MA C102: Digital Imaging Syllabus

Dates

August 27 - December 14, 2007
3 Units

Description

This course provides beginning through intermediate concepts in digital imaging. Concepts covered include photo retouching and enhancing, original creation of composite images from photographs and artwork, drawing and painting original digital artwork, and the creation of web graphics. Students will incorporate basic design principles in their digital photographs and compositions.

Instructors

Vickie Taton. Vickie is the primary instructor for this class and will be interacting with you, providing feedback, and grading your assignments. She has a Bachelors of Fine Art in Painting from the University of Nevada Reno. She also teaches digital imaging and design at Big Pine High School. She loves digital media and enjoys helping students develop their creative skills. You can reach Vickie at vtaton@gmail.com

Suzie Ama. Suzie will be providing weekly live demonstrations through a browser-based software, called Breeze. See below for more information about these demonstrations. All questions relating to the course should be directed to Vickie, the primary instructor, outside of these live meetings.

Cori Ratliff. Most of the course content, including the lectures and supplemental tutorials have been written by Cori Ratliff and are used with her permission. All of her materials are protected by copyright law.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe the basic characteristics of raster images.
- Apply advanced tonal and color correction to digital photographs.
- Create accurate selections with the selection tools, quick masks, alpha channels, and paths.
- Select from a variety of brush settings to paint with varied effects.
- Critique fine art and digital paintings for use of design elements and principles.
- Integrate design elements and principles to construct a composite image with layers, layer blending modes, layer styles, adjustment layers, type layers, and filters.
- Explain the differences between layer masks, vector masks, and clipping masks.
- Compare and contrast the RGB and CMYK color spaces and explain gamut limitations.
- Design a web page and use slices to optimize and export images.

- Create rollover effects and animations optimized for the web.
- Describe methods for digital input and output.
- Explain copyright issues.

Course Requirements

Students must have their textbook(s) and software the first day of class. If you anticipate any shipment delays from a particular retailer, you should find an alternate source that has the product in stock and ships overnight.

Textbooks

- Adobe Creative Team (2007). *Adobe Photoshop CS3 Classroom in a Book.* Berkeley: Adobe Press. ISBN-10: 0321492021
  (Note that the software application does not come with the book and must be purchased separately)
- Lauer, D., Pentak, S. (2006). *Design Basics, Multimedia Edition.* Wadsworth. ISBN: 0495128457

Software (online classes only)

- **Adobe Photoshop Extended CS3.** If you plan to complete the Web Design certificate or degree, purchasing one of the Adobe Creative Suite packages is a better value to obtain all the software you'll need. Academic discounts are also available.
  (Purchase info: http://www.academy-webdesign.com/program/costs.html#Software)
- **Web Browser.** You should use only the latest version of your favorite browser. Older versions may not be compatible with all of the features in the Moodle class site.

System and Connectivity Requirements (online classes only)

See: http://www.adobe.com/products/creativesuite/design/systemreqs/ (based on Adobe Creative Suite 3 Design Premium. The Adobe Creative Suite 3 Master Collection, which includes motion graphics and video applications has more stringent requirements.) Both Windows and Macintosh platforms are acceptable for this course.

Students can successfully complete the course with dial-up internet connectivity. However, if students wish to participate in optional weekly live presentations, they should have access to DSL connectivity or faster. If you don't have this at home, accessing these demonstrations at a public or school library might be a viable option.

Requisite Skills

This is an entry-level course. No previous knowledge of Photoshop is required. Students should have strong skills in computer and internet use, however. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- opening, saving, and managing files and directories
- installing software, plug-ins, and fonts
- troubleshooting operating system errors
- navigating the Web
- researching the Web
- sending and receiving e-mail with attachments

Take this quiz to see if you are ready for an online course.

The Class Web Site

This class site resides in a course management system called Moodle, which promotes active learning and socially constructed knowledge. Most students find this environment very interesting and engaging. There are some ways that you can personalize Moodle to make it more efficient for you to use and to help your classmates get to know you better.

