



**NEW YORK CITY  
COLLEGE OF  
TECHNOLOGY**

The City University of New York  
COMD 2330 D362:  
Digital Photography I  
Department of Communication Design

Instructor: Peter A. Labrozzi  
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Classroom: V-111  
Day/Hours: Thursdays 8:00–11:20am

**Course Description:** This course will explore the foundational concepts of light and exposure in photography. Students will develop visual literacy as well as framing and compositional skills. Students will become acquainted with a wide range of contemporary photographers and increase understanding of how photographic style transforms subject matter into meaning. Using professional lighting equipment and cameras, the student will gain hands-on experience capturing digital images in the studio as well as on location. Students will also learn professional methods and software to manage, process and print digital images.

**Course Objectives**

<b>For the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:</b>	<b>Evaluation methods and criteria:</b>
Describe a photograph using professional vocabulary.	Students will demonstrate competency in written assignments and discussions.
Employ photographic style to convey a point of view. Use light, composition and exposure to create meaning in photographs.	Students will demonstrate competency by taking photographs of the same subjects using different stylistic choices to create different impacts on the viewer.
Develop visual literacy. Analyze the meaning, the aesthetic value and the technical competency of one's own work, the work of one's peers, and the work of professional photographers.	Students will display competency through in-class discussions, writing assignments, and the creation of an edited portfolio of digital images and prints.
Demonstrate the ability to work in teams, including people from a variety of backgrounds, and build consensus.	Students will display competency through in-class team projects.
Operate compact digital cameras, dSLRs, tripods, light meters, continuous tone and strobe lighting equipment. Demonstrate proficiency in digital darkroom techniques and the color correction workflow.	Students will display competency through in-class hands-on exercises and homework assignments.
Demonstrate an understanding of the important relationships between the student's major, other academic disciplines, world events and life goals.	Evaluate through class discussion and written tests if students have developed a sensitivity and awareness of professional ethics.
The student will demonstrate overall growth, and be able to differentiate strengths and areas in need of improvement.	Evaluate through class critique to determine how well students were able to advance their project concepts through creative, critical and technical decisions.

## Teaching/Learning Methods

- Hands-on photo shoots and demonstrations
- Video resources, readings, discussions
- Editing, color correcting, exporting/uploading, and printing photos
- Photo gallery visit
- Peer-to-peer review

## Required Equipment

EACH STUDENT WILL NEED A CAMERA TO COMPLETE THEIR ASSIGNMENTS. To get the most out of this class, your camera should allow manual control over exposure and flash.

Phone cameras may be used if no other equipment is available, but with the caveat that photos be taken from an app allowing manual control of the exposure, including aperture, shutter speed and ISO.

If you don't own or can't borrow a camera, there are 10 Canon Rebel cameras available to loan out to complete your assignments. Cameras must be rented from a CLT and must be returned after 2 days.

## Required Materials

- Flash drive, suggested minimum specs 32gb/USB 3.0

## Attendance/Lateness Policy

Attendance is taken and is important to success in this class. Both absences and arrivals more than 15 minutes after the start of class will be marked. If excessive, the instructor will alert the student that he or she may be in danger of not meeting the course objectives and participation expectations, which could lead to a lower grade.

## Digital Landscape

**Blackboard** - grades

**Openlab.citytech.cuny.edu** - written assignments

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/groups/comd2330-d362-digital-photography-spring-2018/>

**Flickr** – photos from in class and homework assignments, portfolio of finished work

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/3909246@N21/>

## Grading Formula

This grading formula rewards consistent effort over the semester. There is a homework assignment most weeks. Please set aside several hours each week to do this assignment. If you complete all the assignments on time, you will do well in the class. This grading formula is based on a point system. Each activity is awarded a certain number of points towards the final grade. You can see the points awarded to your assignments in the grade book on Blackboard.

