

Course Syllabus for Art 243: Digital Imaging 1

Art 243

Class will be held Tuesdays from 7:00 pm to 9:50 pm in room 316. Our course begins August 31, 2004, and our final class will meet on December 14, 2004.

Course Description

This is an introductory course into both the technical and conceptual aspects of digital imagery. From the course text, *Visual QuickStart Guide to Photoshop CS*, as well as class tutorials, lectures, and projects, we will work together to understand the technical and design aspects of creating digital graphics and image editing. Our course objective is to learn the basics of Adobe Photoshop CS to explore the design potential of computer-generated imagery. This course will also address the use of software tools, image manipulation, vector and bitmap graphics, as well as other forms of digital output.

Required Textbook

Visual QuickStart Guide to Photoshop CS by Elaine Weinmann and Peter Lourekas

This textbook is required for your participation in class. The text costs about \$25 new. Purchase a copy after the first class. Bring your textbook with you to every class meeting.

Course Requirements

It is recommended that students have a basic knowledge of Windows before taking this class. It is the student's responsibility to spend as much time as possible in open labs to keep up with readings and projects. Students should spend an additional 2 hours per week outside of class time completing assignments and readings.

Attendance Policy

Due to the nature of the course and its hands-on approach, I encourage you to attend class. All students are responsible for projects, discussions or announcements missed due to absence. If you are frequently absent or tardy from class, your final course grade will be affected. At every class meeting, information will be presented that is not in the required text. Your attendance can truly affect your class experience.

Our course will be going through several techniques of digital imaging in a matter of weeks, so our time together is valuable. Please don't depreciate it. Come to class prepared.

If you need to be absent or tardy please inform me beforehand as a common courtesy.

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Readings and Exercises

Readings and exercises will be assigned as the course progresses. You will complete and keep all exercises on the server and your disks. You may not exceed 100MB on the server! Backup is essential, plan accordingly.

Creative Projects

There will be three projects for this course which will require. Late projects will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to hand in your work on time.

Quizzes and Final Exam

There will be two quizzes and a final. No makeup exams will be allowed.

Critiques

Occasionally we will be critiquing your projects. Participation in critique is essential to the evaluation procedure and every student is expected to attend with their completed projects.

Critical Thinking

The exercises will require students to apply concepts and skills learned in the class, as well as principles and techniques to compare, analyze, and create the best graphic solutions. The final project will require comparison, analysis, and decision-making to produce an integrated text/graphic document illustrating all the concepts and tools learned.

Grading Criteria

Attendance & Participation — 10%	95%-100% = A	80%-84% = B-	65%-69% = D
Three Projects ————— 30%	90%-94% = A-	75%-79% = C	60%-64% = D-
Class Exercises ————— 20%	85%-89% = B	70%-74% = C-	Below 60% = F
Quizzes and Final Exam — 40%			

Each student's average will be based on four class exercises, class participation, attendance, final prints, two quizzes, a final exam and three creative projects. Deadlines are strictly adhered to and mandatory. If a class exercise is not presented on time, the grade will automatically be reduced by one letter - even if the assignment has met all criteria. If a creative project is late, it will receive a 0 unless a compelling reason prevents presenting in the project on-time. This grade cannot be improved, upgraded, made up, or replaced by extra credit. Your projects and exercises will be a series of designs you create using Photoshop techniques covered. Grading is based on both competent use of software tools taught and design techniques employed.

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Supply List

Students are responsible for obtaining the following list of materials for this course. Sources to obtain these materials will be discussed in class.

- Required Textbook: *Visual QuickStart Guide to Photoshop CS*
- Media Storage: Recommended: Two or Three Zip disks and around 10 - 20 CD-Rs. Alternative Suggestion: A Jump Drive. We will discuss Zip disks and CD-RWs in class.
- Photo Quality Inkjet Paper. We will discuss paper options and quantity in class.
- One 3-ring binder and writing instruments.
- Plastic sheets to hold printed projects.

Withdrawals & Incompletes

- It is the responsibility of the student to request a W (withdrawal) or I (incomplete) grade for this class.
- A student may request a withdrawal (W) grade any time during the semester up to the end of the semester.
- If a student has completed about 75% of the class with a grade of C or better, but cannot complete the class due to a compelling reason, the student may request an incomplete (I) grade before the end of the semester. This allows the student one semester to complete the remaining work and receive a letter grade. This instructor is strongly opposed to giving incompletes unless the reason is compelling. A written statement from a doctor or other professional will be required.
- If the student does not inform the instructor of their grade request, the instructor will assign a grade based on the total number of points acquired.

Computer Access/High Tech Center Rules

You have access to the computers at Pod #6 (Photoshop installed) from 2:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 2:30–5 p.m. Friday. Saturday hours are pending. Computers in this classroom and Pod 6 read PC formatted zip disks (both 100MB and 250MB) and have CD writers. I recommend you save your work on your Zip Disks or CD's. You will have your own file folder on the server, but its size cannot exceed 100 MB! Food, drink, and gum ARE NOT ALLOWED in the classroom or open lab area. You may place your drinks on the table outside the classroom door.

*If you have any problem with reading or writing, please inform me so that we can make arrangements to accommodate your needs.

*Cancel Class Hotline: In case of bad weather, call this number to find out if classes have been canceled: 334-9622 or 1-866-532-5118. The radio will also announce school closures.

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Copyright Infringement

All images scanned and used must be personal pictures and negatives. You will be required to bring all your files and original sources to class for critique. If any copyright rules are violated the student will be given 0 points for the assignment. There are no make-ups or improving the grade if any copyright rules are violated!

Course Objective

Upon completion of the course, students will acquire an understanding of:

- Researching visual problems and design completion
- Bitmap versus Vector Graphics
- Adobe Photoshop tools in the creation of and manipulation of visual images.
- Scanner operation
- Print files versus Web files

Office Hours

I will be happy to meet you at any mutually convenient time to discuss your course progress or problems you may be having with course materials. Feel free to call or email me at any time regarding problems you have with this course. The course website is designed to assist you with the class and contains course information and assignments as well as supplemental information. It is best to reach me by email and for me to be able to reach you by email. If you do not have an email address, you can get an email account from the college or through an online provider like yahoo, google, or hotmail. They provide these accounts for free.

Engage Yourself

It is your responsibility to create your own assignments, shut down equipment properly, maintain files, and properly use peripherals and printing supplies. Please familiarize yourself with WNCC's plagiarism policies and respect the work of others by not calling it your own. This is a serious matter and will result in failure of the assignment.

I hope to engage you with the material we cover. I hope to excite, intrigue, and interest you in class and beyond with the discoveries of digital imaging and contemporary art. I trust you will engage yourself by participating as a mature, questioning, and informed student. Please respect the class by not surfing the internet, chatting on message boards or ICQ, or emailing friends during class time.