Profile Settings

From the **Administration** block in the left column of the home page, go to **Edit Profile**, edit the following information:

- For **Forum Tracking**, choose **Yes: highlight new posts for me**
- Indicate where you're from in the City/Town field
- Enter a **Description** about yourself.
- By default, discussion forum posts are also e-mailed to students in addition to appearing in the forum. If you do not want posts e-mailed to you, choose **No, don't automatically subscribe me to forums** from the **Forum auto-subscribe** menu.
- If you want to retain the default auto-subscription, there are options for how you want to receive those e-mails in the **E-mail digest type** menu.
- You can upload a photo or graphic, which will display with your name in discussion postings and other assignments.
- You can opt to provide other contact information, such as web address, AIM, ICQ, etc.

Home Page Views

The default view in the home page is to present a persistent block at the top of the middle column, and then the weeks' blocks cascade down the column below. During the first week of class, you'll only see the persistent block and the block for Week 1. However, as each week is revealed during the semester, the current week will be at the bottom of the page.

After a few weeks, a lot of scrolling is required to navigate to the current week's block. However, you can use the **Section Links**, located at the top of the first column, to jump to the current week.

Section Links

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Jump to current week

Alternatively, you can hide all but the current week by clicking the **rectangle icon** (see below) at the top-right corner of the current week's block. In this collapsed view, you can also use the Section

Links to replace the single visible block with a different week. (You'll want to do this every Monday morning when the "current" week changes to the next week—Moodle doesn't change it for you.)

□

If you ever want to view all of the weeks again, click the double rectangle icon, which expand the view again.

The mini-blocks in the left and right columns can also be minimized (collapsed down to the heading) by clicking on the minus sign icon. To expand it again, just click the plus sign icon.

Calendar

You can add your own events and reminders to the calendar on the home page. Click **New Event** in the **Upcoming Events** block in the right column of the home page. Fill out the form as prompted.

You can upload a personal picture or add additional contact information by clicking Edit Profile in the Administration box on the left. Turning Forum Tracking on is also helpful for immediately seeing if there are any unread discussion posts in the discussion forums.

Everything you need each week is linked from the home page. Each week, I will add a new content section with that week's readings and assignments. The current week's section has a blue border. The section at the top of the page is persistently visible, and I often place links there that I want you to have access to all of the time.

As we move into Week 2 and beyond, those sections will become visible and populated with content. You can scroll down to see the new content or use the Section Links located in the upper right of the home page to jump to the current week.

If you only want one week's section to be displayed at a time, you can click the rectangle icon in the upper right corner of the current week's section box. Hiding other sections can reduce the clutter on the home page, but every Monday morning, you need to remember to unhide the other sections (click on the double rectangle icon in the upper right corner of the displayed section), and then subsequently click the Show icon on the new week.

The Moodle Student Guide and Moodle FAQ can answer other questions you may have about using and navigating Moodle.

Assignments and Grading

Required Activities

An online class entails 4 required student activities. Campus classes will have an online component

and the same activities are required:

- Completing textbook reading assignments
- Reading text-based lectures
- Completing tutorials, quizzes, assignments (individual and collaborative), and projects
- Participating on the class discussion board

Students who want to do well in the class should plan to dedicate at least **10 hours per week** to the above activities.

Optional Activity

An optional activity is also available for all students:

- Macromedia BreezeLive presentations.

Macromedia BreezeLive

Every Tuesday night from 7:30-8:30 pm (starting Week 2), I will conduct a live session that you can access through your web browser. During these live sessions, you will be able to hear me and watch me demonstrate Dreamweaver from my desktop. You will be able to communicate with me and your classmates through a traditional chat interface in the same browser window. During these sessions, I will review content that is presented in the textbook, get you started on complex aspects of an assignment, answer questions you may have, and help students with techniques they are having trouble with.

