

TENNESSEE CONSORTIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
**Course Syllabus**

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**BASIC DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

**COM 1190**  
Summer 2010

**Class Hours:** 3.0  
**Credit Hours:** 3.0

**Instructor:** Emily Naff  
**E-mail:**

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## Catalog Course Description

An introduction to basic digital photography focusing on skills useful for a graphic designer. Topics include basic operation of a digital camera, composition, camera controls, exposure, and basic image enhancement for creative use.

**Prerequisite(s) and/or Co-requisite(s):** None

## Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials

### Required Materials

- *Better Photo Guide to Digital Photography*, Jim Miotke
- Digital camera, minimum 3 megapixel, with programmable and manual modes [**NOTE:** the camera must meet certain specifications. These will be discussed at a mandatory orientation.]
- Camera manual
- Tripod
- Appropriate memory card(s) (4 gb minimum) and USB card reader
- Storage and backup device for saving photos (i.e., laptop computer and/or portable hard drive and/or cd/dvds)
- Three-ring binder (2" minimum depth) with inside pockets to hold textbook and exercises.
- Electric adapter for electronic devices

### Suggested Materials

- Camera bag, extra batteries, extra memory cards
- Laptop computer
- Photoshop or Photoshop Elements software

### Recommended Reading

- *HOW TO Shoot Great Travel Photos*, Susan McCartney
- *Learning to See Creatively*, Bryan Peterson
- *The A-Z of Creative Photography*, Lee Frost
- *Teach Yourself Photography*, Lee Frost
- *Creative Nature & Outdoor Photography*, Brenda Tharp

## I. Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Overview of course outline, syllabus, student expectations, required textbook and supplies. Getting to know your camera, setting it up correctly, discussion of shooting modes. Discuss file formats, resolution requirements, file compression, how to read a histogram. Establish guidelines for submitting photos. Field work: shooting assignments (exposure, depth of field, motion, and composition).
2	Further discussion on exposure and exposure compensation. Review and critique images. Discuss the "Rules of Composition" including framing, unique point of view, horizontal vs. vertical, color, line, shape, pattern, etc. Using the programmable and manual mode to control motion and depth of field. Review and critique images. Field work: shooting assignments (white balance, composition, portraits, sense of place, and night photography)
3	Selection and editing of the strongest images to prepare for presentation and print. Field work: Shooting assignments (night photography, sense of place, composition, architectural photography, street photography)

## II. Course Objectives

- A. Identify the standard parts of a digital camera and explain each function.
- B. Apply knowledge of camera operations to create properly exposed and focused photographs.
- C. Apply knowledge of aperture settings to achieve photographs that demonstrate both shallow and maximum depth of field.
- D. Apply knowledge of shutter speeds to achieve photographs that represent stopped and blurred motion.
- E. Identify and apply the elements of composition used in the creation of successful photographs.

## III. Instructional Processes

1. Students are expected to attend all classes and field trips, to be on time, and to stay until class is dismissed. Attendance is mandatory. Tardiness for any reason will affect the student's grade.
2. Ninety percent of homework will be shooting assignments that will require time, effort, and planning.
3. Shooting assignments will be awarded points on the following criteria: completion on time, following directions, sufficient number of photos to critique, and appropriate photos to the shooting assignment.

4. Students are expected to submit a final portfolio of images to the specifications outlined in class. Students will be expected to use critical thinking skills as they evaluate and edit their photos for final submission. Final images will be graded on the following criteria: exposure, focus, appropriateness of the assignment and creative composition or artistic merit.

## IV. Expectations for Student Performance\*

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to

1. Identify and explain the function of the basic camera parts without notes or other materials. (A)
2. List the basic file formats and color modes that the camera captures without notes or other materials. (A)
3. Identify the various parts of the histogram and evaluate exposure based on histograms without notes or other materials. (B)
4. Demonstrate how to download files from the storage card and backup files without notes or other materials. (A)
5. Demonstrate successful operation of an SLR camera to control exposure, focus, depth of field, and motion. (B)
6. Demonstrate knowledge of metering methods for difficult to meter scenes, including (a) all white/bright scenes, (b) all black/dark scenes, and (c) backlit scenes. (B)
7. Create photographs that demonstrate knowledge of principles of design and composition. (E)
8. Use critical thinking skills to evaluate success in achieving the objectives of the shooting assignments and to analyze other photographs. (E)

*\*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.*

## V. Evaluation

**Testing Procedures:** Test and quizzes will be administered by the instructor during scheduled class meeting times.

**Laboratory Expectations:** Students will be expected to participate in all scheduled excursions and field work.

**Research Paper:** If applicable

### Other Evaluation Methods

20%	Daily Assignments
30%	Tests and exams
50%	Review and critique of final portfolio of photographs

### Grading Scale

<b>90 – 100</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>80 – 90</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>70 – 80</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Below 70</b>	<b>F</b>

## **VI. Policies**

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices: Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination, writing papers or reports, solving problems, or completing academic assignments. In addition to possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

### **Instructional Hours**

Instructional hours for COM 1190 will be divided between classroom and field work. Fifteen to twenty hours of classroom will include time spent learning the camera, reviewing and critiquing images and learning basic digital imaging techniques. A minimum of 20 hours will be spent on excursions and field work to give students time to shoot their assignments with an instructor nearby to guide, direct and assist them with their assignments. See Itinerary for more details.

**ITINERARY**  
**BASIC DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**  
COM 1190

<b>DAY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>CLASS TOPIC</b>	
1	SAT		Depart Nashville for Rome	
2	SUN	Siena	Arrive Rome and transfer to Siena by train. Arrive Siena.	
3	MON	Siena	Class Time (3hours)	Getting to Know Your Camera, Exposure Basics, Downloading and backing up Images, Composition
4	TUES	Siena	Field Work: Siena (3hours)	Shooting and Exposure Modes, Depth of Field, Motion
5	WED	Siena	Field Work: Afternoon Excursion to Montepulciano (3 hours)	White Balance, Time of Day and Composition
6	THUR	Siena	Class Time (3hours)	Quiz #1, Review and Critique of Images
7	FRI	Florence	Field Work: Florence (3hours)	Night Photography
8	SAT	Florence	Free Time in Florence	
9	SUN	Siena	Free Time in Siena	
10	MON	Siena	Class Time (3hours)	Quiz #2, Review and Critique of Images
11	TUES	Siena	Field Work: Morning excursion to San Gimignano (3hours)	Exposure Compensation, Composition, Architectural Photography
12	WED	Siena	Field Work: Morning excursion to Pisa (3hours)	Composition, Architectural Photography, portraits
13	THUR	Siena	Class Time (3hours)	Quiz #3, Review and Critique of Images
14	FRI	Sorrento /Pompeii		
15	SAT	Sorrento /Pompeii		
16	SUN	Rome	Free Time in Rome, Hop on Hop off Tour of Rome	
17	MON	Rome	Class Time (3hours)	Quiz #4 Review and Critique of Photos
18	TUES	Rome	Field Work: Morning excursion to the Forum (3hours)	Time of day, composition, architectural photography
19	WED	Rome	Field Work: Rome (3hours)	Street photography, portraits
20	THUR	Rome	Class Time (3hours)	Final Exam, Edit and selection of final images
21	FRI	Rome	Class Time (3hours)	Final Images Due

