

Queens College
Digital Photography II/III
Fall 2023
Thursday 2pm-5:50pm

Art Department / Photography & Imaging
PHOTO 225-02, 335-02, 375-01
I-Building Rm 213

Instructor: Matt Greco
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Hours: By Appt
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Course Website: professorgreco.com

Course Description:

Intermediate Digital Photography will continue to advance student knowledge of the creative and technical aspects of using a digital still camera to capture digital images. Formal qualities of photography and imaging such as subject matter, point of view, composition, and shooting with natural and artificial light will be emphasized. Students will be introduced to the conceptual value of photography and be expected to develop their sense of “why” they take pictures – not just “how” to take pictures. We will study intermediate DSLR operation, lens focal length, introduce artificial lighting, and intermediate image processing. Various types and sizes of digital printing will be introduced and utilized as we learn about digital output. This course will examine more deeply how the ubiquitous “digital image” affects our everyday life and how, as photographers, we can contribute meaningfully to this affect. This course will include the close critique of your own images as well as images taken by your classmates. You will hone your ability to interpret and understand the avalanche of digital images we encounter during our day. This course will be as much about how to make good digital images as it will be about how to look at them and will introduce the notions of critical theory and critique in photography.

Course Objectives:

At the close of this course the successful student will have a comprehensive understanding of the operation of a digital single lens reflex (DSLR) camera as well as intermediate image processing, basic digital printing, and how to critique photography. Students will have a basic knowledge of various lens focal length and the use of artificial light. They will master a digital image workflow that includes familiarity with different file types, the software used to edit those files, and the software used to archive and manage those files. They will expand their vocabulary to include the proper terminology for creating and critiquing photographs. Students will use this vocabulary to engage in meaningful critique of their images and the images of their peers. They will demonstrate the ability to think creatively, form project ideas, and follow those ideas from conception to realization.

Course Requirements:

Students will be expected to complete all assignments on time and to the best of their ability. Students are expected to attend every class but life does happen so you get 3 absences, after that, additional absences will likely result in missed material and thus a lower grade. Be on time please; tardiness is as bad as absences; I will begin class a few minutes late to give everyone time to get settled in - do not abuse this. There will be 2 papers due (relax, they are both short papers) - one will relate to the film we watch. We will have several regular critiques and a final critique; attendance is required.

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should register with the Special Services Office by emailing QC.SPSV@qc.cuny.edu. For more information about services available to Queens College students, visit the Office of Special Services website: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/studentlife/services/specialserv/Pages/default.aspx>.

CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity:

Only your own photos, images and/or writing are permitted for use in projects. The unauthorized use of images and compositions that are not your own is considered plagiarism. Academic Dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion as provided at <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/>.

Course Website:

Please check our course website every week for updates to the syllabus or schedule, links to information and resources, and a student gallery page where we will showcase your work throughout the semester.

Grades:

Shooting assignments – 30%

Papers – 30%

Final portfolio (8 final prints, 600 images, critique comments) – 40%

Shooting Assignments (assignments require at least 200 images):**1- *Near & Far***

Use various focal lengths to change angle of view, perspective, object size. Print (5) 8.5x11 prints

2- *Abstract*

Practice abstract photography. Print (2) 16x20 prints

3- *Portraits*

Use various types of light – natural and artificial – to take images of people or animals or yourself, family, friends, neighbors, peers. Print (3) 11x14 prints

4- *Final Project (Student Choice):*

This is the final project with a subject of your choosing and include the thesis paper. Start thinking about this now. You will discuss this idea with me prior to shooting. Prints up to you but need to include (5) 8.5x11, (2) 11x14, (1) 16x20

Printing:

You will be creating prints with the program's printers. You will be utilizing the Klapper Imaging Lab to print files for this course. The prints will be paid for through your M&T fee. Students will be required to submit your files to the lab to be printed. Keep prints safe and clean; you will show these at critique.

Field Trip:

We will take a field trip into Manhattan to visit a museum or gallery to be determined. Attendance is required. Time will be allotted for travel to and from Queens College campus.

Papers:

You will write 2 papers for the semester; one will be a 2pg response/reaction to the film we watch or the museum/gallery we will visit. The other will be a 1-2pg final project proposal.

