



South Portland, Maine 04106

ART Department

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**Title:** Digital Photography I

**Catalog Number:** ARTS 170-D4

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Total Contact Hours:** 80

**Lecture (or Lab):** lecture-studio / online

**Instructor:** Christian Farnsworth MS, MFA

**Office Hours** – by e-mail

**Location:** Online / **Brightspace**; Asynchronous

**Contact Information:** [cfarnsworth@smccme.edu](mailto:cfarnsworth@smccme.edu)

**SPRING 2022:** January 18– May 14, 2022

• **Use Subject Line:**  
ARTS 170-D4\_S22\_the subject\_your last name

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**Course Syllabus**

**Course Description**

Photography, as a nonverbal language and art form, encourages students to explore creative expression. This class will introduce four areas of instruction: the history of photography, the mastery of a DSL 35mm camera, the application and practice of digital photographic techniques, and the discussion and critique of portfolio driven work. Subject matter includes photojournalism, portrait, landscape, conceptual, and architecture. The course will include demonstrations with the camera, lighting, and basic digital image editing techniques. In producing their own works and by evaluating the photographs of others, students will develop a vocabulary for making informed aesthetic and technical judgments. Embedded in the course are career preparation standards which include basic academic skills, communication, interpersonal skills, problem solving, professional best practices, and employment literacy.

**Course Objectives**

**After successfully completing the course, the student will be able to:**

- Establish an understanding of the historical & contemporary aspects of photography
- Reference the principles and elements of design to engage in critical discussions of their own and others' work.
- Understand the role photography plays in communications and its use as a visual language.
- Understand how visual literacy, critical thinking, creativity, resource and time management skills learned in this course apply to other arts and to other career areas.
- Demonstrate competencies with manually operated DSL cameras, including proper use of basic functions such as aperture, shutter speeds, and light meter.
- Demonstrate technical and artistic competencies of employing available light on location
- Develop skills in image file management and editing software
- Compile a thematic portfolio, including an artist's statement and a selection of best work in an online gallery

## Course Requirements

- Attend all classes
- Actively participate in course content-discussions, quizzes, and critiques
- Maintain professional demeanor in online and class environment
- Respect and care for borrowed equipment
- Complete assignments on time

## Student Evaluation and Grading

Participation/Critique & Discussions: 10%

Photo Projects: 35%

Research Paper: 10%

Quizzes: 10%

MidTerm Portfolio: 15%

Final Portfolio: 20%

## Text, Tools and / or Supplies

Digital Photography: A Basic Manual by Henry Horenstein

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company; 1 edition (November 2, 2011) ISBN-10: 0316020745

ISBN-13: 978-0316020749

- Students should have a dSLR or film 35mm camera for the duration of the course. (If using film camera then student needs to be aware and responsible for processing costs and turn-around times and need for images to then be scanned onto CD)
- Memory cards, card reader and necessary cables
- External hard drive-at least 8gb
- NOTE: 'Point and shoot' and camera phones will NOT suffice.
- Paper for laser and/or ink jet printers (N/A)
- Access to computer and online program - Brightspace; capable of running image editing software

## Student Evaluation and Grading

Student's work will be evaluated on their knowledge and practice of the on line resources, reading, quizzes and design projects; contribution to class discussion and the quality of production skills (this includes technical and aesthetic concerns.) In addition, grading and evaluation will include attention to deadlines and requirements specific to the assignments.

Spelling and grammar count throughout all the components of this course: quizzes, exams, projects, discussion board postings.

*There is only you and your camera.  
The limitations in your photography are in yourself,  
for what we see is what we are.*

Ernst Haas

## Online criteria

This is an entirely web-based course with no prescribed meeting times. You may complete all course work from your home as long as you have an internet connection and are able to master the feature of Brightspace (BrSp), SMCC's online course management system. Account information is listed under the login screen.

Each week's material will be AVAILABLE Sunday mornings on Brightspace; assignments will be DUE Saturday night by 11:59 pm.

## INSTRUCTORS DISCRETION TO MODIFY THE SYLLABUS

The instructor has the authority to modify the syllabus based on (her/his) determination that such changes would better meet the learning objectives of the course. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain awareness of those modifications and note them as necessary.

## Grading Scale (as stated in college handbook)

93-100 : A  
90-92 : A-  
87-89 : B+  
83-86 : B  
80-82 : B-  
77-79 : C+  
73-76 : C  
70-72 : C-  
67-69 : D+  
63-66 : D  
below 63 : F

## Grading Criteria

Midterm and Final grades will be based on a scale of 100. The requirements for each project will be broken down and explained in greater detail when the project is assigned. Your grades will be based on how well you fulfill the technical and aesthetic requirements.

## Attendance & Missed / Late Work Policy (Updated 2.19.2022)

You are required, as stated in the college handbook, to attend all classes. In the case of on-line classes you are required to log in to the course prior to the end of the drop/add week.

If you do not log in for at least **2** consecutive weeks, an **AF grade** will be assigned.

If you do not submit work for **2** consecutive weeks and do not otherwise communicate with or respond to communication with your professor an AF grade will be assigned. Your "Last Date of Attendance" will be recorded as your last successful submission date.

It is important that you actively attend the course by logging in to SMCC BrightSpace site at least once a week. (Although to complete this course successfully you will need to access the site more often.)

A portion of your grade is determined by your on line attendance and active participation.

