

Digital Photography I / PGY2801C

Tammy Marinuzzi

tmarinuzzi@gulfcoast.edu

769-1551 Ext. 2890

Class Meeting Times: Web

E-mail Schedule: Mon, Wed & Sat, between 9:00 am -11:00 am

*Typically respond to course mail within 48 hours.

Office Hours: E-mail me to set up a Zoom meeting.

V.P.A.'s Division Chair: Jennifer McAtee # 872-3886 / jmcattee@gulfcoast.edu

Catalog Description: Basic photographic composition and photographic skills; operation of the digital camera; techniques of computer manipulation, printing, and history/criticism of photography approaches as they relate to personal expression.

Course Content: The objective of this photography course is to provide a basic understanding of the visual and technical skills necessary to pursue and appreciate photography as a Fine Art. This course will cover all aspects of **black-and-white** photography involving camera operation, exposure control, and presentation of the final image. In addition, the class will introduce a variety of historical and contemporary photographers as well as issues and theories within photography. The student will strive to bring technical control into accord with artistic vision.

Credit Hours: 6 Hours - 3 Credits **Prerequisites:** No Prerequisites

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to do the following:

- Experiment with the technical camera operations.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the rules of composition.
- Employ techniques such as camera angle, cropping and focus to create a narrative through the photograph.
- Be familiar with digital imaging concepts and terminologies.
- Critically analyze and comment upon your own and others work.

Textbook

"A Short Course in Digital Photography", Barbara London and Jim Stone, Prentice Hall, 2009

ISBN 13: 978-0-205-64592-3

Course Outline

This class has been divided into 6 units. Each unit contains a specific area of instruction and requires reading either from the textbook or an online resource. You will be tested on the

reading - so buy and read the textbook. Each Unit will contain instructional videos, quizzes assignments / Projects, and Discussion / Critique.

Topics to be covered include:

1. Camera Controls / Parts
2. Exposure
3. Perspective
4. Composition
5. Lighting
6. History of Photography

Communication & Feedback

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours.

Canvas mail is the **preferred** method of communication for private messages in this course. Please remember, however, that while the Internet is available 24 hours a day, your instructor is not. In this course, you can expect that your instructor will respond to messages in Canvas within 48 hours. Please keep in mind that, I receive a lot of e-mails from many sources other than the students in this class.

[Link to full Communication Policy](#)

Student Expectations:

Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus and any additional instructions provided by the instructor and Gulf Coast State College.

Maintain regular contact with the instructor and class through email or other designated communication channels. Actively participate in discussions, submit assignments, and complete exams in a timely manner.

Instructor's Plan:

Provide timely feedback on assignments and submissions.
Respond to emails/messages within 48 business hours (excluding weekends) unless noted otherwise.

Course / Schedule/ Requirements

Course / Schedule: Please check the class calendar (Canvas) for an outline and important deadlines! Or read the Assignment summary below for due dates.

Class Requirements: Canvas Account, camera, material list at bottom of the syllabus

Class Structure and Requirements

Each student is expected to spend 3-6 hours per week working on assignments, reading handouts, or researching directions for assignments.

Method of Evaluation

Grade Scale

The final class grade will be based on the following factors: Work: Project 65%
Reading & Quizzes: 20%
Discussion 20%
Projects 60%

Projects 60% of Final Grade

Students will be graded on their success in addressing the issues posed in specific assignments, exercises, and presentations. Projects will be assigned weekly (10-14 in total). These will vary from research assignments to on-site explorations, to hands-on projects. All of the projects will be submitted in the Discussion Box. **Late projects will not be accepted and will receive zero (0) points.** All the Projects will require the submission of digital images, so you will need access to a digital camera. All Projects will be assigned on Canvas and will show up the week that they are due. **Each Project is broken down into two parts.**

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1. **Photo Assignment:** These assignments will explore technical terms, concepts, and methods that have been addressed in the weekly reading, videos, and power points. This will all be the "hands-on" component of the class.
2. **Discussion / Critique Board:** This is the tool that you will use to submit your assignments and provide input to your classmates about their assignments.

Projects will be evaluated for fulfillment of the assignment requirements, such as resolving technical abilities, and concept development. Grades will be assigned not for merely completing the project but for the quality of the student's work, specifically:

- Level of Challenge: How far did you go beyond the minimum requirements of the assignment to produce more numerous and challenging pieces? How thoroughly did the student explore the assigned problem?
- Aesthetics/Concept: How original and personal is your solution? How far did the student reach beyond the obvious?

