



**UTEP Syllabus – Summer 2016**  
Digital Photography COMM 3316 CRN 31352  
Mon-Thurs Class 9:00 am - 11:30 am – Education 102

**I. COURSE INFORMATION**

**SEMESTER & YEAR:** Summer 2016

**COURSE NAME & CRN:** COMM 3316 Digital Photography CRN 31352

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**TEXTBOOK:** Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age  
by Robert Hirsch – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1<sup>st</sup> edition may also be used)

**MATERIALS:** You will need a DSLR with one of the following lenses: 18mm – 55mm, 18mm – 135mm, or a 50mm. If you have an older, 35mm film camera, you may use that as well.

External HD (size that fits your budget) or USB

2 – 3 CD's or DVD's for your final projects OR a USB (that will not be returned)

**II. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Steve Lama

**OFFICE LOCATION:** EDUC 102

**OFFICE HOURS:** Immediately following class **AND BY APPOINTMENT**

**PHONE:** (915) 747-5129 (Communication office and leave me a message)

**EMAIL:** slama@utep.edu (**ONLY!!!**)

**WEBPAGE:** stevelama.com

**III. COURSE CONTENT**

**A. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

COMM 3316 – Digital Photography

Use of digital photography for effective communication including journalistic story-telling and design in advertising, newspapers, and magazines, in both traditional and web-based media platforms. Prerequisites: COMM 2373 and COMM 2344, each with grades of "C" or better, and departmental approval.

**B. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This class will introduce the student to the basics of Photography. We will study basic controls of the camera and how to use them to create dynamic images. The

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students will be given a balance of technical exercises to demonstrate their understanding of concepts we cover in class through lecture and readings. As the class progresses, the student will become more familiar with the esthetics of good composition, proper exposure, and printing techniques to create special effects.

I begin each class/semester using a Teacher-centered teaching approach and transition into a more Student-centered teaching approach, shifting the focus of activity from the teacher to the learners. By offering "open lab" hours beginning mid-semester, this allows students to use class time to work on assignments and provides opportunities for me to offer more individualized or small group one-on-one critiques and evaluations. I can then focus on specific questions and not tie up class time covering questions that may not apply to all students; for example I can repeat basic concepts and ideas for those who need that while allowing me to move into more complex topics for those who are already at a more intermediate or advanced level with the course subject matter. This time also allows me to give specific feedback on the progress of the assignments before they are due, because at the end of the semester, it's too late to correct or fix any problems that may have arisen.

**C. LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

- Define terms commonly used in Photography
- Identify the trouble areas in taking pictures
- Learn how to “see” photographs
- Learn the importance of compositional elements
- Become familiar with the camera, the camera’s controls, and camera accessories
- Understand basic image editing and manipulation techniques

**D. ASSIGNED READINGS:**

Chapter 1 Why We Make Pictures: A Concise History of Visual Ideas

Chapter 2 Design: Visual Foundations

Chapter 3 Image Capture: Cameras, Lenses, and Scanners

Chapter 4 Exposure and Filters

Chapter 5 Seeing with Light

Chapter 6 Observation: Eyes Wide Open

Chapter 7 Time, Space, Imagination, and the Camera

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Chapter 8 Digital Studio: Where the Virtual Meets the Material World  
Chapter 9 Presentation and Preservation  
Chapter 10 Seeing with a Camera  
Chapter 11 Solutions: Thinking and Writing about Images  
Chapter 12 Photographer on Assignment

*Please see calendar of events/topics for specific details*

**E. ASSIGNMENTS:** Below are the assignments, specific details to follow:

Any assignment you submit may be used in this class or any future class for critique, discussion, or as an example to help discuss and clarify assignment requirements!

