



# Course Syllabus

## Digital Photography I

Course Prefix: PGY2801C / CRN: 83598 / Semester: Fall 2026

Credit Hours/Contact Hours: 6 Hours – 3

Prerequisites: None

Class Meeting Time: Monday & Wednesday 12:30 am-3:15pm

Classroom: A.C. 127

## Contact Information

### Instructor

Name: Tammy Marinuzzi  
Title: Professor of Art  
Email: [tmarinuzzi@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:tmarinuzzi@gulfcoast.edu)  
Phone Number: 769-1551 Ext. 2890

Office Location: A.C. Rm 121  
Office Hours: Mon & Wed between 9:00 am -11:00 am  
Response Time: Typically respond to course mail within 48 hours.

### Division Chair

Name: Jennifer McAtee  
Title: V.P.A.'s Division Chair  
Email: [jmcatee@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:jmcatee@gulfcoast.edu)  
Phone Number: 850-872-8337

### Division Administrative Assistant

Name: Danyelle Vanderheide  
Title: Administrative Assistant  
Email: [dvanderheide@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:dvanderheide@gulfcoast.edu)  
Phone Number: 850-769-1551-3886

## Course Information

### Catalog Description:

**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](#), including camera operation, exposure control, and the 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.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

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

- Experiment with 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

### Course Materials & Resources:

**Textbook:** A Short Course in Digital Photography, Barbara London and Jim Stone, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 13: 978-0-205-64592-3

### Delivery Method:

This course meets face to face. Course material, assignments, and announcements may be offered via Canvas as a supplemental approach to learning at the discretion of the instructor. Please make sure that you have access to a computer with a webcam and internet service in the event a change in course delivery is needed.

**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 and within Canvas for more information.

## Student Expectations

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or

Zoom, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours. Review the statements below so that you understand the expectations for communication.

- Be present and engaged both physically and mentally during class sessions.
- 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 class discussions, critiques, and group activities.
- Submit assignments and complete exams by the posted deadlines.
- Come prepared with necessary materials and equipment (e.g., camera, memory cards, batteries).
- Practice academic integrity and respect for others' work and feedback.
- Take responsibility for your own learning and ask questions when clarification is needed.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- Provide timely feedback on assignments and submissions.
- Respond to emails/messages within 48 business hours.
- Post announcements and reminders about upcoming deadlines.
- Be available during office hours or by appointment to meet with you.
- Support student learning through constructive critiques and guidance.

## Course Schedule

Please check the class calendar (Canvas) for an outline and important deadline! Or read the Assignment summary below for due dates.

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

### Class Structure and Requirements (In Class)

The class is primarily a “studio class,” meaning that you will spend most of the class time working on projects. You must come to class prepared to work, or you will be dismissed and counted as absent. Class meetings will consist of supervised studio time, critique, demonstrations, and class discussions.

### Class Structure and Requirements (Out of Class)

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

### Course Schedule

1. Project 1: *Getting to Know Your Camera*  
Read Chapter 1: *Camera*
2. Project 2: *Exposure / Shutter Speed*  
Read Chapter 2: *Lens*

3. Project 3: Motion  
Read Chapter 4: *Exposure*
4. Project 4: F. *Stop*  
Read Chapter 6: *Printing*
5. Project 5: *Perspective #1*  
Read Chapter 9: *Seeing Like a Camera*
6. Project 6: *Perspective #2*
7. Project 7: Composition
8. Midterm
9. Project 8: Light and Shadow  
Read Chapter 7: *Lighting*
10. *Project 9: Light & Cups*
11. Project 10: Portrait #1 *Classmates*
12. Project 11: Portrait #2 *Friends & Family*
13. Project 12: Portrait #3 *Self Portraits*
14. Wiggle room
15. Project 13: *Final Presentations*
16. Final

## Grading

### GCSC Grading Scale

The college grading scale is: A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60), and F (59-0)

### Calculation of Grades

#### Grade Scale

The final class grade will be based on the following factors:

Project 65%

Reading & Quizzes: 20%

Event Attendance: 5%

Attendance: 10%

#### Projects 65% 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 (8-12 in total). These will vary from research assignments to on-site explorations to hands-on projects. All of the projects will be submitted in person during the critique.

**Each Project is broken down into two parts**

- Photo Assignment: These assignments will explore technical terms, concepts, and methods that have been addressed in weekly reading, videos, and PowerPoint presentations. This will all be the "hands-on" component of the class.
- Discussion / Critique: This is where you will provide input to your classmates about their assignments.

Projects will be evaluated for fulfillment of the assignment requirements, such as resolving technical abilities, concept development, and craftsmanship. 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 the student 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 the student's solution? How far did the student reach beyond the obvious?
- Craftsmanship: Did the student take time to finish and present the work in the best way possible?

### **Late work**

You may hand in any assignment late. However, work that is submitted past the deadline will automatically be reduced by a full letter grade. If you know you will be absent when an assignment is due, you may submit it early. In that case, instead of receiving a full grade deduction, only half of the usual deduction will apply. If, after receiving critique, you would like to make adjustments to your projects and resubmit for better grade consideration and more feedback, you may. You must complete any revisions one week after you hand in the assignment.