Reading & Quizzes: 20% of the Final Grade

Each week the student will be assigned readings from the textbook or an online resource. There are three ways to locate your Reading / Quizzes. Each week they will appear under weekly announcements, the class calendar, or under the Module Tab. Readings must be completed **on Friday by 10 p.m.**, make sure to start your work well in advance so that you have enough time to complete the assignment. **Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive zero (0) points.**

Critiques / Discussions: 20% of Final Grade

- Approximately each week students will turn in an assignment to be critiqued. These assignments will be handed in through the Discussion Tab. All work for assignments will be due on **Fridays by 10:00 pm**. Discussion boards will be open for a full week, for students to post work and respond to other students.

If after receiving critique you would like to adjust your projects and re-submit for a better grade consideration and more feedback, you may. You must complete any revisions one week after you handed in the assignment.

Note: Overall effort and general attitude towards your work, and improvement during the semester will factor into your grade. While the course emphasis is on the technical and aesthetic aspects of digital image making, it is important to note that this is a means to an end. The nature of successful image-making relies on outside research and experimentation. Each project may need more than a single experiment.

Reading & Quizzes: 20% of the Final Grade

Each week the student will be assigned readings from the textbook or an online resource. There are three ways to locate your Reading / Quizzes. Each week they will appear under weekly announcements, the class calendar, or under the Module Tab. You will have 2 quizzes during the term, a Midterm and one Final Exam. All tests will be given online and will be open for a three-day window.

Participation (this will factor into your project grade)

The student is strongly encouraged to take active participation in class discussions and critiques. Critiques are a vital tool in the development of the student, however, without student participation, it could become a painful, drawn-out exercise. Your opinion counts let's hear it!

Critiques

Open forum critique sessions will be held to critically evaluate and discuss students' works. Both conceptual and formal aspects of the photographs will be addressed. Be ready for critique days before the beginning of the class.

found under the Modules tab. Students who reside far outside of the Panama City area will be required to attend two of their local art events and submit pictures and a one-page review of the event.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered. Like in any class, attendance is mandatory. Regular participation in weekly assignments i.e. your submission of weekly assignments will be an indication of your attendance in the class. Because of the compressed nature of the class, missing just one week of assignments will have a very negative impact on your overall grade. Missing two weeks will prove to be too much to overcome. **If you miss more than two weeks of assignments, you will be dismissed from the class.**

No Shows: Students who fail to complete the first week's assignment will be withdrawn from the course as "No Shows". Once withdrawn as a "No Show" the student will not be reinstated in the class.

Supplies

There is a fee for this class, which covers ink cartridges, most paper supplies, and the "upkeep" of the printers.

[Supply List \(LINK\)](#)

A digital CAMERA is your top priority.

A TRIPOD is not essential but very helpful. There are many options out there. You get what you pay for but having any stabilizing device is much better than having none.

STORAGE MEDIA This means an external USB or hard drive or online storage like Dropbox.com. Storing your photos on your memory card are not wise for multiple reasons. Also, when we edit in Photoshop the files will be too large to email. Make sure you have a place to save your work every week, as this is a requirement.

Very helpful is access to a COMPUTER with Photoshop. You can download a trial copy of Photoshop. Elements or Photoshop from Adobe.com.

Institutional Policies & Procedures

Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

"Cheating" includes but is not limited to the use of any unauthorized assistance in completing coursework.

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include the overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT.

"Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

Withdrawals

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.). There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and

administrative.

Student Withdrawals. Students wishing to withdraw must complete a withdrawal form and submit the form to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the college catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of “W”. The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Administrative Withdrawal. A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of “W”. The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm. Please see the Withdrawals policy in the GCSC Catalog for more information.

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete in any course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online

courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final

Exam period begins.

- Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at

the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F” in Lighthouse.

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty

member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

Note

While withdrawals are not calculated in grade point averages, they may influence admission decisions, particularly in competitive programs. Students are permitted a maximum of two withdrawals per course. On the third attempt, students must pay fees at 100 percent of the full costs of instruction (equivalent to out-of-state fees) and will receive a grade for the course.

Students are allowed to repeat courses where "D" and "F" grades were earned to improve their grades. Students are limited to two (2) repeat attempts per course. The last grade earned is counted as the final grade.

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** [Up-to-date web browser](#) [Links to an external site.](#) that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the [system requirements](#)

- [Links to an external site.](#) for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software:** Available for [free download](#)
- [Links to an external site.](#) through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

If you need technical support, contact the [ITS Help Desk Links to an external site.](#), available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.

Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via email or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course. All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates -- at least every 48 hours.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.