

**MM142 DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**Section 3**  
**Fall 2017**  
**T/TH 12:00 pm – 2:45 pm**

**Instructor:** Christopher M. Gauthier  
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**Office:** East Peoria Campus, Academic Building, 132A  
**Office Hours:** M/W 9 - 11 am

**Prerequisites:**

MM140 (Multimedia Production I)  
GRDSN140 (Basic Graphic Design)  
Or consent of instructor.

**Required Text:** Kelby, Scott. *The Adobe Photoshop CS6 Book for Digital Photographers*.  
New Riders. 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0-321-82374-8

**Course Description:** This introductory course explores digital photography in digital darkroom studio projects. Project assignments are created with direct camera work and methods of image capture, manipulation, enhancement, synthesis and derivation. Students acquire facility with digital cameras, computers, and image-processing software and peripherals. Projects and critiques stress image making as documentary and narrative visual communication for graphic design and multimedia applications. Studio, laboratory and location exercises and assignments are required. Assigned readings and research address technical, aesthetic, rhetorical, technological and ethical implications of the contemporary digital darkroom and images.

**Course Content:**

1. Studio projects and critiques, emphasizing new-media approaches and strategies for concept and creation of digital images
2. Introduction and demonstration of computer- and peripheral-based techniques, for creating digital photographic images
3. Research, writing and student presentation of a topic in the visual communication field
4. Exposure to methods and practices of professionals

**General Educational Goals:**

The student will be able to communicate effectively.  
The student will be able to demonstrate computer literacy and information literacy.

**Course Level Goals:**

1. To learn methods and techniques to create, process and manipulate digital photographic images, for the student portfolio
2. To develop facility in use of peripheral digital equipment: digital cameras, flash-card memory-readers, scanners and printers; Macintosh computer platform, Adobe Photoshop and third-party software
3. To provide historical and technical contexts of traditional photography, for understanding contemporary digital photography
4. To understand message, audience, content and form, using narrative digital photography as visual communication
5. To serve as coursework foundation, for further development in visual communication studies

**Materials of Instruction:**

Required Text: The Adobe Photoshop CS6 Book for Digital Photographers, Scott Kelby, www.newriders.com, www.kelbytraining.com, New Riders, ISBN-13: 978-0-321-82374-8

Equipment: Digital cameras, flash-card memory-readers, scanners, printers, computer laboratory workstations

**Methods of Presentation:**

1. Lectures and demonstrations
2. Discussion of critical issues relevant to photography and the profession
3. Group and individual critiques
4. Class projects
5. Visits to photography exhibitions and professional studios

**Methods of Assessment of Student Learning:**

1. Pre and Post testing
2. Evaluation of photographic exercises
3. Evaluation of student presentations
4. Attendance, student course retention, class participation

**Evaluation of Student Achievement:**

1. Evaluation of course projects - 30% (450 points)
2. Midterm examination - 15% (225 points)
3. Final examination - 25% (375 points)
4. Evaluation of final portfolio - 30% (450 points)

Total Points: 1500 points

**Grading:**

Grading is based upon effort, originality, process, and quality of work. Simply completing all the assignments satisfactorily will not guarantee you an 'A'. All written projects and exams will receive a standard grade of A 90-100% (1350-1500 points), B 80-89% (1200-1349 points), C 70-79% (1050-1199 points), D 60-69% (900-1049 points) or F 59% and below (0-899 points). All of your exams will be given through Blackboard. It is your responsibility to access Blackboard each week by the deadline announced in class.

**Attendance & Participation:**

Attendance is mandatory. Any scheduled absence requires contacting the instructor by email prior to the missed class and assignments should be turned in before the assignment due date. Students are responsible for information presented in missed classes, and should contact the professor to determine whether make-up work will be accepted. Missing more than 60% (18) of scheduled class sessions will result in a failing grade. Any student with a 95% (28) or higher class attendance will receive an additional 50 points extra credit to their final grade. Engaged participation is required. Please turn off all electronic distractions during lectures and discussions.

