

Syllabus  
PHTC 1345. 001  
Illustrative Photography I  
Spring 2021

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Office Hours by Appointment

## South Plains College

### Illustrative Photography I

Instructor: Wes Underwood

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Class Web Site:

It is the policy of South Plains College for the Spring 2021 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.

**Course Description:** This course is a rigorous introduction to digital photography and the use of digital single lens reflex cameras, capturing images, composition, elements and principles of art, lighting systems, computer processing with Adobe Photoshop and image management.

#### **Objectives:**

- A. General Requirements:
  - a. Graduation from high school.
  - b. An 80 or higher on 4 point scale completion of high school photo course.
  - c. TSI compliant, as defined by SPC requirement, Math, English, and Reading.
- B. Communication Skills:
  - a. Adapt language for audience, purpose, situation, and intent.
  - b. Organize oral and written information.
  - c. Interpret and communicate information, data, and observation.
  - d. Give formal and informal presentations.
  - e. Apply active listening skills.
- C. Problem solving- the student will use critical thinking and interpersonal skills independently and in groups to solve problems.
- D. IT applications- students will demonstrate proficiency in basic information management through image management and storage, email, social media, writing and publishing, presentation, and database application.
- E. Safety:
  - a. Use good judgement related to specific environments used for photography projects.
  - b. Understand basic emergency procedures.

- F. Professional development:
  - a. Employ leadership skills.
  - b. Employ teamwork and conflict management
  - c. Participation in meetings
  - d. Employ mentoring skills
- G. Ethical decision making:
  - a. Exhibit ethical conduct related to client confidentiality, privacy of sensitive content, and providing appropriate credit for ideas and images.
  - b. Understand copyright laws in relation to use and duplication of images.
  - c. Respect of intellectual property when manipulating, morphing, and editing digital images.
  - d. Analyze the impact of photography on society, including concepts related to persuasiveness, marketing, and point of view.
- H. Time management, student will utilize time management and efficiency skills.
- I. Know and understand the basic functions of an SLR camera as demonstrated by the use of manual mode to create photographic compositions using the Rule of 3<sup>rd</sup> and depth of field.
- J. Understand simple lighting values associated with back light, front light, side light, shading, and highlights of basic lighting patterns.
- K. Understand ISO, shutter speed, and aperture settings of the exposure triangle as demonstrated by composition and appeal of images.
- L. Create a portfolio of diverse subject matter using basic principles of photography.

**Assessments:** Grading is based on evaluation critiques and rubrics of photographs captured for lessons, research papers, projects, prepared portfolios, and tests on digital photography concepts and technical terms. The class is rigorous. You must complete the lessons and show evidence of your learning. Do not expect to just take some pictures and pass. **Enroll in this class only if you want to learn Commercial Photography skills and are willing to do the work to gain credit.**

I embrace your mistakes and expect them. Learning is messy and it takes time and practice. Jump into the process and be willing to redo your work. The focus of assessments is on students showing evidence of their learning.

**Grading Scale:**

**Percentage categories**

|   |   |                |                          |     |
|---|---|----------------|--------------------------|-----|
| A | = | 90-100%        | Photo projects           | 80% |
| B | = | 80-89%         | Assessments/Tests        | 10% |
| C | = | 70-79%         | Participation/Attendance | 10% |
| D | = | 63-69%         |                          |     |
| F | = | lower than 63% |                          |     |

**Due dates** for assignments will be clearly posted in the classroom. It is critical to turn in work on time to stay on top of the work load. Students will complete most work in class, but class time is limited.

| Assignments  | Reading | Due Date | Quizzes |
|--|---------|----------|---------|
| <b><u>Unit 1: What is Digital Photography?</u></b><br><br>Defining digital photography - Capturing images: How did we get here?<br>Overview of Photography History<br>Features and Specifications in Digital Cameras:<br>How do camera's work?<br>Camera types-point and shoot and SLR<br>Orientation to camera<br>Camera controls for Exposure (time), Aperture (light), Priority and focusing<br>ISO settings<br>White Balance<br>Saving images<br>Basic computer photo file management<br>Copyright law and the "fair use doctrine"<br><br><b>Student Contract assignment</b> <b>-Due end of class day 1</b><br><b>Reading assignment:</b> <a href="http://www.geofflawrence.com">www.geofflawrence.com</a> all sections<br><b>Photo Assignment</b> 1a: The Frame - Controlling Exposure<br>1b: Photography Terms units 1-3 |         |          |         |
| <b><u>Unit 2: What makes a good photograph?</u></b><br><br>Composition Factors- Elements and Principles<br>Rule of thirds (Golden Mean)<br>Formal (centered and symmetrical)<br>Work with the image frame<br>Strategic placement (asymmetrical)<br>Lines of movement (diagonal)<br>Foreground frame (emphasize the subject)<br>Get close to your subject<br>See the image in your mind<br>Take many photos<br><br><b>Research Paper:</b> Famous photographer/presentation dates<br><b>Reading assignment:</b> <a href="http://www.kenrockwell.com">www.kenrockwell.com</a><br>How to make great Photographs<br><a href="http://www.geofflawrence.com">www.geofflawrence.com</a> all sections<br><b>Photo Assignment</b> 2a: Composition concepts cut and paste<br>2b:    Composition photo shoot                               |         |          |         |
| <b><u>Unit 3: Why is the lens the most creative tool?</u></b>  |         |          |         |

