

**Tompkins Cortland Community College**  
**Master Course Syllabus**

**Course Discipline and Number: ART 212**

**Year: 2024-2025**

**Course Title: Digital Photography**

**Credit Hours: 3**

## **I. Course Description**

This course emphasizes the production of creative photography in a digital environment. The works of digital photographers are studied in the context of contemporary photography. The course emphasizes manual digital camera use and the skills needed to accurately process and print digital images. ART 212 fulfills the SUNY General Education The Arts Knowledge and Skills Area, but does not satisfy a liberal arts requirement. Prerequisites: ART 117; prior completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, ENGL100. 3 Cr. (2 Lec., 2 Lab.) Fall semester.

## **II. Additional Course Information:**

1. Digital Photography is a required course for the Photography A.S. degree program.
2. Students are required to work on assignments outside of class using the required photo editing and manipulation software for the course.
3. Students will need to shoot photographs outdoors and outside of class time.
4. This course consists of at least 100 minutes of lecture and 100 minutes of lab work each week for the fifteen-week semester.
5. The course has a fee of approximately \$150 to cover course materials. (This fee does not cover the course textbook.)
6. An adjustable DSLR digital camera with manual settings is required. A limited number of cameras are available on a rental basis from the Photography Department and the college library. Please check with the instructor for more information on recommended cameras.

## **III. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Create technically proficient digital photographs and prints that display artistic expression.
2. Apply the principles and elements of art and visual communication to digital photographic compositions.
3. Critique and evaluate course assignments and the work of contemporary and historically relevant photographers using relevant terminology.
4. Implement the creative process.

## **IV. Tompkins Cortland Institutional Learning Outcomes; Program Learning Outcomes; SUNY General Education Competencies and Knowledge and Skills Areas**

### **Tompkins Cortland ILOs – N/A**

Complete this section for “service” courses only (e.g., courses that are required of all students; courses that are not program specific but satisfy liberal arts requirements; or commonly used in multiple academic programs to meet non-program-specific requirements). Check only Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) that are meaningfully developed and assessed in this course. For each ILO chosen, include the SLO to which it aligns.

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Students will:

- ☐ Communicate effectively, in oral and written forms, taking into consideration audience and purpose.
- ☐ Apply principles and methods of scientific inquiry and quantitative reasoning appropriate to their discipline.
- ☐ Use information, critical thinking, and the creative process to solve problems and reach conclusions.
- ☐ Use technology appropriate to their discipline.
- ☐ Describe the ways in which social, economic, or environmental sustainability depends on their own and the collective contributions of a diversity of ideas and people.

### **Program Learning Outcomes**

Complete this section for program-specific courses (e.g., those that share the same discipline code as the academic program or satisfy requirements in related programs). List the academic program(s) here and note which Student Learning Outcomes align to specific Programmatic Learning Outcomes. Please see the MCS Instructions for more details.

Specify the Academic Program: **Photography A.S.**

PLO 2: Produce art and photographic works that employ the principles and elements of visual design.

SLO 2: Apply the principles and elements of art and visual communication to digital photographic compositions.

### **SUNY General Education Competencies**

If this course assesses a SUNY GEN ED Competency, check all that apply and indicate which course outcome(s) address each checked item:

☐ CRITICAL THINKING & REASONING- Students will:

- a. clearly articulate an issue or problem;
- b. identify, analyze, and evaluate ideas, data, and arguments as they occur in their own or others' work; acknowledge limitations such as perspective and bias; and
- c. develop well-reasoned (logical) arguments to form judgments and/or draw conclusions.

☒ INFORMATION LITERACY - Students will:

- a. locate information effectively using tools appropriate to their need and discipline; evaluate information with an awareness of authority, validity, and bias; and demonstrate an understanding of the ethical dimensions of information use, creation, and dissemination.

SLO 3: Critique and evaluate course assignments and the work of contemporary and historically relevant photographers using relevant terminology.

☒ SUNY GENERAL EDUCATION KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AREA(s): **The Arts**

For courses that are approved to meet one (or more) of the ten SUNY General Education Knowledge and Skills Areas, indicate which area the course fulfills, and which outcome(s) are aligned with the SUNY outcomes for that area:

SUNY SLO: Students will demonstrate an understanding of at least one principal form of artistic expression and the creative process inherent therein.