1. Time of Day (3 Photos)
2. Line, Shape, Form, Texture, Pattern (5 Photos)
3. Shadow(s) (1 Photo)
4. Pam, Stop, Blur, Depth of Field (5 Photos)
5. Reflection(s) (1 Photo)
6. Silhouette(s) (1 Photo)
7. Mood/Dramatic/Low light (1 Photo)
8. Inside out/Upside Down (1 Photo)
9. People at Work (1 Photo)
10. Environmental Portrait (1 Photo)
11. Social Documentary (1 Photo)
12. Self Portrait (1 Photo)
13. Special Effects (all the photos used to create the "new" image)
  - Group missing person
  - New Sky
  - Photomontage
  - Digital "Art"
14. Lab Practicum (3-5 Photos)

**DUE DATE for ALL FINAL projects is the last week of the semester.**

**F. GRADING SCALE:**

Assignments: = 550 points (55%)

Exams/Tests (they are all the same): = 150 points (15%)

Lab practicum/exercise: = 150 points (15%)

Attendance/Pop-Quizzes: 150 points (15%)

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Grading of the assignments are on a Pass/Fail basis. In brief, the score of an 80 means the assignment meets the minimum requirements of the assignment. For those projects that exceed expectations, the grade will increase in five (5) point increments. The opposite will be applied if I feel there was a lack of expectations. The list of elements that are taken into consideration for grading are listed below:

**ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GRADED USING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- Does the photograph fit or address the assignment?
- Technical elements (exposure, lighting, camera mode, focus, etc.)
- Composition (rule of thirds, balance, foreground/background, etc.)
- Saved and labeled correctly
- On-time

Final grades will follow the below scale:

1,000 – 900	= A
899 – 800	= B
799 – 700	= C
699 – 600	= D
599 – 0	= F

**Attendance: (15%) 150 points**

Class participation is primarily based on your attendance and submission of progress assignments as requested. Un announced pop-quizzes might be given if overall attendance begins to drop and those scores will be averaged into your attendance score.

**Exams/Quizzes/Tests: (15%) 150 points**

Exams/Quizzes/Tests will cover class lecture and the textbook. They will be a mix of multiple choice, True/False, fill in the blank, and on occasion short answer. Any missed exams/quizzes may be made-up at the end of the semester, as NO make-up exams/quizzes will be given until then. If you miss the FINAL EXAM/QUIZZ, you will receive a “0” on that exam/quiz which will NOT be dropped or adjusted and CAN NOT be made-up! We WILL meet for a FINAL during the assigned FINAL exam time period as set by the University. As part of your FINAL you will be given a self-evaluation that is REQUIRED to complete, failure to complete will result in a grade reduction. The use of Cellular phones (or any other digital communication device) WILL NOT be permitted during ANY EXAM/QUIZ.

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**Lab practicum exercise assignment: (15%) 150 points**

This practicum will test your ability to apply what you have learned this semester through an exercise assignment that will be given at the end of the semester. Unlike the assignments where you had basically the semester, you will have a limited time frame to complete your task to simulate a real-life crunch deadline scenario.

**Assignments: (55%) 550 points**

These are graded as pass (80) or fail (0), provided they meet the assignment descriptions & course expectations. Weight distribution will be evenly distributed over the number of assignments assigned. Any assignment you submit may be viewed in this class for group critique or used as an example in any future classes.

You may be required to submit (weekly) progress reports/assignments; these may be either one-page progress reports or “rough drafts” of your actual assignments. You will be given ONE (1) freebee concerning weekly “progress” assignments. After that one exception, late assignments will fall under the late work policy described below.