Watch the film and write a 1-2-page, double-spaced response/reaction paper to one or both. Take notes as you watch the film on aspects that strike you as particularly interesting or sad or inspiring. This is a response/reaction paper not a research paper. I want your thoughts, feelings, and reactions to the film not a synopsis. The idea is for you to find something that you connect to in the film, something that gives you pause to think and use that as inspiration for your paper. Ask yourself; what is the documentary trying to say? What does the filmmaker want you to think? Do you agree? Have you had any experiences like are portrayed in the film? Do my experiences agree with the filmmaker? How does this documentary make me feel? Does it change the way I think? Does this kind of work by wealthy and famous artists exploit their subjects? Did this project benefit the subjects? Were they better off to have experienced it? Or worse off?
or

Write a 1-2-page, double-spaced response/reaction paper to one or more works that you see during the field trip. This is a response paper not a research paper; I want to hear your thoughts, feelings, and reactions to the work, not a list of facts, figures, and dates. Ask yourself these questions: What is this a work of? What do I think the artist is trying to communicate? Does the work communicate this to me? What techniques did the artist use and did these enhance the power of the imagery? What emotional or intellectual reactions do I have to the work?

Your second paper will be based on your final shooting assignment. You will write 1-2 page, double spaced, proposal that describes what your final project is, why you want to take the images, how you will capture the images, and why it is important for these

images to be seen. You will also research and find one photographer whose work inspires you and write about why. Being a photographer is not only about being technically adept enough to successfully capture an image but also understanding why you want to take pictures in the first place. And why that picture? What does it mean to you to be an artist? To be a photographer? Why photography? What do my images mean to others? Have other photographers taken pictures like this before? Why did they take them? Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

Equipment:

Check all equipment to ensure good operation, especially jump drives and portable hard drives. Lost images, corrupted disks, etc. are not acceptable excuses for missed assignments. BACK UP EVERYTHING OFTEN.

Required:

- Camera – DSLR
- 64GB SD Card
- 128GB flash drive or portable external hard drive

Recommended:

- *The Essence of Photography: Seeing & Creativity* by Bruce Barnbaum
- *Classic Essays on Photography* by Alan Trachtenberg (edited)
- On Camera Flash
- Tripod
- Lens cleaning cloth

Schedule (subject to change):

Week 1: 8.31

course outline, review syllabus, required equipment, recommended reading.
MakeSTEAM Q – NSF Project Treatment Course - Survey

Week 2: 9.7

Check Logins – email, computer, Adobe
Review basic principles – shutter speed, aperture, depth of field, manual metering
Printing procedures for printing with lab
Photoshop workflow: RAW files, non-destructive editing
Lightroom workflow: archive/edit/output

Week 3: 9.14

Photoshop & Lightroom continued
Lenses and focal lengths
Focus artist: James Casabere
Shoot & Print Assignment #1 for 9.28

Week 4: 9.21

Movie & Discussion

Waste Land

Paper due 12.14

Week 5: 9.28

Critique #1 / Assignment #1 - show 5 images printed 8.5x11

Week 6: 10.5

Abstract Photography: what is it?

Digital Printing (C-print, Inkjet, laser) – large format digital printing

Shoot & Print Assignment #2 for 10.19

Week 7: 10.12

Workday

Klapper Digital Imaging Lab visit (Klapper 108)

Focus artist: Carrie Mae Weems

Week 8: 10.19

Critique #2 / Assignment #2 - show (2) images printed 16x20

Week 9: 10.26

Lighting: natural light, artificial light, on camera flash, studio lights (continuous and strobe)

Shoot & Print Assignment #3 for 11.16

Week 10: 11.2

Lighting cont.

Week 11: 11.9

Intermediate retouching

Workday

Discuss Final Project Ideas – Discuss thesis paper

Shoot & Print Assignment #4 for 12.14

Week 12: 11.16

Critique #3 / Assignment #3 – show (3) images printed 11x14

Week 13: 11.23

NO CLASS

Week 14: 11.30

Field Trip: **TBD**

Paper due 12.14

Week 15: 12.7

Workday Prep for Final

Focus artist: James Presley Ball

Week 16: 12.14

LAST DAY OF CLASS

Final Crit

Each student will show, at least, (5) final images 8.5x11, (2) final images 11x14, (1) final image 16x20 - papers due, 600 images due