Photography
COMM 1318 – Fall 2020

Instructor: Charles L. Ehrenfeld
Office: Communications Building, Room 158.
Office Phone: (806) 716-2448, or 2532.
E-mail: cehrenfeld@southplainscollege.edu
Class Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., CM 156.
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 9-9:30 a.m., 2:30-4 p.m.; Tuesdays &
Thursdays, 9-9:30 a.m., 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m.- noon.

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the basics of digital
photography, and includes instruction in camera operation, techniques and presentation
skills.

Required Text:

London, B. & Stone, J. (2017, or most recent). *A Short Course in Digital
Photography.*

Required Materials:

- Digital camera with manually adjustable focus, aperture and shutter speed
  controls (one will be provided).
- Digital photographic paper for Inkjet printer, 8 x 10, minimum of 25 sheets,
  though probably more will be needed; or pre-cut 5 x 7 packages; (Epson preferred
  for classroom photo printer, glossy finish).
- Storage device for photos (USB Flash Drives)
- Plastic protector sheets (optional)

Assignments:

1. **Five-minute papers**: Near the end of each class, you will have approximately five
   minutes to write down what you thought were a few of the main points made on the
   topic covered that day that you found interesting or other thoughts about the class.

2. **Photography Assignments**: Learning to take photographs is an important part of
   this course. You will have **7** graded photography assignments during the semester,
   each focusing on developing your skills and creativity.

3. **Exams**: You will have two exams (one written mid-term, one final) that cover the
   material presented in lectures and chapters covered in the texts. The final exam – due
   by the day of the scheduled final - will consist of five of your best photos taken for
   previous assignments (but you *must re-print* photos being turned in).

Course Grades: The grading scale is:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
below 60	F

Your grade will be determined by the following:

Five-Minute Papers (3 pts. each)	39 pts.
Photography Assignments	350 pts.
Exams (2)	200 pts.
Participation/Initiative**	5 pts.
Quizzes (1 20 pts, 1 50 pts.)	*70 pts.

*At least 2 announced quizzes; maybe several unannounced

**Good photojournalists need to show initiative in their professional lives. This portion of the grade is intended to reward students who exhibit such initiative in this course. The criteria include, but are not limited to: attending class; being on time for class; participating in a thoughtful manner in class discussions; turning in assignments on time (do not request deadline extensions); taking responsibility for your actions; and not whining.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
- Distinguish the parts and functions of a digital camera.
- Apply knowledge of camera operations to compose and capture digital photographs.
- Apply knowledge of digital imaging and image manipulation utilizing Photoshop software.
- Apply knowledge of Photoshop software to color correct photos.
- Identify flaws and make improvements to photographs produced.
- Differentiate between aperture and shutter speed and recognize how they work together to produce appealing images.

Deadlines: ALL deadlines are absolute. You need to get used to deadlines that exist in the off-campus world. Therefore, all assignments will be due at the *beginning* of each class, unless notified of a change by the instructor. Late assignments will be accepted but penalized.

Please Sanitize: You're encouraged to sanitize your desk and work space prior to leaving class. If using a computer, sanitize BEFORE and AFTER use.

Mask Policy: Masks are required to be worn in all college classrooms and hallways. *It is the policy of South Plains College for the Fall 2020 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.

ADA 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 to the Disability Services Office. Contact the Disability Services Office in the Student Services Building at (806) 716-2577.

Diversity Statement: In this class, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding 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 Carry Statement: 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 (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.

Academic Honesty and Professional Conduct Policy: The same standards and ethics will apply to students enrolled in this course as apply to news reporters and other media professionals. Violations of these standards will result in a failing grade for the assignment and immediate dismissal from the course will be considered. These standards include, but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You may not take material verbatim from other sources such as previously published photographs, the Internet, social media etc… To do so without permission is to plagiarize.

2. Ethical decision-making and upholding standards of decency are important. While nudity may be considered an art form by some, photographs of questionable taste will not be accepted.

3. The classroom is not a play room. Professional conduct is expected, and food and drink should be kept far away from cameras and computers.

