

# Digital Photography - Photo 43

Long Beach City College

Instructor: Ann Mitchell - Fall 2009

Monday & Wednesday, K127, 8 - 11am

## Office & Hours:

K123, 562•938•4802

Office Hrs: LAC MW 11-1, PCC TTR, 11:30-12

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*Appointments recommended as office hours may change during the semester*

## Required Texts:

1. Visual Quickstart Guide: Photoshop CS3

2. Digital Workbook: Fall 09 version

Website: www.ann-mitchell.com

## Course Outline:

Photography is in a continual state of change, a big part of that has come from the Digital Revolution. While we have less access to traditional materials, there is now a tremendous amount of resources available to photographers today. It is important for the student to understand that the computer IS NOT an image-maker, but rather just a new tool to be incorporated into our existing skills.

This class is therefore an aesthetically driven digital arts course designed to introduce the student to digital imagery, it's theories and concepts. The emphasis of the course will focus on using the digital medium to aid in the creation of strong imagery, Students will also explore the ways in which the traditional and digital methods can be combined.

## Course Objectives:

1. Knowledge and use of Digital Art theories and concepts.
2. Basic knowledge of the various tools of digital photography: Adobe Photoshop, Bridge and Lightroom, digital cameras, scanners, tablets & printers, manage and create digital image-banks.
3. Knowledge and understanding of basic two-dimensional art and design.
4. Establish and explore various ways of manipulating a range of subject matter.
5. Gain an understanding of modern day uses of digital photography and it's impact on both the field of Photography and our society.
6. Students will experiment in linking traditional and digital areas of Photography
7. Use of the Internet as a resource and educational tool.

## Required Equipment and Materials: (other materials may be necessary as well):

1. Two Removable drives (1Gig min.)for storage of your work. No images will be stored on classroom computers, any images left on computers will be trashed. It is very common for one drive to become corrupted as you work on multiple computers - that's why you need two!
2. Original photographic artwork and other usable images for class projects.
3. Mat board and other presentation materials
4. Website or Blog by the end of the semester

## Course Requirements: Final grades will be based on the following.

1. Attendance: Your attendance is expected **on time** at every meeting. If you have an excused absence you must notify the instructor. Students with problematic attendance will need to meet with the instructor and may be dropped. *(4-6 absences is usually my limit)*
2. Class & Critique participation: Students are required to participate in all classroom activities in an active and appropriate manner. Class time is reserved for Photo 43 projects unless cleared by instructor - no e-mail or random internet usage allowed. Students are expected to present their projects and discuss them with the class in a meaningful manner.
3. Completion of exercises: all exercises must be completed to receive a grade.
4. Completion of assignments/projects: all work must be completed and turned in to receive a grade. Late assignments will not be accepted - please see instructor for special circumstances.

## Photo 43 Class Schedule

*Schedule is subject to change during the semester - Assignments will be given in class*

Week	Activity	
1.	8/17 8/19	Intro to class/Computer basics, File Server -students must purchase workbook by 8/24 Chapter One: Test 1 and 2 (peer grading in class)
2.	8/24 8/26	Chapter One: Test 3, (peer graded in class) Chapter 2 Input and Image Prep, Scanning
3.	8/31 9/2	Scanning & Layer Masking Digital capture: Cameras, RAW conversions <i>Assignment: Project 1 given</i>
		<b><i>Shoot the Lightroom Library images by/during this weekend (see Workbook page 32)</i></b>
4.	9/7 9/9	<i>Labor Day - NO SCHOOL</i> Asset Management: Lightroom & Bridge <b>Due: Lightroom Images</b>
5.	9/14 9/16	Asset Management: Adobe Lightroom Chapter 3: Digital Environment & Contact Sheets
6.	9/21 9/23	Chapter 3: Saving / File Formats <b>Due: Website for Critique (see next page)</b> Toolbar/Palettes/Brushes
7.	9/28 9/30	Chapter 4: Digital Darkroom Color/Contrast adjustment layers Layers
8.	10/5 10/7	Digital Output: Printing <b>Due: Exercises given to this point</b> Review & Lab <i>Assignment: Project 2 given</i>
9.	10/12 10/14	Digital Toning: Color to B&W conversion Color <b>Due: Assignment Project 1</b>
10.	10/19 10/21	Filters Review <b>Due: Written Critique</b>
11.	10/26 10/28	History Palette & Brush <i>No School - Faculty Flex Day</i>
12.	11/2 <b>11/4</b>	Selection and Color <b>Review &amp; Critique</b> <b>Due: Assignment Project 2</b>
13.	11/9 11/11	Type Tools lab <i>Assignment: Final Project given</i>
14.	11/16 11/18	Final Project Meetings lab <b>Due: Exercises given to this point</b>
15.	11/23 11/25	Final Projects Final Project lab
16.	11/30 12/2	Slicing & Web Photo Gallery Final project lab <b>Late Exercises: last day to receive credit</b>
17.	12/7 <b>12/9</b>	Open lab work <b>Critique</b> <b>Due: Final Projects, Statement</b>
18.	<b>12/14</b>	<b>Individual Final Meetings - return of work (sign-ups at my office)</b>

