ART 263: Digital Photography

Instructor: Mandy Keathley
Section: 16389
Credits: 4
Email: keathlm@linnbenton.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ART 263: Digital Photography is an introductory course in digital imaging as an expressive medium. Covers the capture and editing of photographic images in the digital environment, image manipulation software, and photo quality output. Emphasis is on technique, composition, and creative expression.

This course covers the technical and conceptual aspects of a photographic practice in a fine arts context. Class time will be dedicated to learning manual exposure, and digital editing tools. We will be covering this material through workshops, lectures, and demonstrations. These will be supplemented by in class exercises, photographic history, reading discussions, and project critiques to further conceptual and creative production. Throughout the course we will overview a range of information regarding the contemporary digital workflow. This class will build a firm understanding of manual camera capture and the reciprocal relationship between the elements of exposure along with the fundamentals of composition and color theory. In addition to the technical elements of photography this class will cover both formal and conceptual aspects of photography through readings, lectures, and discussion. These concerns include color theory, gestalt, and both historical and contemporary discussions of the medium. The projects and homework will cover the fundamentals of digital color photography, from camera capture and the nature of light and photographic vision, to conceptual approaches to image-making and digital output.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Successfully create photographs and explore subject matter, proper exposure, lighting conditions, composition, creativity
- Study both historic and contemporary photographers
- Develop an efficient workflow using Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop to edit photos
- Learn photographic terminology

By the end of the term students should have a strong grasp on the photographic process. General course work will include written responses and critiques of student photos, as well as demonstrated understanding of the content of specific digital images.

COMMUNICATION

Communicate regularly via email (or directly on Canvas) with any questions. All emails will be answered quickly on weekdays between 8-5pm. If you do not hear from me within 48 hours, please email me again with a polite reminder! It means I missed your email or forgot. I do not check email over the weekend. If you'd like to schedule a one-on-one video meeting, please email me to set something up.

In your emails, be professional and clear with what you are asking. I receive a lot of emails and by following these guidelines, I can help you more quickly! Read this article on professional email etiquette. Do not treat email like a casual text message. All emails should be in the following format:

1. Subject Line should include the class title and your topic: ie. "ART 263 - Question about Project 3"
2. In the Email itself, use this format:

> Hi Professor/Prof Keathley,
> [type your clear, concise question here]
> Best,
> [your name]

You may of course use your preferred name here on Canvas. Normally, I find it quite easy to learn student names in a face-to-face class. Online this is a little trickier. If at all possible, please use the same name across gmail, canvas, and Web-runner so as to not create confusion. In the event that you are using different names across the platforms, make sure to always sign off with your preferred name, and be patient if I forget which one you go by.

IMPORTANT DATES

LBCC Spring Schedule & Drop Dates

- Course Start Date: June 29
- Final Project Due: August 30th
- Mandatory Final Critique Meeting / End of Term: August 31

COURSE STRUCTURE

Assignments:

All Photography Projects are due on Sunday night at 11:59pm each week, unless otherwise noted. Your written feedback on another student's work is due within 24 hours, Monday night at 11:59pm each week. Two assigned readings/discussion posts are due by Wednesday at 10, before our group meetings.

Meetings:

We will have several mandatory meetings over the course of the term. On Monday, read over the week's materials and assignment prompt. Begin the assignment and be prepared having read materials and reviewed the assignment so that you can discuss readings, and ask questions at our Wednesday Meeting.

As a 4 credit class, expect to spend at least 12 hours per week on all of your course materials. That sounds like a lot, but consider that if we met in person, you would spend at least 6 hours per week in a classroom. You are now responsible for both classroom and homework assignments. Your time will be spent researching, experimenting, failing, succeeding, making photographs, and using Lightroom to edit and organize your images.

As an online course, you will be more responsible than ever for your own success. The benefit of working from home will be an advantage for many of you, but if you are struggling it is up to YOU to reach out with questions. If anything significant (like a due date) changes, I will post an announcement here on Canvas. Check announcements frequently and make sure you are receiving email notifications.

COURSE MATERIALS

- TEXTBOOK: (free ebook, links on Canvas)
- DSLR or mirrorless Camera capable of RAW capture + Lens, Batteries, Charger, SD Card , Instruction Manual, SD Card Reader *
- Subscription to Adobe Lightroom Classic ($10/month) **
- Access to a computer and internet connection
- External hard drive for backups

* The SD Card Reader is only necessary if your laptop does not have a slot. Here's a link to a cheap SD card reader if you need one. If you borrow a kit from LBCC, it comes with everything you need except the card reader.

** YES, you must download Lightroom for this course. It will cost $10/month, but it is the only material fee you are required to pay this term. I have waived the normal $55 fee associated with our course. Note there are 2 versions of Lightroom. You may choose Lightroom Cloud if you prefer, but all of my demos are tied to Lightroom Classic and you are on your own for navigating the other version, if you choose to do so.