- **Homework: 42 points** – 12 assignments worth 3.5 points each. If an assignment is done conscientiously and on time, the student will receive the full credit. If the assignment is late, one point will be subtracted for each week it is late.
- **Quizzes: 18 points** – 2 quizzes will be given. Each one is worth 9 points. There will be no make-ups.
- **Midterm Project – “What is True?” – 20 points** – Submit 3 finalized prints from first half of semester. Create 5 new images with the theme, “What is True?”: #1: simultaneous motion blur/freeze, #2/3: two identical photos demonstrating shallow and deep DoF while maintaining same exposure. #4/5: two original photographs combining at least 2 different rules of composition in each image.
- **Final Project – “Dream” – 20 points** – A portfolio of 8 images that present the concept of “Dream”. Best 8 from 60 shots taken on at least two different shoots.

## Academic Integrity Standards

Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1 - February 01, 2018 – Course/Photography Overview

- Introductions, Review Syllabus
- What is photography and why is it important? What is a camera, what types of cameras are there? What makes a good photograph?
- Influential Images: <http://100photos.time.com/?view=timeline&position=180>
- Principles of composition: Rule of Thirds, Leading Lines, Diagonals, Framing, Figure to Ground, Fill the Frame, Center Dominant Eye, Patterns and Repetition, Symmetry
- Video link: <https://petapixel.com/2015/03/16/9-photo-composition-tips-as-seen-in-photographs-by-steve-mccurry/>
- Signing up/joining OpenLab and Flickr group

**Homework #1:** Select a photographer from: <http://dmimaging.net/top-modern-photographers/> Explore their work and choose your favorite image by that photographer. Create an OpenLab post including the photo and explain why you were drawn to that photo, and what you feel makes it a great photograph. Include any of the information you've learned about the rules of composition in relation to how that photo was made. Be prepared to discuss at the beginning of next class.

### Week 2 - February 08, 2018 – Exposure Overview/SLRs

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Review principles of composition
- Exposure, the exposure triangle: Aperture, Shutter Speed, ISO <http://www.techradar.com/how-to/photography-video-capture/cameras/the-exposure-triangle-aperture-shutter-speed-and-iso-explained-1320830>
- Hands on with Digital SLR's, learning the basic controls and settings
- Intro to Lightroom

**Homework #2:** Capture at least 20 photographs of any subject you like with a focus on perspective. All shots should be taken from different perspectives than you would normally take a photograph from i.e. low to the ground, up high, looking down/up etc. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

### Week 3 – February 15, 2018 – Field Study: Composition and Exposure

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Working with cameras in the field, we will practice what we've learned about composition and exposure: focus on Rule of Thirds, Symmetry, Framing, Patterns/Repetition, Fill the Frame, Texture, Exposure Compensation

**Homework #3:** Select your best 3 shots from class and post them to the Flickr group. Using the rules of composition we discussed in class, capture at least 20 photographs of any subject you like with a focus on "up close". All photos should get close to the subject and show the subject in ways we don't normally look at it. Capture textures in detail. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

#### **Week 4 – February 22, 2018 – Field Study: Depth and Perspective, Aperture**

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Working with cameras in the field, we will practice what we've learned about composition and exposure: focus on Aperture, Distance, Focal Length, Composing for Depth, Leading Lines, Diagonals, Frame Within a Frame, Figure to Ground

**Homework #4:** Select your best 3 shots from class and post them to the Flickr group. Using the rules of composition we discussed in class, capture at least 20 photographs of any subject you like with a focus on leading lines. All shots should show subjects in depth with leading lines drawing our attention in. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

#### **Week 5 – March 01, 2018 – Field Study: Blurring and Freezing Motion, Shutter Speed**

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Working with cameras in the field, we will practice what we've learned about composition and exposure: focus on Shutter Speed, Blurring Motion, Freezing Motion, Light and Shadow, Rules of Composition

**Homework #5:** Select your best 3 shots from class and post them to the Flickr group. Capture at least 20 photographs of any subject you like with a focus on motion. All shots should clearly show a sense of motion. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

#### **Week 6 – March 08, 2018 – The Digital Darkroom a.k.a. Lightroom, Quiz review**

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Today we will take a more in-depth look at Lightroom and how we can use it to make changes and improvements to our photographs. We will learn: workflow, creating catalogs, importing/exporting, photo RAW
- Make sure to bring copies of some of your best photos in RAW format to work on today.
- Quiz review ahead of next week's first quiz.

