult your Student Handbook for more specific details.

The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity. He/she can order temporary removal or
exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or in conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College.

Disruptive behavior in the classroom may be defined as, but is not limited to, behavior that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., offensive language, harassment of students and professors, repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, etc.), the continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others (e.g., disturbing noises from beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.).

Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or unattended on campus.

Academic Dishonesty (Honor Code)

Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. “Plagiarism may result from: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words (A Writer’s Reference 331). Academic dishonesty may be defined as, but is not limited to, intentionally trying to deceive by claiming credit for the work of another person, using information from a web page or source without citing the reference, fraudulently using someone else’s work on an exam, paper, or assignment, recycling your own work from another course, purchasing papers or materials from another source and presenting them as your own, attempting to obtain exams/materials/assignments in advance of the date of administration by the instructor, impersonating someone else in a testing situation, providing confidential test information to someone else, submitting the same assignment in two different classes without requesting both instructor’s permission, allowing someone else to copy or use your work, using someone else’s work to complete your own, altering documents, transcripts or grades, and forging a faculty/staff member’s signature.

In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “Zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination or to assign an “F” for the course. Students may appeal through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

RAVE Emergency Alert System

Emergency events can happen at any time and Nashville State Community College wants to be able notify students if and when they occur. For this reason, all students have been enrolled in the free RAVE alert system. If you have not already done so, please log in at https://getrave.com/login/nscc to confirm and update your contact information and notification preferences. It is critical that your information
be correct so that you will receive any emergency notifications. Your RAVE Username is your NSCC email address. If you've never received an email from RAVE with your password, or if you need to reset your password, select “Forgot your password?” and a new password will be emailed to you. Should the RAVE system indicate “user not found”, select Register and create your own RAVE account.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of an inclement weather event, check the Nashville State web site home page at www.nscc.edu for announcements on campus closures. Campus closures will also be announced on local television stations (channels 2, 4, 5, and 17).

When classes are cancelled, an online assignment will be posted in NS Online. Check your NS Online email for a message from your instructor regarding your online assignment requirements. Even though classes may be cancelled, some areas, i.e. Testing Center, may be open. However, you should check before commuting to campus.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Director of Security are responsible for cancellation decisions during an inclement weather event for the Nashville State main campus and the Southeast campus. Waverly and Dickson Campus Directors will make class cancellation decisions based on conditions in their respective areas. Decisions about class cancellations are based on actual conditions, not forecasts. The perspective used for making decisions is that of the college as an employer, not as a K-12 institution.