Assignments are due with specific deadlines; work submitted late will be graded on a reduced point value scale:

- Any course work received *after* deadline, up to 1 week, will be downgraded by 2 letter grades (A/95 -> C/75);
- Late 8 – 14 days, downgraded by 3 letter grades (if A/95 -> D/65).
  - Late work will not be accepted after 2 weeks.

## Midterm Grade Report

At week ~ 6, student progress will be assessed on the basis of attendance, submitted work and participation. If you are assessed at an "unsatisfactory" level, you and your department chair will receive a letter regarding your progress. You will be required to meet with your professor and also, possibly, your department chair.

## No Show /AF/ Last Date of Attendance Report

Online "attendance" will be monitored. This course requires weekly deadlines. If you miss submission dates 3 weeks in a row, an AF (automatic failure) will be reported and/or your LDA (Last Date of Attendance will be marked as

the last time you successfully submitted work (projects, quizzes, discussion topics etc...) to the BrightSpace course site. Merely logging into the course on a weekly basis but not completing or submitting required work does not count as having successfully attended an online class. All reasonable efforts to communicate with the student will be made by the professor to insure all students are aware of deadlines in addition to the twice weekly reminders posted as a BS announcement.

- **AF Grades:** If a student starts participating in (your) **asynchronous online course** and stops participating for a period of two weeks then that student should be given an **Administrative Failure (AF) grade** and an **appropriate last date of attendance (LDA)** using the Calendar Icon. Once again, for asynchronous online courses, attendance would be defined as not submitting an assignment, responding to a discussion question, completing a graded assignment, or otherwise performing some type of activity that shows active involvement in the course. So a student would receive an **Administrative Failure** after such a lapse for a period of two weeks. (SMCC Administrative Policy\_2022)
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### **End-of-Course Evaluation**

Students complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal. Students can access the course evaluations beginning one week before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs Monday at 5 p.m. following the last day of the class. You will receive an e-mail to your student e-mail account when course evaluations are available.

### **ADA Syllabus Statement**

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call (207) 741-5798. If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodations.

### **SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy**

Each semester students receive a \$20 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general access labs, library printers, Tutoring Services, Campus Center Lounge and technology labs). Be sure to log OUT of the system when you've finished your printing, to prevent unauthorized access to your account. Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the Printing Balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the department should contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help tab on My SMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 or send an e-mail to [helpdesk@smccme.edu](mailto:helpdesk@smccme.edu).

### **Refunds**

Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student's account.

*If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough.*

Robert Capa

**Add-Drop Policy**

Students who drop a course during the one-week “add/drop” period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

**Withdrawal Policy**

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the Fall and Spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week Summer courses. We're now in a 11-week Summer course. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses, usually 75 percent of course meeting times; please check with the Registration Office. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Registration Office. This process must be completed either in person or by using SMCC e-mail accounts. Contact SMCC administration for COVID-19 protocol.

**Plagiarism Statement**

If an instructor suspects that a student has knowingly committed a violation defined in the Maine Community College System Policy on Student Grade Appeals and Academic Misconduct, the instructor has the authority to review the alleged misconduct and determine the grade that the student should receive for the assignment and the course. The instructor may assign a failing grade for the assignment or course and may require the student to complete additional work for the course. The instructor may consult with the department chair and/or the College's chief academic officer prior to making such decisions. If a student seeks to challenge an instructor's determination, the student should submit a grade appeal. Grade appeal forms are available in the Advising Office on the South Portland Campus or in the administrative offices in the Learning Commons on the Midcoast Campus. An instructor may also refer the matter to the College's disciplinary officer for review under the procedures of the MCCS Student Code of Conduct

## Topical Outline of Instruction

- Tue 1/18 – Sat 1/22/2022  
**Week 1:** Introduction & Getting to Know Your Camera (Mod 1)
- Sun 1/23 – Sat 1/29  
**Week 2:** Camera Basics: Exposure, Shutter Speed, Aperture & ISO (Mod 2)
- Sun 1/30 – Sat 2/05  
**Week 3:** Lenses & Composition Techniques: (Mod 3)
- Sun 2/06 – Sat 2/12  
**Week 4:** The Shutter (Mod 4)
- Sun 2/13 – Sat 2/19  
**Week 5:** Exposure, Depth of Field & Landscape Photography (Mod 5)
- Sun 2/20 – Sat 2/26  
**Week 6:** Lighting (Mod 6)
- Sun 2/27 – Sat 3/05  
**Week 7:** Street; Architecture; Scavenge Hunt (Mod 7)
- Sun 3/06 – Sat 3/12  
**Week 8:** Midterm Portfolio (Mod 8)
  - **Spring Break** \_ 3/13 – 3/19
- Sun 3/20 – Sat 3/26  
**Week 9:** Digital Darkroom I (Mod 9)
- Sun 3/27 – Sat 4/02  
**Week 10:** Portrait Photography (Mod 10)
- Sun 4/03 – Sat 4/09  
**Week 11:** Photo Journalism & Visual Narrative (Mod 11)
- Sun 4/10 – Sat 4/16  
**Week 12:** Artist Statement; Final Project Proposal (Mod 12)
- Sun 4/17 – Sat 4/23  
**Week 13:** Conceptual Photography (Mod 13)
- Sun 4/24 – Sat 4/30  
**Week 14:** Digital Darkroom II (Mod 14)
- Sun 5/01 – Sat 5/07; Sun 5/08 – Sat 5/14  
**Weeks 15/16:** Final Portfolio Presentation & Critique (Mod 16)

**Modifications to syllabus:** Research/Reflection Paper (Mod 15) - not assigned (re Covid 19)\_8/28/20; 1/02/21; 12.26.22.