



## PHO 210 Introduction to Studio Lighting COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2015

**Instructor:** Chad D. Smith, Assistant Professor  
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### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

##### Textbook Optional:

*Secrets of Studio Still Life Photography* by Gary Perweiler  
*Pro Techniques of Studio Photography*, by Jerry Fruchtmann  
*Professional Photographic Illustration Techniques*, Kodak 0-16

#### Course Description:

This course introduces the use of advanced studio and location lighting to create photographic illustrations in controlled environments. Lighting techniques are demonstrated and applied in a series of photographic exercises of both tabletop and portraiture. Medium format digital cameras and electronic flash are used to attain control of design, composition, contrast and color temperature. Along with the physical principles of light, concentration on aspects of design, composition, perception and content with an emphasis on technical mastery of photography studio equipment will be addressed

#### Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course students should demonstrate:

- the ability to use DSLR and medium digital format cameras in the studio and on location with strobe lighting.
- the ability to effectively and efficiently light a multitude of objects, i.e. people, glassware, shiny metal and textured subjects.
- the knowledge of how to produce a range of light qualities and ratio by balancing nature light to strobe equipment on location and in the studio
- how to edit, archive and process RAW files using digital asset management software
- put into practice the rules of composition & design by implementing technical solutions and inkjet printing
- an understanding of the photographic vocabulary and color theory by participation in critical evaluation regarding their own work and the work of others.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course will consist of a series of photographic assignments and exercises to assist the student in achieving the objectives of this course. Each week students will work on various combinations of shooting and written assignments, participate in critiques of both student and professional works along with discussions, readings, etc.

### Grading: “Grades are not given, they are earned”.

Students will receive a numerical grade that will be determined by performance on critiques, exercises, quizzes, blog site, web site, class and lab participation. These will be added up at the end of the semester and 100% of the total amount will be averaged for the semester’s final grade. All assessments, attendance, etc will count a total of 100 points each with the exception being Final Review. The Final Review will receive three grades in each of the following categories: Creativity, Technique, and Presentation and each will count a total of 100 points. At the end of the semester all the grades will be averaged and the following scale will be used: A = 100-90, B = 89- 80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60 and F = 59 to 0.

### Your final grade will be derived from several sources:

#### Class and lab participation:

The way you conduct yourself in class is extremely important. You should come to class and labs prepared. Note taking during lectures is essential. For critiques, I want to hear your thoughts and feelings about the photographs being presented.

#### Assignments and Exercises:

You will have weekly visual assignments and exercises that are graded on how well the specific problems have been solved. Please read carefully the Grading Scale handout.

#### Idea-books:

All notebooks must have the following:

1. Technical notes with examples and contact sheets for every assignment
2. Notes on assignment demonstrations and photographic examples given during class
3. Examples coming from magazines, the Internet, books, etc. with explanations/captions/ etc.

#### Final Critique:

Students will complete a series of self-directed photographs that will be presented in the final days of class in the form of a professional portfolio.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will have access to a Macintosh OS X computer and print lab equipment with all the software needed to complete photographic assignments and exercises. Students will need to provide the following:

- **35 mm DSLR camera minimum of 12 mega pixels**  
*Find the instruction manual and read it.*  
**Note: There are digital cameras in Check-Out for students to use.**
- **Memory Cards for cameras i.e. Compact Flash (CF), Secure Digital Card (SD card).**  
**Note: Cameras in Check-Out do not come with memory cards.**
- **Memory Card Reader**
- **One 500GB external hard drive (two hard drives would be better)**
- **Idea Book - Notebook** for taking notes during class & Lab, diagrams, examples etc.

## Expendables

- 50 DVDs or CDs
- 11 X17 inch inkjet paper
- (2) 20X24" sheets of white foam core
- (2) 20X24" sheets of black foam core or illustration board
- Tape: Black photo 1", Gaffer's/Duct Tape and Double sided
- Sharpie pens, China markers (black and White)
- Exacto knife, Box Cutter with Blades and Scissors
- Six "A" Clamps (Pony clamps, buy from hardware store) and Clothespins
- Little plastic mirrors (can make them) and small white and black cards to use as fill
- Soft small brush and Medium size paintbrush
- Small level (bullet level)
- Anti-static Cloth
- Canned Air
- 1/4-20 bushings for tripod
- Sturdy Luggage Cart or Toolbox to store all of the above.

