



**NEW YORK CITY
COLLEGE OF
TECHNOLOGY**

The City University of New York
COMD 3330 D230:
Digital Photography II
Department of Communication Design

Instructor: Peter A. Labrozzi
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Classroom: V-111
Day/Hours: Thursdays 2:30–5:50pm
Open Hour: Thursdays 5:50-6:50pm

Course Description: In this class, the emphasis will be on creative problem solving with photography for the Communication Design eld. The emphasis will be on using style to transform subject matter in order to communicate ideas. In addition, each student will create a coherent body of work on a topic of his or her choice. Students will be exposed to a wide range of contemporary photographers from a range of genres. Advanced digital darkroom, color correction, and color management procedures will be covered in addition to facilitate students’ professional-level portfolio development.

Course Objectives

For the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:	Evaluation methods and criteria:
Use professional vocabulary to discuss technical and aesthetic issues in photography.	Students will demonstrate competency in homework and class blog posts.
Conceptualize the use of photography to communicate mood and content for editorial or advertising use.	Students will demonstrate competency by creating photographs that communicate ideas.
Understand how lighting can create emotion and feeling in a photograph.	Students will display competency in still life and portrait studio lighting assignments.
Analyze both 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 and class blog posts.
Develop the skills necessary for collaborative teamwork.	Students will display competency through in-class team projects.
Operate compact digital cameras, dSLRs, tripods, light meters, continuous lights, and strobe lights.	Students will display competency through in-class hands-on exercises.
Demonstrate proficiency in digital darkroom techniques and the color correction workflow including optimizing global and local tonal range, removing color casts, increasing contrast, and sharpening.	Students will display competency through printing the midterm and final projects.

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 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.

Suggested Materials

- Flash drive, suggested minimum specs 32gb/USB 3.0
- INSTANT DRY Inkjet paper for pigment ink printers.
 - Epson Ultra Premium Luster Photo Paper - 8.5x11" - 50 Sheets - \$22.99 (or \$.50/ea from me)

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

- **Openlab.citytech.cuny.edu** - written assignments/learning logs:
<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/labrozzicomd3330d230sp20/>
- **Flickr** – photos from in class and homework assignments, portfolio of finished work:
<https://www.flickr.com/groups/comd3330sp20/>

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 some of your assignments in the grade book on Blackboard.

- **Homework: 27 points** – 9 assignments worth 3 points each. If an assignment is done conscientiously and on time, the student will receive the full credit. If the assignment is late or incomplete, one point will be subtracted for each week it is late or portion missing.
- **Learning Logs: 12 points** – Post to our OpenLab blog after every in-class shoot with your best photos from that session, how you achieved them, and what you learned.
- **Quizzes: 12 points & 9 points** – Two quizzes will cover photography terms and concepts we use in the course.
- **Midterm Project – “Telling a Story Through Photography” – 20 points** – Create 10 new images focused on sequential visual storytelling. These photos should tell a clear story from beginning to end. Just by looking through the photos a stranger should be able to understand everything that is happening in the photos. Focus on creating strongly composed series of photos with a clear subject.
- **Final Project – “Themed Portfolio” – 20 points** – A portfolio of 20 images that present a photographic theme. This could be anything from street photography, to glamour portraits, to long exposure. Check with me first on your project idea. Best 20 from at least 60 shots taken.

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 – January 30, 2020 – Course/Photography Overview

- Introductions, Review Syllabus, What makes a good photograph?
- Principles of composition: Rule of Thirds, Leading Lines, Diagonals, Framing, Figure to Ground, Fill the Frame, Center Dominant Eye, Patterns and Repetition, Symmetry
- Exposure, the exposure triangle: Aperture, Shutter Speed, ISO
- Signing up/joining OpenLab and Flickr group

Homework #1 – Photographer Blog Post: 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 6, 2020 – Field Study - Available/indoor light

- Hands on with Digital SLR's, review controls and settings, shooting with only available light
- Review Lightroom