**Academic Honesty & Plagiarism:**

You are expected to be academically and professionally honest in your coursework. Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. The penalties for plagiarism are severe. "Based on the severity of the offense, the instructor may recommend dismissal from the college." (Pg. 1, ICC Student Handbook) Please review the ICC Student Handbook for further clarification regarding academic honesty and plagiarism.

**Americans with Disabilities Statement & Non-Discrimination Statement:**

The Americans with Disabilities act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program." If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Access Services (309) 694-5749, preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with Access Services, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille.

**Inclusion & Diversity Statement:**

Illinois Central College is committed to creating a community that affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences and supports the realization of their human potential. We recognize that there are differences among groups of people and individuals based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation, and geographical area. All persons are encouraged to respect the individual differences of others. No student is permitted to create a threatening, intimidating, or harassing environment in this course. This course will be conducted in a safe and tolerant environment, and any person who detracts from that environment will be instructed to leave without the ability to make up coursework. Students with a discrimination complaint should make direct contact with the Vice President of Diversity, International and Adult Education: Dr. Rita Ali, (309) 694-5561, [rali@icc.edu](mailto:rali@icc.edu).

**Project Assignments:**

- Seeing Photographically
- Shutter Speed
- Ordinary Made Extraordinary
- Light, Shadow and Mood
- Environmental Portraiture
- Environmental Portraiture Retouching
- Self as Subject
- Space and Place
- Narrative Tableau
- Narrative Tableau Redo

**When handing in assignments be sure:**

- to post the correct number of images to your WordPress Blog before the due date and time
- the images are your best work - in focus and retouched
- to save images as JPG files at 72 dpi resolution and no longer than 1800 dpi on the longest length.
- to appropriately label all submitted images

Labeling Example: LastName\_Assignment\_1.jpg, LastName\_Assignment\_2.jpg  
Gauthier\_spaceandplace\_1.jpg, Gauthier\_selfasssubject\_1.jpg

## **Final Portfolio Requirements:**

Your final portfolio project is due on the day and time of the final exam. You are required to turn in a DVD/CD or flash drive (non-returnable). It should be protected in a CD sleeve or hard case. These photographic images can be black and white or color, must be high quality; clean and clear images that are well exposed, color corrected, and retouched. They should be a sampling of your best work throughout the semester, as well as re-shoots of any assignments you don't believe represented the skills that you have acquired. You may submit up to 6 images that have previously been handed in during the semester. The other 14 images should be new works created after the original assignment due date. A PDF image list is required. The 20 jpg images should be saved at 72 dpi resolution in one folder and no longer than 1800 pixels on the longest dimension in one folder and in a second folder, please include the same images at 300 dpi and no longer than 3000 pixels on the longest dimension.

Note: Some images made during this class could be used by the college or the instructor for illustration and promotional purposes.

The PDF image list must include:

- Student's Name
- Student ID
- Course number, section, semester and year
- Name image files with the title of the assignment category

Example:

LastName\_Assignment\_1.jpg, LastName\_Assignment\_2.jpg  
Gauthier\_spaceandplace\_1.jpg, Gauthier\_selfasssubject\_1.jpg

**Please include examples of the following (20 Images total):**

### **Ordinary Made Extraordinary**

- Two images that successfully transform ordinary and "every-day" objects or places. These photographs should make the most of stylistic techniques related to basic design and those particular to the photographic media that have been discussed this semester.

### **Space and Place**

- Two image examples of a space or place that hints at human occupation through environmental clues revealing the human presence while not actually being seen in the image.

### **Self as Subject**

- Two photographs that define the nature and or character of your archetypal personality. These images will be self-examinations, also known as self-portraits.

### **Environmental Portrait**

- Two examples that communicate a given personality trait or essence that is clearly conveyed through the photographic media.

### **Narrative Tableau**

- Two photographic living picture illustrations that successfully lead the viewer into a story, idea or experience. Each illustration can be made up of one two or three separate photographs to create one complete conceptual image.

### **Optional**

- Ten photographic images that further explore a combination of the above techniques or processes.

