

Fall 2011

## PGY2802C: Digital Photography II

9:00 am to 12:20 pm • Monday • August 22 to December 5

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Welcome to Digital Photography II. The NWF State College catalog describes this course as follows: *“An intermediate-level photography course where creative idea generation and composition in photography are emphasized. Students research more deeply the history of photography and apply new skills to creative digital photographic work. Access to an appropriate high-quality camera required.”*

In Digital Photography 1, our primary concern was that you gain the critical basic skills to operate your camera in a controlled, professional manner. Secondary to this, we focused on basic compositional strategies that all artists employ when arranging the centers of interest in the picture frame.

This semester is intended for the intermediate photography student in that you are encouraged to explore your own ideas within the context of a creative challenge proscribed to you by your instructor. It is critically important that photographers be able to develop their creative voice within the medium, and this is your chance to define and express in mature fashion just what that voice wants to tell the world.

I will provide a group of creative challenges which you should consider creative jumping-off points. How you answer the challenge should be individual and original. A goal this semester is that you should develop a group of portfolio quality images that demonstrate not only your technical skill with your camera and the computer equipment that supports it. These images should exhibit your ability to develop concepts that go beyond simple technical challenges, and become expressive and communicative imagery that is compelling to the viewer.

The technical considerations that I would like you to explore this semester are some of the finer points of the equipment that is available to you. You may be limited by budget in these areas, and I understand that. As you progress in the area of Photography, you will quickly discover that more advanced equipment is highly desirable and in many cases is the gateway to truly professional results.

I would like you to explore the behavior of different lenses and filters available. Let's take a look at the characteristics of different lens types. Wide angle lenses not only present a broad “panoramic” perspective. They also exaggerate distances between the foreground and background of images. Also, wide angle lenses tend to exhibit what is called “barrel distortion” where objects that should be rectilinear bow horizontally and vertically. Telephoto lenses, by contrast, give a very narrow perspective view in the frame. They also compress space, diminishing the perceived distance between the foreground and background. They are typically relatively free of barrel distortion as well.

More inexpensive technical explorations can be had using filters. The first filter you should add to your camera bag is a polarizer. You want an adjustable “circular polarizer” made by a reputable company like Tiffen or B+W. This is important because the filter is a piece of glass that you are placing in front of your lens, and it will alter the image quality if it is poorly made. A polarizer works well on sunny days, and can be used to darken the sky, and it will cause colors to be more saturated. It will also allow you to reduce reflections in glass or metal objects, and may increase the overall contrast of your image.

Also consider exploring “HDR” or High Dynamic Range imaging. HDR is a process of combining multiple exposures of the same scene to achieve an image with amazing range of recorded values. HDR enables you to preserve bright highlights and dark shadows, or to create a surreal ambient effect.

By the end of the semester, you should have a group of prints that you are proud of. I would like you to consider participating in the Student Art Show, which is a juried show with prizes. This experience presenting your work professionally will be invaluable. Let's explore your ideas and do something valuable!



## Equipment/Supplies:

(1) A digital camera (8 MP or higher, SLR format strongly preferred) with adjustable aperture and shutter speed.

Purchase decisions relating to cameras are entirely related to available budget. An extremely expensive camera is not always better than a moderately priced one. Used cameras can be great values. Two sources for new and used equipment are: [www.calumetphoto.com](http://www.calumetphoto.com), [www.bhphotovideo.com](http://www.bhphotovideo.com)

A good basic camera can mean a lot of different things to different people. My suggestion is to explore either a Canon or Nikon camera. When you buy a camera, you are buying into a family of products. Nikon and Canon have the best group of lenses and accessories in the industry. Specific recommendations are:

Canon Rebel T1i, T2i, or T3i kit

Canon 50D kit

Nikon D3000 or D5000 or D300s kit

As you proceed, you will discover that having a longer telephoto lens such as a 70-200mm or a 100-300mm would expand the range of images you can produce. You should also consider acquiring a Polarizer filter. Other special effects filters can be considered, but many are made unnecessary by the power of Photoshop. When buying filters, it is a good idea to buy the largest you think you will need and a stepper ring for smaller lenses. A big filter can go on a small lens, but a small filter won't go on a big lens.

The best place for learning about individual camera features and capabilities is at this website:

[www.dpreview.com](http://www.dpreview.com)

(2) Several blank CD-R (NOT CD-RW!) or DVD-R/DVD+R discs for storing your work. USB memory keys are convenient, but not extremely reliable. ALWAYS back up your data on a CD-R. You are responsible for the integrity of your data. This means that if you lose it, you're responsible.

(3) Tripod. Bogen is recommended, but a good basic one can be had fairly cheaply.