Homework #2 – Composition Rules: Capture at least 20 photographs showing a clear use of the composition rules we've discussed. You can choose any subject, but all shots should clearly show rules such as framing, leading lines, symmetry or others. Select your best 3 shots (at least 1 unique rule in each) and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

Week 3 – February 13, 2020 – Studio Lighting Part I: Continuous Lights for Still Life

- Quiz #1
 - Review Studio Lighting: Hard vs. Soft light, light direction, bounced light, High-key vs. Low-key
 - Working in teams, set up and photograph a still life with a single continuous light and modifiers
- Homework #3 – Traveling Toys:** Capture at least 20 photographs of a *traveling toy*. All shots should show a toy or statue in different locales. 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 20, 2020 – Studio Lighting Part II: Lighting for Portraits Pt. 1

- Working in teams, set up and photograph portraits with continuous lights or speedlights and modifiers
 - Discuss Midterm Project
- Homework #4 – Relationship:** Capture at least 20 photographs with a focus on *relationship*. All shots should show a type of relationship, this can include people in a relationship or the physical relationship between other things. 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 – February 27, 2020 – Studio Lighting Part III: Lighting for Portraits Pt. 2

- Working in teams, set up and photograph portraits with studio strobes and modifiers
- Work on midterm project**

Week 6 – March 5, 2020 – Studio Lighting Part IV: Light Painting/Multiple Exposure Photography

- Quiz #2
 - Working in teams, set up and photograph Light Painting/Multiple Exposure photos
- Work on midterm project**

Week 7 – March 12, 2020 – Midterm Presentations

- Midterm Project Due & Presentations

Week 8 – March 19, 2020 – Studio Lighting Part V: Advertising Photography

- Working in teams, set up and photograph advertising products
 - Midterm Grades due back
- Homework #5 - Childhood:** Capture at least 20 photographs with a focus on childhood. All shots should show aspects or reminders of childhood. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

Week 9 – March 26, 2020 – Studio Lighting Part VI: Magazine Cover Shoot

- Working in teams, set up and photograph a magazine cover shoot
- Homework #6 - Conceptual Self Portraits:** Capture at least 20 photographs with a focus on conceptual self portraits. All shots should show yourself in some way, but where the idea (or concept) you come up with is the most important aspect of the photograph. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

Week 10 – April 2, 2020 – Studio Lighting Part VII: Public Service Announcement

- Working in teams, set up and photograph a PSA
- Homework #7 – Framing Portraits:** Capture at least 20 photographs with a focus on framing portraits. All shots should show a subject being framed by something in their environment. Select your best 3 shots and post them to the Flickr group. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

April 9 & 16, 2019 – No Class – Spring Recess

Week 11 – April 23, 2020 – Natural Light Portraits

- Photograph in the field to capture portraits using natural light. What environments work best?
 - Add in bounced light to support and enhance the natural light
- Homework #8 – Close Up Portraits:** Capture at least 20 photographs with a focus on close up portraits. All shots should show a subject close up, filling the frame entirely. 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 30, 2020 – Studio Lighting Part V: Street Photography

- Photograph in the field to capture street portraits
 - Discuss Final Project
- Homework #9 – Recreate a Photo/Painting:** Capture at least 20 photographs attempting to recreate a photo or painting. Use lighting, wardrobe, props and creativity to recreate the image as best as you can. Select your best shot and post it to OpenLab along with a copy of the original inspiration piece. Be prepared to discuss them at the beginning of next class.

Week 13 – May 7, 2020 – Outdoor flash/fill lighting

- Photograph in the field to capture portraits using natural light and flash with speedlites
- Work on final project**

Week 14 – May 14, 2020 – Action Portraits

- Photograph in the field to capture portraits in action, using the techniques and tools we've learned
- Work on final project**

Week 15 – May 21, 2020 – Final Project Presentations

- Final Project Due & Presentations
- Wrap up, thanks for joining me in Digital Photography II!