**Required Materials List:**

- Digital SLR or “D-SLR” camera (see Camera Functions for details)
- Memory Card for your camera model. It should be at least 2 gigabit card recommended, CF, SD or XD (1-3 cards depending on the amount of memory you purchase)
- Camera to computer connection cable or a card reader (1). The card reader would be recommended.
- External Memory system (USB or Firewire hard drive, large capacity jump drives or other storage media.)
- Active email account (your ICC account is required)
- Personal Wordpress blog site or 11x14 sketch book for image journals (suggested)
- You may need to purchase additional materials, if projects require.

If you plan on checking out one of the cameras you will need to provide your own SD cards. The minimum size is 8 GB, but I would purchase the largest card that you can afford.

**Minimum Camera Requirements:**

Digital camera (minimum 6 mega pixel chip)  
Minimum Image Size of 3072 x 2048 or close to this size  
Manual Aperture control  
Manual Shutter Speed control  
Aperture Priority  
Shutter Priority  
Optical Zoom lens (not digital zoom)  
Adjustable ISO settings  
Manual Focus for the lens  
Light meter or Live Histogram  
Memory storage card (CF, SD or XD)  
Camera to computer connection cable (preferably USB)  
Self timer or off camera remote  
External Flash for a hot-shoe

(For detailed information on each of these camera models you may wish to visit [www.dpreview.com](http://www.dpreview.com). This is an independent reviewer of digital cameras and can offer you some insight into which cameras are comparable to others from this list.)

**Internet and Mail Order Photographic Suppliers:**

Peoria Camera Shop 309-693-9191 <a href="http://www.peoriacamerashop.com">www.peoriacamerashop.com</a>	KEH 404-892-5522 <a href="http://www.keh.com">www.keh.com</a>	B&H Photo & Video 800-606-6969 <a href="http://www.bhphotovideo.com">www.bhphotovideo.com</a>
PROCAM 877-977-6226 <a href="http://www.procam.com">www.procam.com</a>	Freestyle Photographic Supplies 800- 292-6137 <a href="http://www.freestylephoto.biz">www.freestylephoto.biz</a>	Midwest Photo Exchange 614-261-1264 <a href="http://www.mpex.com">www.mpex.com</a>

## Course Schedule\*:

- 8/21 T Camera Lecture**
- Course introduction
  - Review course syllabus, materials list and equipment requirements
  - How to register for and setup a free WordPress blog site.
- Assignment:**
- - Read Photo Blogging 101, Erica Varlese  
<http://en.blog.wordpress.com/2012/05/14/photo-blogging-101-part-1/>  
<http://en.blog.wordpress.com/2012/05/21/photo-blogging-101-part-2/>  
<http://en.blog.wordpress.com/2012/05/28/photo-blogging-101-part-3/>
  - Watch “Build a Wordpress Photography Portfolio Website” Ted Forbes  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7DDB2B0982A077D3>
  - Watch “Get a Wordpress PhotoBlog” Kim Woods  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbfucL0ydIU>
- Project:** Sign up for and create your free WordPress blog site - Due 9/5
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- 8/23 TH Camera Lecture**
- Review Chapter 1, London and Stone
  - Camera controls, settings and operation
  - Camera types and formats
  - Parts of a D-SLR
- 
- 8/29 T Review of Camera and Lens Lecture**
- Introduction to lens types
  - Depth of field/perspective
  - Lens attachments
  - Introduction to Shutter Speed and Aperture
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- 8/31 TH Shutter Speed and Aperture Lecture**
- Shutter speed
  - Aperture
  - Using shutter speed and aperture combinations to achieve desired exposure
  - Getting the most from your camera and lens
  - Sensors and Pixels
  - Pixels and Resolution
  - Color
  - White Balance
  - Using Histograms
- Assignment:**
- Read Chapter 5 – Resizing and Cropping Photos
  - Seeing Photographically - Due 9/5

