



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	PHOT
Course Number:	101
Descriptive Title:	Beginning Photography
Division:	Fine Arts
Department:	Photography
Course Disciplines:	Commercial Photography, Photographic Technology, Photography
Catalog Description:	This is an introductory course that develops technical proficiency, critical examination of images, and an aesthetic and cultural awareness of the wide-ranging uses of photography historically and in contemporary society. Instruction will emphasize a foundational proficiency in camera operation, manual exposure settings, composition, lighting, digital camera use, and processing of digital photographs using tools such as Adobe Camera Raw. Also covered is the critical analysis of the aesthetic and technical merits of photographs. Note: • May include instruction in analog film processing and darkroom printing techniques. • There are digital cameras available on loan to students taking photography classes. • This course satisfies the photography requirement for students majoring in journalism.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	2
Hours Laboratory (per week):	3
Outside Study Hours:	4
Total Course Hours:	90
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 1995
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 1995
General Education: ECC	
Term:	

Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Proper Film Exposure Students will be able to apply proper film exposure through the correct aperture and shutter settings on the camera and correct film processing to produce a silver gelatin negative with adequate shadow and highlight detail. SLO #2 Shallow and Depth of Field Students will be able to visualize and produce film and digital photographs illustrating shallow and deep depth of field. SLO #3 Qualities of Available and Natural Light Students will be able to visualize and produce film and digital photographs utilizing Direct, Diffused, Silhouette, and Direct-Diffused qualities of natural, available light.
Course Objectives:	1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic manual operations of a DSLR or mirrorless camera. 2. Effectively utilize the three primary exposure modes – manual, aperture priority, shutter priority <u>to produce correctly exposed images.</u> 3. Differentiate between digital files of various types such as RAW, JPEG, TIFF, and XMP. 4. Match white balance settings in the camera to specific light sources. 5. <u>Select and use different lenses with consideration for practical and aesthetic functionality of each focal length of lens.</u> 6. Produce photographic images illustrating frozen and blurred motion. 7. Produce photographic images illustrating shallow and deep depth of field. 8. <u>Understand and apply the guidelines of compositional theory while photographing a variety of subjects.</u> Create photographic artworks utilizing compositional. considerations and design principles such as color, black and white, texture, form, and space. 9. Create photographs using four types of available and natural lighting: diffused, direct, direct/diffused, and silhouette. 10. Apply critical thinking skills when discussing and evaluating photographs. 11. Recognize and analyze the historical, social, and personal relationship <u>that</u> the medium of photography has with culture and society.
Major Topics:	Lecture Topics I. Camera Operation and Exposure Settings – Lecture and Demonstration A. Overview of digital and analog photography B. Basic components of digital or film cameras C. Camera settings D. Metering

- E. Different file formats (JPEG, RAW)
- F. ISO, Aperture, Shutter Speed
- G. The Exposure Triangle
- H. Equivalent Exposure
- I. White Balance
- J. Histogram Reading
- K. Using the camera in Manual, Aperture Priority, and Shutter Priority Modes
- L. Using Exposure Compensation when using Aperture and Shutter Priority Modes

II. Composition and Visual Elements

- A. Rule of Thirds, Leading Lines, Triangles, Framing, Symmetry
- B. Elements of Art in Photography
 - 1. Spot and Line
 - 2. Shape and Pattern
 - 3. Emphasis and Balance
 - 4. Perspective and Distance
 - 5. Color and Contrast
 - 6. Foreground, Middle Ground, and Background

III. Historical and Contemporary Uses of Photography

- A. Introduction to various genres of photography
 - 1. Documentary
 - 2. Still Life
 - 3. Landscape
 - 4. Portraiture
 - 5. Staged
 - 6. Conceptual
 - 7. Fashion
- B. Early photographic processes
- C. Key inventors and movements
- D. Historical use and social impact
- E. Modern traditional photographic processes
- F. Contemporary use and social impact

IV. Depth of Field and Motion Represented in a Photographic Image – Lecture and Demonstration

- A. Various factors affecting depth of field, including aperture
- B. Various ways to represent motion in an image, including shutter speed

Lab Topics

I. Camera Operation and Exposure Settings – Practice

- A. Camera Settings
- B. Metering
- C. Different file formats (JPEG, RAW)
- D. ISO, Aperture, Shutter Speed
- E. The Exposure Triangle
- F. Equivalent Exposure
- G. White Balance and Color Temperature
- H. Histogram Reading
- I. Using the camera in Manual, Aperture Priority, and Shutter Priority Modes
- J. Using Exposure Compensation when using Aperture and Shutter Priority Modes

II. Basic Digital Workflow

- A. File Management and Organization
- B. Processing Digital Images in Image Editing Software
- C. Selecting & Editing
- D. Reading Histogram
- E. Black and White Conversion

	F. Basic Controls: Tint & Temperature, Tone Controls, Saturation & Vibrance G. Curves H. Quality Adjustments: Sharpness, Luminance Noise, Color Noise I. Cropping and Image Ratio J. Exporting for Print or Sharing III. Analog Technology A. Darkroom Equipment and Procedures B. Photograms or Cyanotype C. Printing Black and White Photographs from 35mm Film IV. Photographic Lighting Techniques A. Understanding Properties of Light B. Making Images with Light Reflected from a Subject on Light-Sensitive Materials C. The Four Qualities of Natural, Available Lighting: Direct, Diffused, Silhouette, and Direct-Diffused D. Light Angles: Front, Back, Side, and Top V. Analyzing and Assessing the Technical and Aesthetic Merits of Photographs A. The Critique Process and Guides B. Using Critique to Improve Artistic Practice C. Utilizing Photographic Terms D. Interpreting Meanings within a Photograph E. Describing Content, Composition, and Lighting F. Assessing Technical Competence in Photographic Images VI. Creating a Portfolio of Photographs that Demonstrates Understanding of Fundamental Photographic Knowledge A. Aperture, Shutter Speed, ISO B. Depth of Field C. Motion D. Different Genres of Photography
Total Lecture Hours:	36
Total Laboratory Hours:	54
Total Hours:	90
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	3) Skills demonstration
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Using manual settings of the camera, make well-exposed images in each of the following light sources: diffused, direct, diffused/direct, and silhouette.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Write a one-page essay analyzing and assessing the form and content of a photographic image.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Write a one-page essay discussing the role of photography in contemporary civilization.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Class Performance, Critiques, Attendance/Class Participation, Essay, Quiz, Fieldwork, Other
Instructional Methods:	Article Handouts Collaborative Group Learning

	Demonstration Guest Speakers Laboratory/Studio/Activity Lecture/discussion Multimedia Presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Required reading, Skill practice, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Thomas Payne, Another Photography Book, Version 4-2020 Henry Horenstein, <u>Black and White Photography: A Basic Manual</u> , 3rd edition ed., 2005 (Discipline Standard)
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	Camera with manual settings, SD Cards, and other materials as directed by the instructor.
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
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Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
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Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Lorna Squires
Date:	09/01/1973
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Weng San Sit
Date:	04/19/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	06/26/2025
Effective Term:	FALL 2026