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**Alabama
Department of
Postsecondary Education**

Representing Alabama's Public Two-Year College System

Jefferson State Community College

**ART 175
Digital Photography**

I. ART 175 Digital Photography – 3 Semester Hours
AHUM (Lab 6 hours)

II. Course Description

This course introduces students to digital imaging techniques. Emphasis is placed on the technical application of the camera, digital photographic lighting methods, and overall composition. Upon completion, students should be able to take digital images and understand the technical aspects of producing high quality photos.

This course is designed to help the student find personal meaning in works of art and develop a better understanding of the nature and validity of art. The emphasis in this course is on photography as a form of art. Each student will be expected to create original artworks that convey and provoke emotion. Upon completion of this class, students should have an understanding of the fundamentals of art and photography as its own art form.

III. Prerequisite

None

For some programs of study this course satisfies a humanities credit.

IV. Textbook

None. Handouts provided by the Instructor on vocabulary and select readings on contemporary photography.

V. Course objectives

Students will:

- A. Be introduced to manual camera functions, photographic techniques, and the use of digital editing software.
- B. Create a body of photographic work with a range of subject matter, concepts and compositions.
- C. Present and identify the characteristics of different photographic techniques, processes and aesthetics.
- D. Discuss the relationship between other disciplines and the development of Photography.
- E. Discuss Photography as a means of creating societal and cultural awareness.

VI. Course Outline of Requirements and Materials

- 1. Weekly Photo Assignments:** Each week students must turn in at least 5 images from selected photo topics. Each image will follow the guidelines given by the professor in the photo topic section of this syllabus. You will choose 1 topic per class (i.e. Monday Group A is due, Wednesday Group B is due. A group consists of the 5 images selected from the assigned topic). Failure to turn in the required images will result in a penalty in the overall project grade.
- 2. Critiques:** Each class will end in a critique of each students work. Students must show at least two images in each critique. Critiques are a vital part of the class and attendance is extremely important. These cannot be made-up and failure to attend will result in a penalty in the overall project grade. **There is no make up for this assignment and it will not be accepted late.**
- 3. Discussion Boards:** Students must answer the question posted on the discussion board each week. This must be completed by 8:00 am of the due date. BlackBoard will not let you submit late. Each student must answer the question and reply to another students' response to gain full credit. **There is no make up for this assignment and it will not be accepted late.**
- 4. Final Portfolio:** Students will present a portfolio work by the final day of class. This portfolio should show a cohesive series of 10 to 15 images the student has created during the duration of the class. Portfolios should be presented in the form of a professionally bound book (i.e. iphoto books) or in an art portfolio (if presented in this way the images should be printed in a professional manner, **NOT** at Wal-Mart, Sams, Target, or **ANY** instant kiosk). Students will also present a digital portfolio. Images should be burned on a disc in the same order they are presented in the hardbound portfolio.
- 5. Materials:** Each student will need an SLR camera, or a camera that has the ability for the user to change the ISO, F-Stop and Aperture. Because of the types of assignments each student must complete during this course, having the correct type of camera is critically important to receiving full credit for each assignment. Each student will also need an underwater camera (such as the disposable underwater film

cameras). Students will also need a flash drive in order to complete the critiques during class.

VII. Evaluation and Assessment

Students will produce photo based art work which will be discussed in a critique environment. Students will also complete a short, but formal, multiple choice exam on vocabulary unique to Photo based artistic production.

Grades will be given based upon A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, and F=below 60%

VIII. General Course Competencies

- A. The Student will acquire a knowledge of new materials and tools
- B. The student will participate openly in the critique experience
- C. The student will gain a respect for the craftsmanship and presentation of photographic art
- D. The student will learn and utilize a new range of vocabulary words unique to the discipline of making and discussing Photography
- E. The student will gain a working understanding of the “rule of 3rds” as a means of organizing the photographic image.
- F. The student will gain an introductory understanding of Adobe Photoshop as a photo editing tool.
- G. The student will become confident and familiar with the manual mode of their Digital SLR Camera.
- H. The student will learn 19th and 20th century precedent in photography that will influence the development of their art.

IX. Course Competencies stated in Performance Terms/SLOs

- a. The student will competently create b/w and color photographs using their own Digital SLR cameras and the Adobe Photoshop editing software.
- b. The student will create photographic compositions that visually display knowledge and use of the “rule of thirds” and other contemporary design principles.
- c. The student will create photographs that make reference to 19th and 20th c. examples and precedent in photography.
- d. The student will analyze and critique their work, as well as the work of peers, in a constructive manner using art terminology.

X. Assessment of Instructional Effectiveness

This section describes how student performance related to specific course objective is used to assess instructional effectiveness in helping students meet Jefferson State’s General Education Objectives. This section does not describe how course grades are determined.

The student will be able to:

1. Speak intelligently and confidently about the motivations and concepts behind the visual solutions they come up with, and speak constructively about the artwork of others, using new vocabulary terms.
2. Take crisp photos in a range of subject matter, that illustrate their ability to understand and manipulate the features of their camera, Adobe photoshop, and art historical precedent in the photographic medium.

General Education Objective

The student will be able to pass a vocabulary test on new terms and concepts relating to Contemporary Photography. They will also show understanding of this vocabulary by using it to discuss their art work and the work of their peers in a critique setting. The students will produce a series of Photographs with a range of subject matter, concepts, and design solutions.

Use of Findings

The Instructor will determine whether the student's work is consistent, cohesive, and seems to develop in both craftsmanship and concept as the semester progresses. The instructor will take the success of the vocabulary tests into account and discuss the artwork produced by his students with other art instructors as needed to help his/her ability to remain objective in assessing the success of the students and to modify and evolve the assignments.

X. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student's ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

XI. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual's race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

XII. Americans with Disabilities

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College. The ADA Accommodations office is located in FSC 300 (205-856-7731).