*I = may be penalized points or to complete additional required work ranging from 50% additional projects to 2X the number of assignments. Each case will be taken individually and require different terms. Lastly, it is your RESPONSIBILITY to complete, as I will NOT keep track of you and where you are in completing your incomplete. Incompletes will automatically become an “F” if not completed within 12 months from the date of issue. If you DO NOT complete within the 12-month period and your grade turns into the “F” I WILL NOT accept your unfinished work and the “F” will stand! If you delay finishing your incomplete and wait till the last month of the year given to finish, you may forfeit the opportunity to complete it as agreed upon when you received your incomplete. I WILL NOT accept projects in the 12th month unless we have met and made proper arrangements BEFORE then. Your procrastination does not become my emergency to deal with at that point. I will NO longer assign an “I” UNLESS you request it BEFORE final grades are due. If you do not care enough to finish the course work OR request the incomplete, then I will not assign one by default.*

**Drop policy:** It is YOUR responsibility to drop the class by the drop date in order to receive a “W” in the course. If a student’s name remains on the final roster, a letter grade must be assigned based on the work received by the instructor for the semester. I will NOT drop you AFTER the drop date; the only exception will require both department chair and dean to approve your request.

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**IV. RULES, CLASSROOM POLICIES/ ETC.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Will be taken daily, except for “open lab” days. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will NOT receive credit for attending that day. Unannounced “exit” attendance may be taken on occasion.

If you have to leave for any reason during class, you are asked to gather all your belongings when you do leave class, as I do not allow coming and going during lecture.

**LATE WORK:**

Late work will be accepted but penalized a minimum of one (1) full letter grade reduction of your FINAL CALCULATED grade if turned in within one (1) hour after the final due date/time. After one (1) hour and no later than two (2) hours, the most you will receive is a “D” or the equivalent points that = a “D.”

**TECHNOLOGY:**

The recording (Audio or Video) of class lectures, presentations, demos, etc. is strictly prohibited as covered under national copyright laws. This is also a component to help ensure class interaction.

**RECORDING (Audio or Video) of ANY LECTURE is strictly prohibited!**

The use of technology (laptops, phones, tablets, etc.) is prohibited unless we have spoken BEFORE hand or if it is that day’s discussion or activity.

If I see or even suspect that you are on your phone, you will be asked to gather all your belongings and leave. On the second occurrence, you will be asked to gather all your belongings, leave the class, and your FINAL course grade will be reduced by %15. If there is a third occurrence, you will be asked to gather all your belongings, leave the class, and I will drop you within 24 hours with the appropriate grade at that time.

**PLAGIARISM:** All students are expected to turn in original work. Writing assignments are part of the final grade criteria. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are unprofessional and will not be tolerated. Evidence of such activity will be turned over to administration for review to appropriate office(s).

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**V. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

The University of Texas El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

**VI. CASS POLICY**

- (1) If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). Or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.
  
- (2) As per Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP needs to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services. You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability.

Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Center for Accommodations and Support Services Office (CASS) at The University of Texas at El Paso.

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VII. **COURSE CALENDAR** (Daily) *Subject to change!*

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>June 7</b>	<b>June 8</b>	<b>June 9</b>	<b>June 10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classes begin</li> <li>• Introduction to class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet outside with cameras!</li> <li>• Go over assignments in detail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census Day</li> <li>• Meet outside with cameras!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam 1 chapters 1-4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No class</li> </ul>
<b>June 13</b>	<b>June 14</b>	<b>June 15</b>	<b>June 16</b>	<b>June 17</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review previous weeks assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet outside with cameras!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review for exam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam 2 chapters 5-8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No class</li> </ul>
<b>June 20</b>	<b>June 21</b>	<b>June 22</b>	<b>June 23</b>	<b>June 24</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review previous weeks assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet outside with cameras!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review for exam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam 3 chapters 9-12</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No class</li> </ul>
<b>June 27</b>	<b>June 28</b>	<b>June 29</b>	<b>June 30</b>	<b>July 1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to Photoshop</li> <li>• Meeting location TBD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Lab to work on your photos for the Special Effects Assignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue Photoshop</li> <li>• Meeting location TBD</li> <li>• Go over Lab Practicum assignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Lab to work on Lab Practicum assignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Exam from review sheet</li> <li>• 10:00 am – 12:45 pm</li> </ul>

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