**Critique**  
**Photo 43: Digital Photography, Fall 2009**

**Student Name:**

This semester you will research photographer's websites and, after finding one you like (**and I've approved**), you'll select an image and write a critique about it. I'd like you to really look at the total range of imagery on the site, read the photographer's bio and statement, often they will have other published writings about their work on the site as well. Get a good sense of who this person is, why they're interested in the work they do...and why that's meaningful to you.

**Use the following as your check list when turning in the paper: this sheet MUST be attached! The site must be preapproved by instructor BEFORE you write about the image.**

1. Website of artist/photographer: www.\_\_\_\_\_
2. Instructor Approval of artist/photographer's site. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Attached paper must be typed, 12pt, upper/lower case, 1.5 spacing, margins 1inch max., 1-2 pages max.
4. This sheet MUST be stapled to the front of your paper.

**Guidelines for Written Paper:**

**1. Introduction to the photographic artist, 1 paragraph only**

- a. Bio: information about the photographer (name, date/place of birth, education, current status etc.)
- b. Influences: what drew them to photography (this can include other artists, family or social issues etc.)
- c. Artwork: what kind of imagery do they make (consider visual approach, subject, etc.)

**2. Basic description of the image, 1 paragraph only**

- a. Describe the work briefly (include title, size, black-and-white or color, objects within the image, etc.). This is where you tell us the "what" of the image.

**3. Discuss the visual elements, design and technique of the photograph, 2 paragraphs minimum.**

Looking carefully at the work, discuss both it's visual and design qualities. This paragraph is a "cause" and "effect" approach. For example: the dark "low-key" lighting creates a sense of mystery. Tell us what the photographer did...and what the effect of that choice is. It is not necessary to discuss every visual element - only those relevant to the image.

- a. Visual Elements within the work--What You See and their effects
- b. Design of the work--How Things Are Arranged and what effect that creates in you the viewer
- c. Technique: how the image was created..

**4. Impact and closing statements, 1 paragraph**

- a. Emotional: What the work communicates--Feelings/Mood
- b. What you think about the work? Why you chose it?
- c. Conclusions you've drawn about photography, potential ways you might change your thinking about art-making based on this work.

Note: many of the suggestions for visual critique been developed through research on various educational websites. Center for Creative Photography is the main source for "Looking at Photography".

## Questionnaire

Name:

Contact email:

*Please take a few minutes to tell me something about yourself and what you hope to accomplish in this class. With a new group of people, it is often difficult for me to get a sense of who everyone is and how to best work with them.*

1. Is this your first semester at college, are you a returning student...tell me something about your educational experiences.
2. What's your favorite food, past-time, film, book...what interests you?
3. Why are you taking this class? Is there an area that you're really hoping to learn a lot about?
4. What kind of an environment you learn best in - in other words - what have been your most successful learning experiences?
5. What are several changes you think digital technologies have made in your own life?
6. What are your goals for the next few years? What about long-term?
7. What's your biggest fear about this class (or even school in general)?
8. How much time do you have available for outside of classroom work? Do you think it's enough?
9. Do you have a support system in place to help you with your studies?
10. Would you consider being a mentor for another student in the class? If so, what contact information can I use for you.