Attendance and participation is **entirely optional**, although if you can attend, it will be extremely beneficial to you. Sessions will be archived for later viewing if you can't log in during the live session.

For best results, Breeze should be accessed with a high-bandwidth internet connection (DSL, cable, or faster). Students with dial-up connections can access the live Breeze meetings, but they frequently notice a lag between audio and video. If you have dialup at home, I recommend accessing the meetings from a public or school library that has a high speed connection.

The system and browser requirements can be found at: http://www.macromedia.com/software/breeze/productinfo/systemreqs/. The range of compatibility is extremely broad. However, do not use an AOL browser for the BreezeLive meetings, as AOL tends to cause Breeze to freeze up. Online documentation for Breeze is also available at the Macromedia site, providing a detailed explanation of all its features.

Assignments	Points	Due
14 Quizzes @ 5 points each	70	Sunday nights
Assignment 1: Class Introductions	20	9/2

Assignment 2: Colorize Black and White Photo	50	9/9
Assignment 3: Photo Retouching	50	9/16
Group Assignment 1: Group Formation	50	9/23
Group Assignment 2: Critique of Design Elements	50	10/7
Assignment 4: Textures	50	10/7
Assignment 5: Glossary	10	10/14
Group Assignment 3: Critique of Design Principles	50	10/21
Assignment 6: Composition	50	10/21
Assignment 7: Geometric and Organic Design	50	10/28
Assignment 8: Icon Design	50	10/28
Assignment 9: Web Page Banner	50	11/4
Project 1: Collage	200	11/25
Project 2: Surrealism	200	12/14
Total	**1000**	

Grading Scale

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 0-59%

Discussion Assignment Requirements

To obtain the maximum number of points for discussion assignments, be sure to address the assignment questions fully. You will also be required to respond to 3 or more classmates' postings and distribute your total number of discussion postings over 3 or more days. Responses to classmates should be substantive and add to the class' knowledge of the subject being discussed. Substantive comments may illuminate information from the lectures that are relevant, they may provide external links to information on the web that adds to the conversation, or they may consist of examples of relevant personal experiences. It is fine to say things like, "You make a great point!" But

if that is ALL you say, you won't get full credit for your response. Responses need to contribute substantive information. Be cognizant of grammar and spelling in your discussion postings.

Assignment Due Dates and Late Policy

Assignments are due by 11:55 pm on the date that they are due (usually a Sunday night). Note that the due dates of the above assignments may be subject to change before they are assigned.

Assignments that are a few days late will be accepted, but points will be reduced. I will accept late assignments without deducting points, if you contact me BEFORE the due date. But these instances should be limited to unusual circumstances such as illness, family emergencies, or extraordinary work demands.

Accessing Grades

You can view your cumulative scores for individual assignments and your class grade by clicking the Grades link in the Administration block in the left column of the home page. Grades for a particular assignment only show up after the instructor has finished grading everyone for that assignment. You can also view scores for individual assignments and instructor feedback after they have been graded by clicking the link to the assignment instructions, and scrolling down to the bottom of the page. After an assignment is graded, you will also automatically receive an email with the link to the assignment page, the grade, and the instructor feedback.

Tutoring

If you find you are struggling with the concepts in the class and need weekly individualized attention, please let me know before you fall behind or before your grade suffers. I will contact the Learning Assistance Center so that they can pair you with a tutor.

If you have completed other Media Arts courses at Cerro Coso and are interested in being a tutor, please let me know, and I will forward your name to the Learning Assistance Center. Tutors provide one-on-one assistance to another student either on campus or through Breeze. Tutors are paid $7-8 per hour.

Class Accessibility

If you have a disability which may require classroom or test accommodations, please contact Special Services - Disabled Student Program and Services (DSPS) in Room Main Bldg 312 (Indian Wells Valley campus) or call 760-384-6250. You will need to provide written documentation of your disability. If you think you have a disability but currently have no documentation, DSPS may be able to help you. All information will be kept confidential. This document is available in alternate format upon request.