If after receiving critique you would like to adjust your projects and re-submit for 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 a Final Exam. **All tests will be given online and will remain open for a three-day window.**

### **There are three ways to locate your Reading / Quizzes**

- Announcements

- Calendar
- Module Tab

### **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, they could become a painful, drawn-out exercise. Your opinion counts, let's hear it!

### **Critiques**

Open forum critique sessions, with small and large groups, will be held to critically evaluate and discuss students' work. Both conceptual and formal aspects of the photographs will be addressed. Attendance on a critique day is mandatory; if you miss a critique day, you will be dropping a full letter of grade for that project. Be ready for critique days before the beginning of the class. If you are not ready on time, you will not be able to share your work that day, i.e., the work will be considered late and graded accordingly.

### **GCSC Event Attendance 5% of Final Grade**

Over the semester, the student is required to attend two (2) GCSC art events, such as art show openings, artist lectures, and artist demonstrations. I strongly suggest planning to make sure that you can attend these. If, for some reason, you can't, you can make up the points by completing extra credit (see below). While we have great theater and music programming, which you should attend if you get a chance, only visual art events count towards your Event grade. To verify attendance, you will be asked to sign in. If your name is not on a sign-in sheet, you **will not** receive credit. Sign-in sheets are only available during opening receptions. All eligible events are listed on the calendar and may also be found on the Event page 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.

### **Extra Credit.**

To receive extra credit, the student may write a one-page review of the show they have attended. The review should be based on the material you have learned in the class. You may also approach the work from a formal standpoint and talk about composition, elements of design, media, etc. Another approach may be comparing the work to another work from art history. Your review may include the whole show, a couple of pieces, or just one piece that grabbed your attention. (Please attach pictures of the work that you are describing.) Place your "Extra Credit" papers in the drop box that says, "Extra Credit Review". I will add the extra points to your final grade. The "Extra Credit" points will not appear on the grade screen for this course. The successful completion of this assignment will add two (2) percentage points to your overall grade. No more than 2 papers will be accepted (4 points in total).

## Course Policies

### 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. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email [sar@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:sar@gulfcoast.edu) or call 850-747-3243.

### Attendance Policy

#### **Attendance: 10% of Final Grade**

#### **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.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor may contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course, and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

- Attendance is mandatory. One absence equals one percentage point off your final grade (excused absences will not constitute a point drop). No more than four absences will be allowed for each student (excused or unexcused), regardless of circumstance. If the student has missed more than four classes, he/she is too far behind to receive credit for the course. The only options left is to receive an "F" or an "I", depending on where the student is in class and/or assignments completed.
- The instructor may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy, in which case the student receives a grade of

“W”. Instructor-initiated withdrawals after the published withdrawal deadline will be recorded as an “F”.

- It is the student's responsibility to communicate with his/her instructor regarding any absences. If a student misses a class, it is his/her responsibility to find out what was covered in that class, and what is required for the next meeting.
- Attendance at critiques is mandatory. A missed class does not constitute an extension of an assignment. Projects not presented on or before the critique date will be counted late and graded accordingly.
- If you miss more than 3 class meetings, your grade will be dropped by a full letter grade.
- The student is expected to show up on time. Three late arrivals will count as an absence.
- Early self-dismissals will count as one absence.
- Class time is for working, not for gathering materials. Showing up to class unprepared will count as an absence
- **No noise pollution.** Most people cannot concentrate on a lot of noise. Please keep conversations and headphone volume low and listen to the instructor's lectures. You may use headphones when permitted by the instructor. You may not use your phone as a boom box and disrupt the class. The instructor will control any music in class.

**Excused Absences:** The one type of excused absence is an absence due to illness or injury. For an absence to be excused and not counted against you, you must provide me with a doctor's note (or doctor's office receipt) stating the date of your absence on official stationery. A note written by you or your friend is not acceptable. All notes/excuses are accepted at my discretion. If you do not provide official verification, your absence will be unexcused. You must bring your written excuse to the class meeting following your absence. I will not accept notes for absences that are days or weeks past. Although I would appreciate it if you left me a voicemail message when you miss class due to illness, this does not excuse your absence. Also, if you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what information (notes, handouts, etc.) you missed.

**Unexcused Absences:** include traffic, car problems, vacation, work, counseling appointments, babysitting problems, etc. Work does not count as an excused absence. If you will miss classes because of your job, please transfer to another time or take this class when your work will not interfere with your attendance.

### **Studio Maintenance**

Each student must clean up after himself at the end of each class. This includes wiping down the worktable, cleaning, and putting away the tools in their proper storage. Realize that you are sharing the space with your peers, so please be respectful of the space. A studio-wide clean-up day will be scheduled at the end of the semester. All students are REQUIRED to attend this class. Failure to attend clean-up day will result negatively in your final grade.

**Supplies:** There is a fee for this class, which covers ink cartridges, most paper supplies, and the “upkeep” of the printers.

## Supply List

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

## Withdrawal 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 (W1).** 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 (W2).** 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 receives 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.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

### *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.

## 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.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating"

includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"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 overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"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.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)"

is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

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.

## 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.

## Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Prohibited Use of AI

*The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, coursework, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.*

## Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

## 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 e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

## Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

## 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 that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements 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 through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.

**NO FOOD, DRINKS, OR PHONES IN THE CLASSROOM**