**Homework #6:** Post before/after comparisons of your favorite 3 photos from today's class on Flickr. Capture at least 20 photographs of any subject you like with a focus on framing. All shots should be contained to frames you find in the field and have a clear subject. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

#### **Week 7 - March 15, 2018 – Intro to Printing, Quiz #1**

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Discuss midterm project
- Review Lightroom and complete any final edits.
- Today we will take turns printing our best 3 photos, we will then post them on the wall and critique each other's finished work
- Submit finished prints for part of Midterm grade and possible gallery inclusion
- There will be a quiz today on everything we have learned so far.

**Note:** Bring your Metrocard and Student Photo ID for next class.

**Homework #7:** Pick a location, stand in one spot and capture at least 20 unique photographs without moving from that spot (you cannot move your feet except for turning around). Each shot should be totally different from all the others, and make sure to focus on all the various rules of composition we've learned. Post all twenty to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

### **Week 8 – March 22, 2018 – Field Trip – MoMa Photography Exhibit**

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Meet at Class (V111) as usual, then we will travel together to the MoMa for a photography exhibit, *Being: New Photography 2018* (<https://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/3886>)
- Entry to the MoMa is free for CUNY students with their Photo ID. Make sure to bring it. Also bring a Metrocard, as we will be traveling by subway.

**Homework #8:** Post a *Gallery Review* following our trip on OpenLab. Describe the exhibition as a whole. Pick one photographer whose work you liked best and discuss why it appealed to you. How did they use the concepts of composition and exposure in their photographs? If possible, include examples of their work to demonstrate your thoughts.

### **Week 9 - March 29, 2018 – Midterm Presentations**

- Midterm Project Due & Presentations
- Intro to studio lighting: Continuous Lights

**Note:** Bring objects you enjoy, or something you buy specifically to create still lifes, which we will photograph on April 12th. Have a great break!

### **Week 10 – April 12, 2018 – Studio Lighting Part I: Continuous Lights for Still Life Photos**

- Welcome back!
- Intro to Studio Lighting: Hard vs. Soft light, light direction, bounced light, High-key vs. Low-key
- Working in teams, set up and photograph still lifes with a single continuous light and modifiers

**Homework #9:** Select your best 3 shots from class and post them to the Flickr group. Capture at least 20 photographs of any subject you like with a focus on *light and shadow*. All shots should explore the contrast between light and shadows in the environment. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

### **Week 11 – April 19, 2018 – Studio Lighting Part II: Continuous Lights for Portraits**

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Intro to portraiture
- We will expand the types and number of lights and modifiers we are using to capture basic portraits
- Single light portraits, bounced light, three-point lighting (Key, Fill, Back), Broad vs. Short

**Homework #10:** Select your best 3 shots from class and post them to the Flickr group. Capture at least 20 self portrait photographs with a focus on *differing lighting*. Take self portraits while changing the lighting conditions around you, or in different locations with different lighting (selfies are fine as long as you're focusing on the light). Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

### **Week 12 – April 26, 2018 – Studio Lighting Part III: Strobe lighting**

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Continue portraiture work with strobe lighting setups.
- Multiple light setups, exploring light and color.

**Homework #11:** Select your best 3 shots from class and post them to the Flickr group. Capture at least 20 photographs of a friend or family member with a focus on *soft and hard light*. Take photos of a friend/fam while they are in soft light, and hard light. Seek high-key and low-key lighting scenarios, or make your own. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

### **Week 13 – May 03, 2018 – Natural Light Portraits**

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Photograph in the field to capture portraits using natural light. What environments work best?
- Add in bounced light and fill flash to support and enhance the natural light

**Homework #12:** Select your best 3 shots from class and post them to the Flickr group. Capture at least 20 photographs with a focus on street portraits. Take photos of people out in the streets. You can ask them permission, or not. See what sorts of interesting shots you can get. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

### **Week 14 – May 10, 2018 - Painting with Light, Quiz #2**

- Discuss homework photo choices
- Quiz #2
- Painting with light, getting creative with long exposures, multiple exposures

### **Week 15 – May 17, 2018 – Final Project Presentations**

- Final Project Due & Presentations
- Wrap up

**Note:** Thanks for joining me in Digital Photography !!