

Intermediate Photography:
Digital Imaging
ASTU 3503.501

Fall 2026 M/W Room 313 11:10-2:00

PROFESSOR: Lauren E. Allen
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OFFICE HOURS: By Request

Course Description

Advanced Instruction in digital techniques and software in photography. Through assignments, lectures, demonstrations and critiques students gain competencies in digital photography and image manipulation.

Prerequisite(s) : ATSU 2501, ASTU 2502, Selection through entry review (any concentration)

Course Content Statement

Content in the arts can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be personally challenging or offensive to some students on the grounds, for example, of sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the College of Visual Arts and Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the college's practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds. Students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

This is a photography digital imaging class. It will cover conceptual, and aesthetic concerns about photographic digital media as well as technical aspects. This course requires students to develop **creative**, **critical**, and **conceptual** ways of thinking. Students will analyze and synthesize concepts, technical skills, and knowledge, resulting in the creation of a portfolio of work.

Students will learn tonal and color adjustments using Adobe Photoshop, smart objects, layers and masks. Composite imaging tools and techniques, and their connection to physical media and philosophy. Advanced inkjet printing, focus stacking and stitching.

Course Content and Schedule Changes

The course schedule reflects expected class progress in course subject matter and is considered tentative. The course schedule is subject to change in content and scope at the Course Instructor's discretion.

COURSE STRUCTURE

We will meet in person on Monday & Wednesdays with time for most assignments to be completed in class. Generally, class time will be split between lectures, discussion, critiques, printing, hands-on learning, and studio time. There will be critiques, technical demonstrations,

and discussions. This course will also use readings and video tutorials to introduce technical concepts and discussion topics about contemporary art, photography, and digital imaging.

GRADING

- Critiques 60%
- Technical Assignments / Misc. 40%

- A = Outstanding quality of artwork evaluated on technical finesse and conceptual sophistication. Excellent statement. All requirements met by critique deadline.
- B = Good quality of artwork evaluated on technical finesse or conceptual sophistication. Good statement. 80% or more of the requirements met.
- C = Work is weak in technical finesse or conceptual sophistication. Work appears to have been made in haste, for example, photographs captured in a one-day period without conceptual basis. Statement may reflect this need for improvement. 70% or more of the requirements are met.
- D = Work is weak in technical finesse and conceptual sophistication. Work appears to have been made in haste, for example, photographs captured in a one-day period without conceptual basis. Statement may reflect this need for improvement. 60% or more of the requirements are met.
- F= Work is very weak or submitted more than 5 school days after critique deadline without doctor's note.

GRADING (EXTRA DETAILS)

The assignments will be graded based on the following:

- The technical quality of your work: Composition, contrast, exposure, presentation, focus, digital adjustments and treatment of the paper. Professional craftsmanship is required.
- The conceptual and aesthetic quality of your work: Concept, execution of the idea, composition, formal issues, relation of prints to one another.

NOTE: Late work is not accepted on critique or reading assignments

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Adobe Photoshop will be the primary software we use for this class. If you are using a computer on campus in the CVAD computer lab, you will not need to buy this software. If you are planning on using your laptop for this course, you will need to buy a student license - this might be a good idea and will give you access to an expansive range of Adobe software. More information about this can be found on Adobe's website.

CAMERA REQUIREMENT

You will need access to a DSLR or Mirrorless camera with full manual control of exposure and focus. There is a wide range of cameras that will meet these requirements, running from introductory level cameras to expensive professional cameras.

NOTE: You may want to use a tripod for a couple of the assignments. You can check one out from the lab or you might want to buy one.

- If you do not own a camera or tripod, and want to check a camera out to use for assignments rather than buying one, please see: <https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/equipment>

Miscellaneous Required Camera Equipment

In addition to a camera, you will need a charger, battery, and memory card. You will also want a carrying case or camera bag. If you are checking out a UNT camera, it will come with all of these accessories, although you may want to consider buying your own memory cards

Hard Drive requirement

You will need a portable external hard drive for this class. It must be mac compatible and a minimum of 1TB (it is fine to format the drive to work on both a Mac and PC. You can use a PC for all of the course work done outside of the printing lab if you want). It should be powered by the USB cable, not an AC power cord.

If you need to buy a hard drive, here are some things to consider:

- Buy a known brand and read the reviews.
- Often, it is not much more expensive to get a significantly larger hard drive.
- Once you buy your hard drive, make sure it is formatted to work on a mac before you start to use it (you can set it up to work on both a Mac and PC by formatting it using ExFAT)

Other Material Requirements

Epson or Red River Photo Satin, Luster or Glossy Paper minimum size of 13" x 19". You may get smaller paper for proofs just make sure your proof paper and presentation paper are the same type.

Inkjet Print Storage - 13 x 19" or larger print storage box or portfolio.

PRINTING IN THE LAB

All work must be printed by you in the Photography Lab. When sending a photo to print you will enter your EUID and password. As a part of your tuition you are allocated a print budget that the system will keep track of for you.