Civility Code: As future journalism professionals, you are to communicate with each other in a professional and civil manner. We all may feel passionately about certain issues; however, passion is no substitute for a solid grasp of the facts and sound, logical reasoning. Disparaging comments about gender, ethnicity, religion, etc… will not be tolerated. 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.

Disruptive behaviors such as cell phones ringing, leaving and returning to class while in session, arriving late to class, talking with others during lectures/discussions, checking your e-mail or Facebook, sending/receiving text messages, eating or drinking in class, etc… will result in a substantial reduction in the participation portion of one's grade and a request that such students leave the class. Cell phones must remain turned off and out of sight during this class, or be put on vibrate only. They may only be activated in individual extenuating circumstances after consulting with the instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:

1). When discussing the history of photography, the student should be able to:
    1.1 Explain how the early ideas for photography came about.
    1.2 Name the earliest form of camera.
    1.3 Identify the key individuals who advanced the development of photography.
    1.4 Identify the significant developments in the history of photography.

2). When discussing the fundamental concepts of digital photography, the student should be able to:
    2.1 Explain the five basic stages of image production.
    2.2 Define pixel and explain its function.
    2.3 Define resolution and explain its significance for digital photography.
    2.4 Define pixelation.
    2.5 Explain factors that determine photo quality.

3). When discussing the fundamental concepts of digital imaging, the student should be able to:
    3.1 Explain how images are stored inside the camera.
    3.2 Recognize the factors that determine the number of images that can be stored.
    3.3 Explain the process of compression and its function.
    3.4 Differentiate between the types of file formats.

4). When discussing the parts and features of a digital camera, the student should be able to:
    4.1 Differentiate between the three types of camera viewing systems.
    4.2 Explain the features common to all film and digital cameras.

4.3 Identify parts found inside and on the body of the camera.
4.4 Recognize settings found on the mode dial.
4.5 Differentiate between the scene settings.

5). When discussing the repairing of flaws and the enhancing of digital photos using Photoshop software, the student should be able to:
5.1 Identify the clone stamp tool.
5.2 Apply knowledge of Photoshop software and demonstrate how to repair damaged, torn, creased or scratched images using the clone stamp tool.
5.3 Identify the healing brush tool.
5.4 Apply knowledge of Photoshop software and demonstrate how to enhance or repair damaged, torn, creased or scratched images using the healing brush.
5.5 Identify the patching brush tool.
5.6 Apply knowledge of Photoshop software and demonstrate how to enhance or repair damaged, torn, creased or scratched images using the patching brush.
5.7 Differentiate between the dodging and burning techniques using Photoshop software.
5.8 Apply knowledge of Photoshop software and demonstrate how to lighten or darken images using the dodging and burning techniques.

6). When discussing how a photographer can learn to see as a camera sees, the student should be able to:
6.1 Recognize how the viewfinder can be used as a cropping tool.
6.2 Explain and demonstrate how a photographer can change or alter what appears in a photo by changing the angle or point of view.
6.3 Differentiate between horizontal framing and vertical framing.
6.4 Differentiate between how a camera views a scene and how humans view the same scene.
6.5 Recognize eye/photo differences.

7). When discussing the significance of aperture, shutter speed and depth of field, the student should be able to:
7.1 Identify the concepts of shutter speed and explain its relationship to exposure.
7.2 Explain how aperture and shutter speed work together to control exposure.
7.3 Distinguish between the three factors that control depth of field.
7.4 Define depth of field.
7.5 Explain the concept of bracketing.

8). When discussing techniques for color correction, the student should be able to:
8.1 Identify contrast and apply techniques using Photoshop software to adjust the contrast of a photo.
8.2 Apply the Photoshop features of Levels and Curves to adjust the contrast of a photo.
8.3 Evaluate the color balance and color saturation of a photo.
8.4 Differentiate between hue and saturation.
8.5 Apply the Photoshop feature Variations as a color balance technique.