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Simple and compound Lenses:<br/> Focal length, resolving power, aberrations<br/> How a lens focuses<br/> The speed of a lens: F-stop<br/> Angle of view<br/> Perspective: Compression and expansion<br/> Macro Lenses<br/> Wide angle Lenses<br/> Telephoto Lenses<br/> Lens Hood to control flare<br/> Depth of Field</p> <p><b>Reading assignment:</b> <a href="http://www.geofflawrence.com">www.geofflawrence.com</a> all sections<br/> <b>Photo Assignment 3:</b> Controlling depth of field<br/> <b>Test 1:</b> Photography terms and concepts units 1- 3.</p> |  |  |  |
| <p><b><u>Unit 4: How can a still photograph capture motion?</u></b></p> <p>Electronic shutter systems<br/> Hand holding limitations and shutter speed<br/> Judging shutter speeds<br/> Pre focusing techniques<br/> Panning and zooming<br/> Long exposures- tripods<br/> Capturing moving lights at night</p> <p><b>Reading assignment:</b> <a href="http://www.geofflawrence.com">www.geofflawrence.com</a> all sections<br/> <b>Photo Assignment:</b> 4a: Capturing Motion<br/> 4b: Photography Terms units 4-6</p>  |  |  |  |
| <p><b><u>Unit 5: How does light and shadow affect images?</u></b></p> <p>Basic properties of light: Color, Value, Intensity<br/> Available Light<br/> Adding Light- Direct and fill flash<br/> Reflectors<br/> Light Metering<br/> Back vs. Front Lighting<br/> Light and Color in Composition</p> <p><b>Reading assignment:</b> <a href="http://www.geofflawrence.com">www.geofflawrence.com</a> all sections<br/> <b>Photo Assignment 5:</b> Manipulating Light, Shadow and Color<br/> <b>Test 2:</b> Terms and concepts for units 4-6.</p>                           |  |  |  |
| <p><b><u>Unit 6: How do I improve my photographs with Photoshop?</u></b></p> <p>Photoshop Workflow</p>  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fix brightness/contrast <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Levels</li> <li>b. Curves</li> <li>c. Shadows/Highlights Tool</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Fix Colors <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Levels (by channel)</li> <li>b. Curves (by channel)</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Fix imperfections (dust, blemishes, etc) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Healing brush</li> <li>b. Clone Stamp</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Other Fixes, improvements, modifications <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Perspective</li> <li>b. Layers</li> <li>c. Black and White Conversion</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Size for Output <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use Bicubic Smoother for going bigger</li> <li>b. Use Bicubic Sharper for going smaller</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Sharpen (unsharp mask)</li> <li>7. Output/Print</li> </ol> <p><b>Reading Assignment:</b> How to use Photoshop<br/> <a href="http://www.geofflawrence.com">www.geofflawrence.com</a> all sections</p> <p><b>Photo Assignment 6:</b> Work 6 photos through the Photoshop Workflow and Journal all of your Steps</p> |  |  |  |
| <p><b><u>Unit 7: Who is this person anyway?</u></b></p> <p>Portrait      –composition, props, studio, on location<br/> –lighting<br/> –lenses (depth of field)</p> <p>Directing models<br/> Photographing individuals<br/> Photographing groups</p> <p><b>Reading assignment:</b> <a href="http://www.geofflawrence.com">www.geofflawrence.com</a> all sections</p> <p><b>Photo Assignment 7:</b> Portraits</p>  |  |  |  |
| <p><b><u>Unit 8:      What is my best work?</u></b></p> <p><b>Photo Assignment 8:</b> Final Portfolio Best Work<br/> 10 images presented in a power point presentation to the class<br/> 10 images printed and professionally presented in a portfolio<br/> Write a statement that describes your rational for choosing your best work. What makes it your best work?</p> <p><b>Final Test on terms and concepts:</b></p>  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Attendance** is critical for your success. SPC policies apply. There will be no excused absences, but if you miss a class you need to refer to the class schedule, syllabus and assignments, and get notes from another student. Do not ask me for help understanding the concepts you missed until you have reviewed the material on your own.

**Procedures and classroom guidelines:**

- Follow Best Work Practices and common sense for everyone's Health and Safety, especially when using the equipment.
- Show respect, kindness, compassion and caring for others and yourself
- Take care of the cameras, computers and equipment, yours and others. Damaged or missing school property is your responsibility and will be replaced at your expense. (Please see the student/parent contract that is required to participate in Commercial Photography)
- Food and drink is not allowed in the classroom and computer lab. (It can damage equipment and work).
- Cell phones and personal music devices will be kept in your bag  
If phones are used in class you will get a warning, after that it can be confiscated.

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Access to a digital camera outside of class time** at least 8 mega pixels, ideally with manual settings to override auto features. New cell phone cameras are amazing. It may be a point and shoot or SLR. Do not run out and buy a digital camera for the class if you do not already have a camera. Come to class and learn about digital cameras to help inform your purchase.
2. **Note book:** Students will need to take notes in class from lectures and readings to be successful in retaining and applying their knowledge to practice.
3. **Have a dedicated 16B drive for this class.**
4. **Computer Access** Students need to have access to computer and photo editing software.
5. **Digital Memory and Storage:** Students will need a large UBS drive or external hard drive for storage of images. I recommend students obtain at least 16GB memory stick or thumb drive as a more convenient method of saving and transporting images.
6. **Printing** students are responsible for printing and print cost for all assigned print projects.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

### **ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT**

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office in the Student Health & Wellness Office, 806-716-2577.

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Syllabus Statement:**

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at:

([http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human\\_resources/policy\\_procedure/hhc.php](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php))

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.



## Syllabus Acknowledgement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the syllabus for PHTC 1345 [Illustrative Photography I]. I understand I am responsible for meeting the criteria as found in this syllabus and the SPC Student guide.

I further understand I am responsible for providing the listed supplies, and providing appropriate care for any and all equipment used in this class including but not limited to technology provided by SPC and or fellow classmates.

I will conduct myself with professionalism and ethical standards while “shooting” images and using images in any format/project.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_