*** Students must take full responsibility for their images. A photographer always has 2 or more copies of their media. I recommend investing in a 500GB to 1TB external drive for your photo workflow, but you can get away with flash drives if you prefer. Always store your photos on 2 or more devices. Lost files or technical disasters are not viable excuses for late or incomplete work. Those issues are part of the intrinsic nature of working with digital media and should be anticipated in your work practices.

COURSE GRADING

Emphasis is placed on hard work, improvement, and innovation. The more effort and creativity you put into your work, both in and out of class, the better your grade will be. Work not received on its due date receives no credit. Do not turn your work in via email. All work should be uploaded to Canvas and Google Drive.

Assignment grades will be divided into:

- 70% Photography Projects & Critiques
- 30% Readings/Writings, Quizzes, Discussions

HOW TO AVOID GETTING AUTOMATICALLY DROPPED WEEK 1

Students who do not fully participate in all Week 1 activities will be institutionally withdrawn from the course. This is to ensure that the class will be a good fit for you this term. The following activities must be completed by the deadline, or you will be dropped:

- Forum Activity: Introduce Yourself to the Class
- Project 1: Lightroom Practice

A NOTE ON TAKING ONLINE CLASSES

Online classes can be terrific learning environments. They offer students unique educational opportunities coupled with additional flexibility. That being said, online classes are different from traditional classes. They can be just as much work, if not more, than traditional classes, and can present different challenges. In order to be successful in this class, students must be self-starters, manage their time effectively, and know when to ask for help.

USING CANVAS

You will use Canvas to do all coursework during the term, including accessing the syllabus, course schedule, assignment guidelines, and gradebook. It is an expectation of this course that you will use Canvas independently and seek prompt technical assistance. I am unable to provide technical support. Generally, when something is not working, it is because you need to update your browser or install/update some software, such as Java or Flash. One of the course requirements is access to a computer that meets all needs for the course.

ADOBE PRODUCTS

If you are taking this course online, I will not be able to work with you in person to resolve your problems with Adobe products. I will provide you with tutorial videos, helpful book recommendations, and helpful links. You will be largely on your own for learning the software, so you must troubleshoot problems yourself. Thanks to YouTube and Adobe enthusiast blogs and websites, there is a solution out there for any problem you are experiencing. Simply use your browser to search and I am certain that you will find a video or article that will help you.

BROKEN LINKS, UNAVAILABLE ASSIGNMENTS, ETC.

While I strive to conduct the course in as seamless manner as possible, minor errors are inevitable. Oftentimes a broken link or an unavailable assignment means I have overlooked a date change or failed to put a check in a box somewhere. Contact me immediately if you cannot do your work because the material you need is not working/available so that I may remedy the situation. Email is the fastest way to reach me for urgent matters such as this. I will always do my best to fix the problem as soon as I possibly can. If an error on my part causes a significant time delay, I will accommodate you with due date extensions.

Instructor Responsibilities

My aim is to facilitate a classroom environment that encourages active, effective, and respectful activities, discussion, and learning. I will:

- Post the current week's content and assignments
- Facilitate classroom lectures, discussions, and activities
- Be available to support your learning

Student Responsibilities

- Check your LBCC email daily
- Use your LBCC email account to communicate with me
- Keep up with the material week-to-week
- Critically read/analyze assigned information

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please arrange to meet with the instructor as soon as possible. Late arrangements may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. If you have documented your disability, remember that you must make your request for accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources Online Services web page every term in order to receive accommodations. If you believe you may need accommodations, but are not yet registered with CFAR, please go to http://linnbenton.edu/cfar for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is an indispensable value as students acquire knowledge and develop college skills. Students are expected to practice academic honesty by not cheating, plagiarizing, or misrepresenting their coursework in any way. Plagiarism, collusion, and other forms of misrepresentation hurt the student and run counter to the goals of education. Students are responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty. Violations will result in failure of the assignment and possibly the course. Per LBCC policy, all incidents of academic dishonesty are reported to the Associate Dean of Student Development and the Dean of Arts, Social Science & Humanities.

INCLUSION

To promote academic excellence and learning environments that encourage multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas, all courses at LBCC will provide students the opportunity to interact with values, opinions, and/or beliefs different than their own in safe, positive and nurturing learning environments. We are committed to equal opportunities for all faculty, staff and students to develop individually, professionally, and academically regardless of ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic standing, cultural beliefs and traditions. We are dedicated to an environment that is inclusive and fosters awareness, understanding, and respect for diversity. If you feel excluded or threatened, please contact your instructor and/or department head. LBCC is committed to producing culturally literate individuals capable of interacting, collaborating and problem-solving in an ever-changing community and diverse workforce.

* I reserve the right to change the contents of this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. You will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through a Canvas Announcement, or through LBCC e-mail.