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Spring 1-2016

### ARTZ 385.01: Art of Digital Photography

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**ARTZ 385; The Art of Digital Photography, Spring 2015  
(intermediate digital imaging and photographic lighting)**

*instructor:* **Matt Hamon**

*office hours:* **Tuesdays 9 -11am, and by appointment (FA-412)**

*email:* **matthew.hamon@umontana.edu**

*phone:* **360.789.9727 (this is my personal number so please only use it for emergencies.**

**Course Syllabus**

Meetings: T/TH, 11:10am – 1:00pm

Classroom: FA-415 and/or FA-210

Prerequisite: ARTZ 284a (may be waived by the instructor)

**Course Description and Objectives**

This course is a continuation of skills developed in Photo-I (ARTZ 284a) as students continue to build more advanced shooting, image editing, and output techniques. A significant portion of the course will be dedicated to studio lighting and location lighting with strobes. Emphasis is placed on mastering light-control devices such as soft-boxes, snoots, grids, reflectors/cutters, and gels. Additionally shooting and editing video with a DSLR will be covered. Through a variety of technical exercises and assignments students will hone both photographic skill and conceptual thinking with photography.

This course has a heavy workload as well as significant financial requirements. Expect to spend 8-10 hours of work outside of class time each week, so rethink taking this course if you have a busy schedule or little free time. Also, as photography is a very technical medium that depends on proper tools and supplies, which can cost a lot of money, *expect to spend at least \$100 on materials and supplies for the semester.* (And that does not include the cost of a camera, which you will need to purchase if you do not already have one or have access to borrowing one.) A poorly managed work schedule or lack of monetary funds is not an acceptable excuse for late or incomplete work during the course.

**Projects**

Various assignments will be delivered throughout the semester. The total number of assignments will be based on the pace with which the group moves through the curriculum. Each assignment will be designed to address both technical and conceptual aspects of photography. We generally conclude the semester with a project that you design for yourself. It will be helpful to begin thinking about the project you will design early in the semester. Keep this in mind.

## **Grading**

You will be expected to attend all classes, complete all projects, and participate fully in class discussions. I have a very strict late policy, so make special note of the project due-.

Your overall grade will be based on a percentage of the total available points that you earn in addition to any bonus or penalty you receive based on attendance. Each project will include a rubric with pass/fail elements each worth one point each. While I do not assign traditional letter grades to the work you turn in, I will be frank with my assessment during critique. Additionally, I am available to discuss your work before and after critique if you have further questions.

Final Grading Scale:

93-100 A  
90-92 A-  
87-89 B+  
83-86 B  
80-82 B-  
77-79 C+  
73-76 C  
70-72 C-  
60-69 D  
<60 F

## **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and participation is essential to academic success. Therefore, I include attendance and participation in my grading. Missing class will cause you to quickly fall behind on the techniques and concepts. I see participation in class discussions and critiques as providing the wonderful benefit of peer-to-peer learning.

Whereas participation is a factored percentage of your overall grade, attendance has the ability to raise or lower your final grade from your calculated score. Poor attendance will result in a lowering of your overall grade, but I will also reward good attendance with bonus points, as follows:

- If you do not miss a single class during the entire semester I will increase your grade by 2/3 letter grade (from X- to X+)!
- If you miss only one class, I will increase your grade by 1/3 letter grade (From X- to X)!
- Missing up to three classes is acceptable and will result in no penalty.
- Every class missed beyond three will result in a drop of one letter grade.
- Additionally, three late arrivals to or early departures from class count as an absence.

Excused absences are absences none-the-less... I make no differentiation. I have no qualms about failing you for poor attendance. This policy is not flexible, so be in class and be on time!

**Texts:**

There are no required texts for this course. If you are the type of person who would benefit from a technical manual of photography throughout the semester, please see me. I have several I can loan you.

Other readings may be provided during the semester, including handouts, on-line readings, or downloadable/emailed PDFs via the course Moodle site.

### **Supplies Needed:**

- A digital camera that allows for manual adjustment of aperture, shutter speed, focus, and ISO. This camera must also shoot in the manufacturers RAW file format. Megapixel resolution does not matter.
- Several flash cards for image storage.
- USB "thumb drives" for storage and transportation of edited files.
- At least one 50 sheet box of premium Inkjet photo paper. The bookstore carries Red River papers in various surfaces which our printers are calibrated to. Current prices on 50 sheet boxes of 8.5 x 11 paper are as follows.
- Polar Matte: \$19.99
- Polar Pearl Metallic: \$34.99
- Ultra Pro Satin: 24.99
- One, flat print portfolio for turning in projects like the Itoyo or something similar.

#### *Other recommended supplies:*

- A tripod and cable release that will fit your camera
- An external USB drive of several hundred gigabytes or more for archiving of digital files.
- Though Photoshop is installed in our labs (CS5) it would be convenient to have a copy on your personal computer as well.

### **Email/ Cell Phone Policy**

You will benefit from regularly check your email account and the course Moodle site, as this is where outside-of-class updates and notices will be sent. I will email you via your official UM email account (If you generally use a different email account than your UM account, I recommend setting your UM email to forward to whichever email provider you prefer). You will be responsible for all information and updates pertaining to the class sent to you via email. I generally check my email 3 or more times per day, so this is also the best way to contact me.

Cell phones are both a blessing and a curse. The number I have provided above is for my mobile (and only) phone, so please do not call me late at night or on the weekends expecting to just "leave a message". Generally, I prefer you contact me via email. For your own cell phones, *I don't want to see or hear them during class*. You won't see me making or answering phone calls (or text messaging) in class, so pay your fellow

If I see you texting during class, particularly when one of your classmates is asking or responding to a question, I will mark you absent. If I notice you texting during critique, I will make fun of you and mark you absent for the day. Or, you can accept the alternative punishment of bringing treats for the *entire* class during our next meeting.

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<b>KEH Camera</b> Web – used cameras and gear (Atlanta) <i>www.keh.com</i>	<b>Freestyle Camera</b> Web / mail-order (Los Angeles) 800.292.6137 <i>www.freestylephoto.biz</i>
<b>B&amp;H Photo</b> Web / mail-order (New York City) 800.606.6969 <i>www.bhphotovideo.com</i>	<b>Adorama</b> Web / mail-order (New York City) 800.223.2500 <i>www.adorama.com</i>