

*To be a photographer: "You need a heart, an eye, a mind, and a magic box."*

— Carl Mydans

# INTRO TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



JOUR 131  
Intro to Digital Photography

Monday – 5:30-8:15  
Factor in 5-10 hours of shooting and lab/field work time weekly outside of class

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OFFICE HOURS  
TBD

I'll be happy to make an appointment with you if you cannot see me during the above hours. I have an answering machine in my office for you to leave a message, or email me.

TEXTBOOK  
I Just Want to Shoot Pictures-  
Dave LaBelle (please do not try to buy this until we discuss it in class).

Lynda.com (I'll explain in class)

Optional Text  
National Geographic Field Guide to Photography: Digital

Bring your camera to class!

Attendance is vital to success in this class. Each class is equal to one week of regular classes. There will be demonstrations that cannot be redone. Please Be on time.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To help you learn how to effectively use your digital camera.
2. To help you understand what makes a good photograph in terms of technical quality, light, composition, storytelling moments, captions and presentation.
3. To help you acquire and develop intellectual, technical and analytical skills to make photographs that communicate.
4. To help you understand the all-important contribution of the idea to the photograph; the critical element that separates the picture maker from the picture taker.
5. To learn digital workflow, using a digital camera, Photo Mechanic, Photoshop and InDesign.
6. To be creative, work hard and be successful.

Topics discussed (not in order and subject to change)

- Camera mechanics • Idea generation • Caption writing • Depth of field • Light
- Composition • Color • Portraits • Picture packages • Electronic Flash
- Photography history • Photographing your community • Action/Motion • Features • Events • ethical boundaries • Digital processing and workflow

In addition to these subjects, guest speakers may visit to talk about their photography. Some flexibility in the schedule has been worked in to accommodate these speakers and other events that may arise.

## PHOTOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENTS

Photography assignments receive the most weight toward your grade in this class. Each assignment is discussed in class. When appropriate, a handout will be provided outlining the requirements for the photograph. If it is feasible, practical demonstrations will be performed during class to aid in completing the assignments. Also included with the assignment will be the date the assignment is due (they are due at the beginning of class). Any assignments handed in beyond the due date will result in a zero grade for the assignment. You must attend class on the day your assignment is due to get a grade for your assignment.

The purpose of this policy is to maintain fairness and equality for all members of the class, but everyone will have the opportunity to reshoot two assignments during the semester. The purpose of these reshoots is to give you an opportunity to better a grade of an assignment you shot or to make up an assignment that you didn't hand in because of a missed deadline, sickness or other emergency.

Beyond these two reshoots, any assignment handed in late (or not at all) will result in zero points given for that assignment. Note: getting a zero on one assignment could result in getting no more than a "D" in the class; you will not be able to get better than a D with two zeroes.

You cannot begin shooting an assignment until I give out the assignment sheet in class – no previous work will be accepted. You will be learning so much, and with hard work your pictures will show it, so you should see a difference between your previous photographs and what you shoot this semester!

The key to success in this class is to work consistently from day one and keep up with the assignments.

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## GRADE BREAKDOWN

Assignments – 90%  
Quizzes/Exercises – 10%

You will receive a point grade based on a 100-point scale for each assignment. Your course grade will be calculated and given on a 100 point scale:

90-100 - A • 80-89 - B  
70-79 - C • 60-69 - D  
59-Below - F

## IMPORTANT DATES

2/2 - Last day to drop a class without a grade  
3/9-3/13 - Spring Break  
3/20 - Last day to drop a class with a W  
5/11-5/15 - Final Exams

## ASSIGNMENT IDEAS (subject to change/additions)

- Campus Life•Light•Pattern
- Portrait of an Artist
- Senior Citizen Portrait
- Prayer/Faith•Moment/Interaction•Event Package
- Flash•Motion Blur•Picture Package

Note: All work should be yours and photographed and completed within the timeframe of each assignment. Plagiarism will result in an F grade in the class and other possible action.

Note: Students with disabilities who require accommodations for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, GCC Room 101. The OFSDS telephone number is (270)745-5004 V/TDD. Per university policy, please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

This syllabus is a "living" document, so be prepared for changes as needed.

## QUIZZES

We will not have any tests, but I will give 1-4 quizzes on material covered in class, assignment sheets, in the lab and from the book. These quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and cannot be made up. These quizzes will not be announced, so keep up on your reading and readiness for class. Knowing and understanding the material covered in the quizzes will better prepare you to make effective pictures.

## Required Materials

- Digital camera six megapixel or higher, with flash or digital SLR
- At least one compact flash or SD memory card
- **HP Premium Choice Laser paper, 8.5x11, 32lb, 98 brightness HPU1132**
- 25-30 sheets of 8.5x11 dry mount tissue or larger
- About 20 pieces of 11"x14" black mount board
- UV filters to protect camera lenses
- Portable hard drive or jump drive to store digital images
- DVDs to use as backup storage of files

## LOCATIONS TO BUY THESE MATERIALS

Online mail order (cheapest option if you buy all at once) • Dury's (Nashville) • Shutterbug Photo on Scottsville Road • Best Buy • Office Depot • Staples • University Bookstore

Plan on spending \$150 or more on materials for the semester (not including your camera, lens and flash). Your \$60 lab fee (paid with your tuition) covers, in part, materials provided in the lab, lab overhead and lab staff.

## RESULTS

As you might observe from the above syllabus, we are packing quite a bit into this class. This class requires you to devote a lot of time and energy inside and outside of class. But this is okay, hard work can actually be enjoyable if you have a concrete goal in mind. There are few courses out there where you get the satisfaction of seeing the fruits of your labor in such an immediate and tangible way. If you apply yourself, you will soon be able to see a potential photograph and know exactly how to capture it. You will be telling stories with photographs and taking a valuable skill into your future. I am looking forward to working with you this semester!

## In addition...

This class will cover the values and competencies outlined in the ACEJMC accreditation guidelines. They are: understand and apply First Amendment principles and the law appropriate to professional practice; demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications; demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of groups in a global society in relationship to communications; understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information; work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity; think critically, creatively and independently; conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which you work; write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes you serve; critically evaluate your own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness; apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which you work.