- 9/5 T Critique: “Seeing Photographically”**
- Lecture: Shutter Speed and Aperture**  
Review relationship between shutter speed and aperture
- Exposure Meters
  - Making exposures of average scene
  - Exposing scenes that are lighter/darker than average
  - HDR
- Assignment:** Read Chapter 2 – The Essentials of Camera Raw
- Project:** Shutter Speed – Due 9/12
- 
- 9/7 TH Digital Workplace Basics Lecture**
- Equipment and Materials
  - Files
  - Digital Color/Channels
  - Camera Raw
  - Workflow
  - Importing/Scanning
  - Printing
- Demo:** Shutter Speed and Aperture
- Assignment:**
- Read Chapter 3 – Camera Raw - Beyond the Basics
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- 9/12 T Critique: “Shutter Speed”**
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- 9/14 TH Design In Photography Lecture**
- Responding to Photographs
  - Visual Elements
  - Bauhaus design
- Demo:** Ordinary Made Extraordinary
- Assignment:**
- Chapter 6 – How to Create Stunning B&W Images
  - “Ordinary Made Extraordinary” Due 9/19
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- 9/19 T Critique: “Ordinary Made Extraordinary”**
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- 9/21 TH Lighting lecture**
- Qualities of Light
  - Existing Light
  - Main Light/Fill Light
  - Flash
- Demo:** Light, Mood and Subject
- Project:** Light, Mood and Shadow, Due 9/26
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- 9/26 T Critique: “Light, Shadow and Mood”**

- 9/28 TH Environmental Portraiture Lecture**
- Types of portraits
  - Portrait lighting
- Assignment:**
- Project: Environmental Portrait Due 10/3
- 10/3 T Critique: “Environmental Portraiture”**
- 10/5 TH Image Editing Lecture**
- Levels/Curves
  - Selections
  - Layers
  - Sharpening
  - Compositing
  - Color to B/W
  - Review editing techniques
  - Clone Stamping/Healing Brush
- Demo:** Retouching
- Assignment:**
- Read Chapter 8 – Fixing Common Problems
  - Project: Environmental Portrait Redo Due 10/3
- 10/10 T Critique: “Environmental Portraiture Retouch”**
- 10/12 TH “Self as Subject” Lecture/Midterm Exam**  
**Mid-term Exam available, Blackboard - Friday 10/13 @ 12:00 noon**  
**Mid-term Exam ends, Blackboard - Saturday 10/14 @ 12:00 noon**
- Project:** Self as Subject due 10/17
- 10/17 T Critique: “Self as Subject”**
- 10/19 TH Space and Place Lecture**
- Interiors
  - Urban Environments
  -
- Assignment:** Read Chapter 9 – Special Effects for Photographers  
**Project:** Space and Place Due 10/24
- 10/24 T Critique: “Space and Place”**
- 10/26 TH Narrative Tableaux Lecture**
- Project:** Narrative Tableaux Due 11/2
- 10/31 T In-Class Workshop: “Narrative Tableaux”**
- 11/2 TH Critique: “Narrative Tableaux”**
- 11/7 T Critique: “Narrative Tableaux” Redo**
- 11/9 TH SIU-C and ICC Saint Louis Photography Studio Tours**



11/14	T	Progress Critique/ Lab Day "Final Project" Group 1
11/16	TH	Progress Critique/ Lab Day "Final Project" Group 2
11/21	T	Thanksgiving Break - No Class
11/23	TH	Thanksgiving Break - No Class
11/28	T	Progress Critique/ Lab Day "Final Project" Group 1
11/30	TH	Progress Critique/ Lab Day "Final Project" Group 2
12/5	T	Progress Critique/ Lab Day "Final Project" Group 1
12/7	TH	Progress Critique/ Lab Day "Final Project" Group 2
12/TBA		Final Exam available, Blackboard - Tuesday 12/12 @ 12:00 noon Final Exam ends, Blackboard - Monday 12/18 @ 12:00 noon Final Portfolio Due - in class on scheduled date **attendance is mandatory**

**\*Syllabus Change Policy:**

This syllabus is a guide and every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the course. However, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester and may depend, in part, on the progress, needs, and experiences of the students. Changes to the syllabus/schedule will be made with advance notice.