Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Fall
Course Prefix: ART
Course Title: Advanced Digital Imaging

Year: 2025
Course and Section #: 3750 - 01
Credits: 3

Course Description

Explores digital software options to be used as a development and manipulation tool for image making. Investigates technical concerns of digital workflow, capture, and output for commercial and fine art applications. Discusses more advanced uses of selection tools, color correction, layer and channel manipulations. Teaches processes and concepts through slide presentations, readings, critiques and class discussions.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

☐ General Education Requirements
☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
☒ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program
☐ Open Elective
Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Ty Mecham

Student Learning Outcomes

1	Define digital workflow, camera capture, batch processing, archiving, and digital delivery methods;
2	Demonstrate proper file preparation for various output options;
3	Define a personal artistic vision using digital imaging as an instrument for expression;
4	Utilize advanced digital editing techniques through masking, compositing, manipulating imagery;
5	Critique photographic techniques and projects in group settings.

Course Materials and Texts

DSLR or Mirrorless Camera

Sketching and concept materials: sketchbook/notebook, paper, pencils, pens, etc.
 (Links to an external site.)Computer hardware (i.e., portable hard drives or thumb drives)
Editing software: As a student, you have access to an Adobe Student Membership, which provides you with Adobe Lightroom & Photoshop.

Follow these steps to download the Adobe Creative Cloud Software (Links to an external site.)
Navigate to the Creative Cloud website (Links to an external site.).
Enter your student email address. You will be redirected when you enter your password.
Select the "Enterprise" account type or skip to the next step.
Log in to the myUVU login page.
Once logged in, select the "Apps" tab in the upper left corner.
From here, you can download the apps you need (Photoshop, Lightroom, Bridge, etc.).

Course Requirements

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory and will account for 10% of the final grade. If you miss class, you are responsible for learning the material delivered on the day you were absent. Please refer to the calendar, modules, and/or a peer to obtain the material; if you still have questions, contact me.

Time Management

According to university guidelines, students should generally spend at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour spent in class; therefore, students should expect to spend a minimum of twelve hours each week outside of class for most A&D 6-contact-hour classes if they hope to complete assignments successfully. Art is a very time and labor-intensive process, and more time spent outside class will likely yield better work, a stronger student portfolio, and a higher grade.

Grading Policies

According to the university course catalog, the letter grade "A" is an exceptional grade indicating superior achievement; "B" is a grade indicating commendable mastery; "C" indicates satisfactory mastery and is considered an average grade; "D" indicates substandard progress and insufficient evidence of ability to succeed in sequential courses; "E" (failing) indicates inadequate mastery of pertinent skills or repeated absences from class; "UW" indicates unofficial withdrawal from class.

Grade	Range:	
A	100 %	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%

B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0 %	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0 %	to 61.0%
E	< 61.0 %	Below
UW	Unofficial withdrawal with the last date attended.	

Assignment Categories:

Activity	Points
Attendance & Participation	10%
Assignments	60%
Final Portfolio	30%

Late Work Statement:

Generally, late work is not accepted (without reduction) unless there are extenuating circumstances such as a death in immediate family/friends, illness, or a change in work schedule. Please get in touch with me ahead of time if you need accommodations or have a conflict.

Without a previously approved extension, an automatic **50% grade reduction applies.**

Note: Late work prevents students from keeping on top of coursework and adds to my workload. Please help us all have a great learning experience by keeping up with the class and turning work in on time.

Any **work submitted on time can be reworked and resubmitted** within one week of the critique for an improved grade. Recycling old work is not acceptable, so don't procrastinate.

Plagiarism

Do not cheat or plagiarize. The university defines cheating as"the act of using or attempting to use or providing others with unauthorized information, materials or study aids in academic work. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, passing examination answers to or taking examinations for someone else, or preparing or copying other's academic work." Plagiarizing is defined by the university as "the act of appropriating another person's or group's ideas or work (written, computerized, artistic, etc.) or portions thereof and passing them off as the product of one's work in any academic exercise or activity." Cheating or plagiarizing will result in a failing grade for the affected test or assignment or a failing grade for the entire class. See Utah Valley University Policies and Procedures, Student Rights and Responsibilities Code, #541 Section IV Part D.