## Attendance Issues:

Attendance in this course is extremely important as it is a hands on learning experience, not a lecture based course. You will be allowed two absences. After that, any additional absence will result in an immediate excessive absence report, which may result in your withdrawal from the course, or an automatic one letter grade drop in your final grade per absence. An excused absence may be given upon consultation with me but only in case of illness or emergency. **YOU WILL NOT PASS THIS COURSE** if your attendance becomes a problem. If you have more than four absences of any kind by November 1 (the last day for a W grade or to change to audit), you should withdraw from the course. If we get to the end of the semester and you have an excessive number of absences, you will receive an "F"

Note that showing up late for the class, leaving early, or only staying for ten minutes does not constitute attendance. Attendance will be taken at random times during the class period, and it is your responsibility to ensure that you were recorded as present if there is any question in your mind.

In unusual situations like acute illness, death in the family etc., you may receive an "Incomplete" as your grade. Incomplete grades are made up outside of normal class attendance in open lab settings during the semester following receipt of the "I" grade. You must inform me of your situation and discuss your options. Incomplete grades are not automatic. See the NWF State College catalog for detailed descriptions of the college policies related to grading, attendance, etc.

You are expected to attend all class meetings. "I don't have anything to do" does not equal an excused absence. It is evidence that you are not participating in the course in a manner appropriate for an art student. Each and every class session is designed for you to have the freedom to explore the creative process with the tools at hand. Even if you have the software at home, you are still required to come to class. This is a basic college policy.

**It is critical that you initiate communication with me as we go through the semester to discuss your projects. In an art class, most of the valuable instruction happens one-on-one in relation to your specific needs. If you choose to opt out of this process, you will miss one of the core opportunities of the course.**

## Course Requirements:

This is an art class. Your grades are based on your instructor's professional judgment of the success or failure of your concepts, aesthetics, and effort in completing assignments. In this class you will be graded at three intervals. There will be three creative challenges. Each of these will be weighted evenly (33.3%) in determination of your grade. Many times a student falls between grades. Rounding up or down will be determined by class participation. Class participation includes participation in discussions and interaction with instructor. ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS THIS COURSE.

Graded work will be retained for approximately 4-6 weeks into the following semester. If it is not picked up in this time period, it may be recycled. YOU MUST TURN IN YOUR PROJECTS BURNED TO A CD IN THE PROPER FILE FORMAT. YOU SHOULD BURN YOUR DISC HERE IN OUR MACHINES. TEST YOUR DISC BEFORE YOU TURN IT IN!

In case of a campus emergency (power outages, hurricanes, war, famine, bee swarms) on a due date, the due date will be pushed back to the next available class session. If the College is closed for an extended period of a week or more, an adjustment of the course schedule will occur and you will be made aware of it the first day back. Late work will receive a 1 letter-grade penalty per class day—note the final project is due the last day of class, and therefore, cannot be turned in late.

Students are responsible for adherence to all College policies and procedures, including those related to academic freedom, cheating, classroom conduct, and other items included in the NWF State College Catalog and Student Handbook. Students should be familiar with the rights and responsibilities detailed in the 2011-12 NWF State College Catalog and Student Handbook. Plagiarism, cheating or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious breach of student responsibilities and may trigger consequences which range from a failing grade to formal disciplinary action. Use of another person's images or designs constitutes plagiarism in this course. Only use your own images! Downloading any imagery from the internet for use in a project is strictly prohibited and will result in failure of the course. All of your work must be 100% originally produced by you. All photographs that you turn in must be taken during the time of this class. This means that great vacation photos that you shot last year cannot be turned in for college credit. If you are unsure of what this means, consult with me immediately.

As a courtesy to other students and the learning process, students may not bring children with them to class sessions. Health and safety concerns prohibit children from accompanying adult students in any lab, shop, office or classroom or other college facility where potential hazards exist. If a child-related emergency means you must miss class, let me know when you return.

If you have special needs for which accommodations may be appropriate to assist you in this class, please contact the Office of Services for Students with Special Needs in Building C-1 on the Niceville Campus, or call 729-5372 (TDD1-800-955-8771 or Voice 1-800-955-8770). If you have special needs, you also must speak with me directly in the first week of class so that I fully understand and can create a plan to address your needs.

**Due to the nature of our facility and the sensitivities of our students, please refrain from wearing colognes or perfumes to class.**

## What do your grades mean?

**A=** Work turned in on time. Work that clearly exceeds the basic expectations of the assignment. Work of unusual quality or quantity and seriousness of effort.

**B=** Work turned in on time. Work that exhibits a clear attempt at exceeding the basic expectations of the assignment. Work exhibiting better than average quality or quantity and seriousness of effort.

**C=** Work of average quality and quantity. Work that satisfies essential basic requirements. Work that would benefit from further effort from student and more student interaction with instructor.

**D=** Work that is clearly not exhibiting the basic requirements of the assignment in either quality or quantity. An increase in effort is clearly needed and closer interaction with instructor is strongly suggested.

**F=** Work that fails to meet the lowest expectations for the assignment. This may be due to a simple lack of effort or may suggest that the student pursue other career goals.

## Assignments:

**Project #1:** [REDACTED] (Due: Sept. 26)

[REDACTED]

**Project #2:** [REDACTED] (Due: October 31)

**Project #3:** [REDACTED] (Due: December 5)

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December 5 is the last required day of attendance. There is no final exam.