Required Readings, podcasts, videos*

Materials used in the critical analysis assignments will be provided as links or files in Canvas

Class Participation Expectations

I expect you to attend every class. You are responsible for completing all of the required assignments. I expect all students to participate in class discussions, contributing ideas and perspectives on topics or art. All your work should incorporate aspects or issues addressed in class in relation to your personal or professional interests. You are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, you are prohibited from using cellular phones, checking your email or surfing the internet, updating your social networking sites, eating or drinking in class, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or magazines, sleeping or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class, which will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Attendance Policy *

- Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory.
- ONE absence will be tolerated.
- More than ONE absence will require a note from a doctor or a note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences) in order to be counted as excused.
- COVID-19 impact on attendance: While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.
- If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.
- More than one absence will lower your final grade by one letter grade per additional absence.
- Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments will occur at the beginning of class

periods and will not be repeated for those who come in late. If you are late to class, you will need to notify me at the end of the class period to replace an absence with a tardy. Three tardies will constitute an absence.

- A tardy is considered to be arrival 5 minutes after the beginning of class.
- Assignments that are turned in late will receive one letter grade lower per day for each day they are late.
- Examinations, quizzes, and in-class assignments missed may only be made up with an official doctor's excuse or note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences).
- Critiques missed may not be made up, and grades will reflect the student's failure to participate in the critique discussions.

Late Work / Make-Up Policy

Late work may be subject to a penalty of 10% deducted from the assignment's value per day the work is late, unless the student provides proof of an acceptable mitigating circumstance: serious illness, death of a family member, or other circumstance if approved by the instructor.

Late Work will not be accepted on critique assignments or reading assignments unless otherwise previously discussed with me.

Grading

Grades will be provided regularly through the semester (after assignments are submitted, critique, etc.) and at mid-term.

A = Excellent (100-90%)

B = Above Average (89-80%)

C = Average (79-70%)

D = Inferior (69-60%) [passing but not necessarily satisfying degree requirements]

F = Failure (59% or below)

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences *

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation Statement

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an

accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Course Safety Procedures (for Laboratory Courses)

Students enrolled in Digital Imaging are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in UNT Policy 06.038 Safety in Instructional Activities. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use proper safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities.

All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there.

Here is the link to the Photography area specific health and safety information. https://forms.cvad.unt.edu/sites/default/files/studioforms_photography.pdf

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. This behavior is not limited to the students or professor in this class but also our lab technicians which are critical in helping our department run. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional

forums, including University and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus.

The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 27

Course Content and Schedule Changes

The course schedule reflects expected class progress in course subject matter and is considered tentative. The course schedule is subject to change in content and scope at the Course Instructor's discretion. I will always do my best to communicate with you promptly on any schedule changes.

Course Schedule

Week and Date	Topics	Homework:
Week 1: Day A August 17	Syllabus, class expectations and setup	Watch Intro to Photoshop if needed
Week 1: Day B August 19	Setup & Export, Critique 1 introduction Scanning: Demo	Bring materials for zine making Create New scan it, send it, fax, rename it
Week 2: Day A August 24	zines zines zines Due: Create new	
Week 2: Day B August 26	Finish: Zines Layers & Layer mask & selection tool	• Reading: The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction by Walter Benjamin • Take Photos • Layer Cake
Week 3: Day A August 31	Adjustment layers , gradient masking , Blending modes Due: Layer Cake	
Week 3: Day B Sep 2	Due: Reading Discussion Filters & adjustments to layer masks	HW: Non-Destructive Workflow
Week 4: Day A Sep 7	Labor Day	
Week 4: Day B Sep 9	Due: Non-destructive Workflow In class work day	
Week 5: Day A Sep 14	Critique Day - Composite Collage	
Week 5: Day B Sep 16	Critique & Critique 2 introduction	Take Photographs over weekend

Week and Date	Topics	Homework:
Week 6: Day A Sep 21	Willis Library - Vinyl Record Graphic Tour	
Week 6: Day B Sep 23	Lecture - information pending	
Week 7: Day A Sep 28	Clean up on Isle 9: clone, healing, patch and content aware	HW: Double exposure, glitch, Text
Week 7: Day B Sep 30	Double exposure & glitch Text Demo	
Week 8: Day A Oct 5	Work Day	
Week 8: Day B Oct 7	Work Day	
Week 9: Day A Oct 12	Critique Day - Alternative Portrait	
Week 9: Day B Oct 14	Critique Day	Reading: Explorer of Unknown Planets : Practices and Politics of AI in visual arts by Caramiaux & Alaoui
Week 10: Day A Oct 19	Discussion: Explorer of Unknown Planets Introduce Final Critique, brainstorming , Surrealism & Fantasy lecture	
Week 10: Day B Oct 21	Focus Stacking & Landscape Stitching Introduction	Photograph Landscapes for Focus Stacking & Stitching
Week 11: Day A Oct 26	Mood board, Project Statement 1 on 1 check ins Demo - Big Print	
Week 11: Day B Oct 28	In Class Work Day	
Week 12: Day A Nov 2	In Class Work Day	

Week and Date	Topics	Homework:
Week 12: Day B Nov 4	In Class Work Day	
Week 13: Day A Nov 9	In Class Work Day	
Week 13: Day B Nov 11	In Class Work Day	
Week 14: Day A Nov 16	Big Prints	
Week 14: Day B Nov 18	Big Prints	
Week: Day A	Fall Break	
Week: Day B	Fall Break	
Week 15: Day A Nov 30	Imagined Landscape - Final Critique	
Week 15: Day B Dec 2	Imagined Landscape - Final Critique	