Technology Requirements

Computer file storage & backup

- Keep regular (and redundant) backup copies of your work so that you will never lose more than an hour or two (or less) of work if the worst happens. This practice will build good habits for the professional work environment after graduation.
- **Computer or storage device failure will not be allowed as an excuse for incomplete or late assignments.**
- All students are responsible for having adequate storage capacity to save and store all work throughout the semester.

Computer platforms and software versions

- Use hardware and software outside the A&D computer labs at your own risk. Be aware of several issues arising from working across platforms and software versions. Students must turn in any required computer files completely compatible with the Art & Design computer lab's hardware and software.

Text

There is no text required for this class. Your notes will be the text.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments
No required textbook

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Day 1 Syllabus and introductions
Day 2 Brief History of photo- keynote
Day 3 Manual camera settings part 1 keynote- types of cameras, shoot modes, file types, white balance, ISO, metering, lenses
Day 4 Lightroom intro- importing, organizing/ library module, quick develop
Day 5 Manual camera settings part 2 keynote- focus, shutter, aperture -introduce assignment #1
Day 6 More Lightroom- Develop module - introduce assignment #2/ White Balance demo in class
Day 7 Assignment #1 Camera usage- talk about critiquing work- why critique? How to critique?
Day 8 Elements of design/ High and Low Key keynote. Talk about assignment #2 (3 shots- 1 High key, 1 Low key, 1 Full tonal range). More Lightroom tools discussions

Day 9 Assignment #2 High key/ Low Key critique/ introduce Assignment #3- color assignment- 2 images, each focusing on a different aspect of color or following a color scheme
Day 10 Color discussion- go over color assignment again/ look at inspiration boards. Show some photoshop basics- layers, cropping, retouching tools.
Day 11 Assignment #3 Color critique/ Introduce #4 abstract assignment (2 abstract images focusing on different element or principle of design)
Day 12 Abstract keynote/ principles of design keynote/ review elements of design- go over Assignment #4 abstract again, go outside with just cell phone cameras and look for abstraction in everyday scenes.
Day 13 Assignment #4 abstract critique/ introduce Assignment #5 portrait lighting (4-5 images with different lighting direction/ pattern- 1 frontal light, 1 backlit silhouette, 1 backlit with proper exposure for face, 1 side light.
Day 14 Portrait lighting keynote and demo Each person should shoot each of these during class: Split light, Rembrandt light, Loop light, Butterfly light, Broad/ Narrow.
Day 15 Assignment #5 portrait lighting/ self portrait critique/ Introduce Assignment #6- environmental portrait (a series of 4 images- "day in the life of" idea or documentary series.
Day 16 Talk about environmental portraits more, and tie in documentary photography
Day 17 More PS basics/ review LRC/ LR, Go over Bridge
Day 18 Assignment #6 environmental portrait series critique, go over printing assignment.
Day 19 Printing keynote/ printing demo in class - matting/ mounting demo
Day 20 Assignment #7 printing critique-introduce assignment #8- in the likeness of someone great and assign photographers to students for researching. Student should do their best to re-create one of the photographer's images.
Day 21 Go over Likeness of someone great- Photoshop editing, LR selective editing tools
Day 22 Assignment #8 in the likeness of someone great critique/ Still life discussion
Day 23 Still Life Shoot in Class! Introduce final portfolio assignment- series of 5 images along a theme with artist statement
Day 24 Assignment #9- Still Life critique- Introduce assignment #10- group shoot. Go over individual roles of those involved in a photo shoot.
Day 25 Meet with students about final portfolio ideas, brainstorming exercises.
Day 26 Writing artist statements and Review for Final Exam
Day 27 Lab work day
Day 28 Lab work day
Day 29 Written Final in class

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you. Due to the subject matter discussed in this course, AI will be discussed minimally but it is becoming more relevant in regards to the history of photography as a witness to history, truth, myth, & propaganda. The use of generative AI would have limited practical applications in this course but I felt it prudent to give some guidance on its uses.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:
- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;

- Finding information on the topic;

The use of generative AI tools is **NOT** permitted in this course for the following activities:
- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat.
- Using AI to answer questions on quizzes, tests, or in class.
- Creating "photographs" using an AI engine and prompts.

You are responsible for the use of any information gleaned based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Any use of AI tools must be properly disclosed, documented, and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work.

Using Remote Testing Software

☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities
Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](mailto:) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*.

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.
To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a specially dedicated space for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.