8.6 Apply the Photoshop feature of Unsharp Masking to sharpen the photo.

9). When discussing the importance of light and its relationship to photography, the student should be able to:
    9.1 Recognize the primary function of light.
    9.2 Distinguish between the three important characteristics of light.
    9.3 Identify the five different types of lighting.
    9.4 Explain the way to determine the direction of light.
    9.5 Differentiate between available and artificial light.

10). When discussing composition, the student should be able to:
    10.1 Define what is meant by composition.
    10.2 Identify the four basic elements of composition.
    10.3 Describe the nine compositional devices to make photos more interesting.
    10.4 Explain the Rule of Thirds.
    10.5 Identify the more common composition errors and explain how to avoid them.

11). When discussing how to compose environmental portraits, the student should be able to:
    11.1 Consider what to look for in choosing a subject.
    11.2 Consider the background and positioning of the subject.
    11.3 Recognize the importance of lighting, whether indoors or outdoors.
    11.4 Explain how to put a subject at ease prior to taking photos.

12). When discussing flash photography, the student should be able to:
    12.1 Explain the advantages of using a flash.
    12.2 Describe how a flash contributes to exposure.
    12.3 Summarize the Inverse Square Law.
    12.4 Define bouncing and explain the technique.
    12.5 Identify common flash problems and explain how to avoid them.

13). When discussing motion or action photography, the student should be able to:
    13.1 Recognize how the direction a subject is moving relates to the sharpness of the photo.
    13.2 Explain factors that affect how much an image will be blurred.
    13.3 Recognize how aperture and shutter speed work together to freeze motion.
    13.4 Identify ways to prevent camera movement.
    13.5 Define panning and explain how to apply the technique.

Tentative Course Schedule
(subject to change at the discretion of instructor)

Aug. 24   Introduction to the course/Discussion of Syllabus

Aug. 26   Lecture: A Little History

Aug. 31   Lecture: Digital Photography
                 (Read: Chapter 4)

Sept. 2   Lecture: Editing the Digital Image

Sept. 7   **Labor Day holiday! – No class!**

Sept. 9   Lecture: Parts of the Camera/Types of Cameras
                 (Read: Chapter 1)

Sept. 14   Lab Day: Beginning Adobe Photoshop CS

Sept. 16   Lecture: Cloning, Healing, Patching
                 (In-class exercise: photo damage repair)

Sept. 21   Lecture: Seeing Like a Camera
                 (Read: Chapter 9)
                 (***Quiz #1, 20 pts**.)
                 (***Digital Imaging Assignment Due!**)

Sept. 23   Lecture: Aperture/Shutter Speed/Depth of Field
                 (Read: Chapter 2)

Sept. 28   Lecture: All About Color
                 (Read: page 56; Chapter 5)

Sept. 30   Color Correction Techniques/Lab Day

Oct. 5   Lecture: Qualities of Light
                 (Read: Chapter 8)
                 (***Point of View Assignment Due**)

Oct. 7   Lab Day

Oct. 12   Exam Review/Lab Day

Oct. 14   ***Mid-Term Exam**
                 (***Light and Shadow Assignment Due**)

Oct. 19   Lecture: Photo Composition

Oct. 21   Lab Day

Oct. 26   Lecture: Motion Photography
                 (Read: page 19, pages 154-155)
                 (***Depth of Field Assignment Due**)

Oct. 28   Lab Day

Nov. 2   Lecture: Shooting People
                 (Read: pages 160-161)

Nov. 4   Lab Day

Nov. 9   Lecture: Using a Flash
                 (Read: pages 140-145)
                 (***Motion Assignment Due**)

Nov. 11   Quiz Review/Lab Day

Nov. 16   **Quiz #2 (50 pts.)**/Lab Day

Nov. 18   Lab Day

Nov. 23   Lab Day
                 (***Environmental Portrait Assignment Due**)

Nov. 25   **Thanksgiving break!**

Nov. 26   **Happy Thanksgiving !**

Nov. 30   Lab Day

Dec. 2   Wrap-up/Lab Day
                 (***Song Lyrics Assignment Due**

Dec. 7   **Final Exam – 10:15 a.m.**