Course SLO 1: Create technically proficient digital photographs and prints that display artistic expression.

☐ This course does not address any of the above Tompkins Cortland ILOs, PLOs, or SUNY General Education Competencies or Knowledge and Skills Areas.

## V. Essential Topics/Themes

1. Using a manual adjustment digital camera (DSLR)
2. Image manipulation
3. Digital photo editing
4. Scanning
5. Digital file management
6. Digital file storage
7. Digital color printing
8. Proper use and care of equipment
9. Presentation of prints
10. Critiquing and analyzing photographic work
11. Creative and expressive applications of photography
12. Craftsmanship
13. Artistic photographic composition
14. Visual communication
15. Photographic compositional techniques and framing and the use of grid systems

## VI. Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
1. Course Assignments including documentation of applying the creative process	50-70%
2. Exam/quizzes and/or written reflections	10-30%
3. Participation in critiques and discussion	10-30%

**Texts –** ☐ Required ☒ Recommended ☐ Used for more than one course (list courses)

	OER
1. Stone, Jim, and Barbara London. <i>A Short Course in Photography: Digital</i> . Pearson, 2018.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. <i>Digital Photography School</i> , <a href="https://digital-photography-school.com/">https://digital-photography-school.com/</a> .	

*Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.*

## VIII. Bibliography of Supplemental Materials

1. Davis, Harold. <i>Composition &amp; Photography: Working with Photography Using Design Concepts</i> . Rocky Nook, 2022.
2. Hirsch, Robert, and Greg Erf. <i>Exploring Color Photography: From Film to Pixels</i> . Focal Press, 2015.
3. Barnbaum, Bruce. <i>The Art of Photography: A Personal Approach to Artistic Expression</i> . Rocky Nook, 2017.
4. Hirsch, Robert. <i>Seizing the Light: A Social &amp; Aesthetic History of Photography</i> . Routledge, 2017.
5. Barrett, Terry. <i>Criticizing Photographs: An Introduction to Understanding Images</i> . Routledge, 2021.
6. Freeman, Michael. <i>The Photographer's Eye Remastered 10th Anniversary: Composition and Design for Better Digital Photographs</i> . Octopus Publishing Group, 2017.
7. Hirsch, Robert. <i>Photographic Possibilities: The Expressive Use of Concepts, Ideas, Materials, and Processes</i> . Routledge, 2017.
8. Orvell, Miles. <i>American Photography</i> . Oxford University Press, 2003.
9. Halberstam, Judith, et al. <i>Rose is a Rose is a Rose: Gender Performance in Photography</i> . Edited by Jennifer Blessing, Guggenheim Museum, 1997.
10. Duganne, Erina. <i>The Self in Black and White: Race and Subjectivity in Postwar American Photography</i> . Dartmouth College Press, 2010.

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## IX. Other Learning Resources

<b>Audiovisual:</b> Online professional training tutorials
<b>Electronic:</b> Online professional training tutorials
<b>Other:</b> None specified

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for academic adjustments. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.

**Academic Integrity:** Every student at Tompkins Cortland Community College is expected to act in an academically honest fashion in all aspects of their academic work: in writing papers and reports, in taking examinations, in performing laboratory experiments and reporting the results, in clinical and cooperative learning experiences, and in attending to paperwork such as registration forms.

Any written work submitted by a student must be their own. If the student uses the words or ideas of someone else, they must cite the source by such means as a footnote. Our guiding principle is that any honest evaluation of a student's performance must be based on that student's work. Any action taken by a student that would result in misrepresentation of someone else's work or actions as the student's own — such as cheating on a test, submitting for credit a paper written by another person, or forging an advisor's signature — is intellectually dishonest and deserving of censure.

Several degree programs offer student learning opportunities (such as internships, field work, and clinical experiences) outside the standard classroom setting. As part of the learning process, students must understand and engage in conduct that adheres to principles guiding employment within the professional workplace. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, academic integrity, accountability, reliability, respect, use of appropriate language and dress, civility, professional ethics, honesty, and trustworthiness. Disciplinary action may be initiated for inappropriate conduct occurring while participating in any course-related project or event.