**Note:** Be prepared to purchase additional items throughout the semester.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me through email or stop by during my office hours.  
Appointments are encouraged

**Email:** [Chad\\_Smith@tamuc-commerce.edu](mailto:Chad_Smith@tamuc-commerce.edu)

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 8:00am to 11:50am

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures:

#### Procedures & Policies for Submission of assignments

A. *Due Date:* All assignments and exercises are due on the date and time given by the instructor. Work that is late will have its grade reduced by 10 points for each class period it is late. All work handed in after critique will be considered late, including partially completed assignments. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor of any problems that might make a project late well before the due date. Five minutes before class is not good enough. If the work is not turned in by the fourth class period, the student will be given an "F" for that assignment. It is the student's responsibility to turn the work in; I will not ask for it or track you down.

**Note: All images must have been shot, processed and printed this semester for this class only.**

B. *Print Submission:* All work must be from files that were produced during this semester. No images from previous classes can be submitted. All photographs will be printed on 11 X 14" or larger inkjet paper and presented in a professional manner. Work must be handed in at the beginning of the critique designated for that particular assignment to be counted "on time".

**Note:** An incomplete grade may be granted if a student has some difficulty working on an assignment. The student must inform the instructor of the difficulty before the due date of the assignment to discuss the problem. More than 60% of the assignment must be completed. You will have one week (two class periods) from the original due date to complete the assignment. If the work is not turned in by then, the assignment will be counted as Late. If the work is not turned in by a total of 4 class periods from the due date, the student will be given an "F" for that assignment. Remember, it is the student's responsibility to get the work turned in on time.

*C. Resubmission of Assignments:* I encourage everyone to improve upon your work by re-shooting your assignments. Occasionally I may insist upon redoing an assignment. This should not be seen as a negative experience as school is the ideal environment to learn from your mistakes. **Please note that resubmitting work will not guarantee a better grade.**

**Guidelines for resubmissions:**

1. The project must have originally been turned in on time.  
*Note: Work handed in late or incomplete may not be resubmitted.*
2. Resubmitted assignments will be accepted up to two weeks after the original due date.
3. The new work must comply with the original project guidelines.
4. Make sure work is labeled with the assignment title.
5. The original work that was submitted initially must be included marked clearly.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required and is recorded at all class and lab meetings. Every student will be responsible for all information given during scheduled class and lab times. Attendance counts a maximum of 100 points. Students will start with 100 points and 10 points will be subtracted from the original 100 points for every day missed. You will lose 5 points for arriving after roll is taken. **Note: A total of 4 absences from any class meetings (lecture or lab) could result in a failing grade ("F") for the course or dropped from the class.** Excused absences are listed under Class Attendance (A13.02) in the A&M-Commerce Procedures. Verifiable excuses for absences must be turned into the professor in a timely manner.

**University Specific Procedures:**

*ADA Statement*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

*Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**Your final grade will be derived from the following sources:**

**1. Class Participation:**

The way you conduct yourself in class is extremely important. You should come to lectures and labs with questions from the assigned reading. Note taking during lectures and labs is essential. During critiques I want to hear your thoughts and feelings about the photographs being presented.

**2. Lab Participation:**

Labs will generally be devoted to learning software and inkjet printing.

**3. Assignments and Exercises:**

You will have weekly visual assignments that are graded on how well the specific problems have been solved. Each assignment, unless otherwise noted, will be given a numerical grade. Exercises will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

**4. Quizzes and Exams:**

You will be given periodic quizzes on the assigned readings, lectures and demonstrations plus a mid-term and final exam.

**5. Final Project:**

Students will submit a final project that will consist of prints from past assignments and new work.