PHOT 250
The Digital Darkroom
Three (3) Credits

Course Description:
In this course, students will learn basic digital darkroom techniques and digital workflow. Students will be introduced to working with both RAW and JPG files using post production software including Adobe Photoshop, Bridge, Camera RAW, and Lightroom. Techniques students will learn include workflow, retouching, image correction, color correction, and image manipulation

Pre-/Co Requisites:
PHOT 180 and PHOT 190

Course times:
Tu Th 9:30 – 11:00 am

Studio times:
By appointment, see schedule on door

Room number:
NCS 104

Instructor:
Clint Saunders

Office number:
NCS 104

Office Hours:
Available during all studio hours

Phone:
307-702-1368

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Text:
Photoshop CS6 and Lightroom 4 - by Stephen Laskevitch

Objectives:
1. To understand what a digital darkroom is and how it relates to a traditional darkroom.

2. To learn digital imaging terms and concepts.
3. To understand the differences between RAW and JPG files, and when it is appropriate to use both.
4. To create a productive work flow with digital files.
5. To learn basic image corrections as they apply to a variety of subject matter.
6. To understand how and when to use different software for different purposes.
7. To explore and identify possible changes in the digital darkroom as technologies evolve in the future.
8. To apply critical thinking and problem solving as situations arise when using a variety of different software programs.

Relationship to Campus Theme:

This course addresses the campus theme by comparing modern digital technology with traditional analog techniques used in photographic post production, while exploring possibilities for future growth and change in our industry.

Classroom Policies:

1. Cell phones and related devices are prohibited in the classroom at all times. You have the option of keeping them turned off or leaving them at home.
2. The internet in the classroom will be used for educational purposes only. Do not use the internet for Facebook, instant messaging, or any other similar websites during class time.
3. Food and beverages are permitted in accordance with IVN classroom policy.
4. Be respectful of other students, technicians, instructors, and guests.

Communication/Campus Email

All students at DCB are given a DCB email account. This account is how DCB will communicate with you. You will receive important emails about classes, financial aid, emergencies, school closures, important dates, etc. through this email account. Along with the important emails you will receive, it also gives you access to Microsoft Office software.

I WILL use your DCB email account for ALL communications with you. YOU are responsible for checking your email regularly. I will email homework lists, important dates, information on photo shoots, grades, etc. to your DCB account. You are responsible for knowing all the information sent to your campus email.

Along with DCB email, I will also use the "announcement" section of the Moodle class to communicate, so be sure to check it regularly.

Moodle Classes

This class is set up on Moodle. The Moodle version of the class includes all of the class material via slide shows and videos and can be used as a refresher for the material. All homework will be posted to Moodle as well as all quizzes and tests.

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Dishonesty in the classroom or studio and with assignments, quizzes, exams, and papers is a serious offense and is subject to disciplinary action by the instructor and college administration. For more information refer to the Student Handbook. Please note that I have a ZERO tolerance policy for cheating, plagiarism, and copyright violations.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

If you have a disability for which you are, or may be, requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact your instructor and Jan Nahinurk in the Learning Center (228-5479) as early as possible during the beginning of the semester.

Late Assignments:

I will NOT accept late assignments unless you make arrangements ahead of time. The art world is a deadline driven world, and I would be doing you a great disservice to allow late work.

Grading Philosophy:

Please understand that I do not care about your grades, I care about your education. My job is to teach you, your job is to learn what I teach you, and hopefully more. If we both do our jobs, grades shouldn't be necessary.

An instructor once said to me, "if you do everything that is expected of you in this class, then you will earn a "C". Because only doing what is expected is average, and a "C" represents an average grade. If you want a "B," do more than is expected, if you want an "A," do a lot more than is expected."

I embraced this philosophy as a student and discovered something amazing. When I did more than what was expected, I learned more, and when I did a lot more than was expected, I learned a lot more. Amazing huh?

The best way to succeed in my class is to not focus on - "what's my grade" - but instead focus on - "how much can I learn." If you embrace this, you won't be doing assignments for grades, you'll be doing them in order to learn, and the grade will become secondary and take care of itself.

Grading Scale:
> A (90 – 100%) B (80 – 89%) C (70 – 79%) D (60 – 69%) F (below 60%)

Attendance:
> If you aren't in class, you aren't learning the material. Don't miss class! And, don't be tardy! Being late or being on time is nothing more than a habit. If you are in the habit of being late, this will be a good time to work on changing that habit to one of being on time. In the career field, being late is a just cause for firing employees, so if you are in the habit of being late, then you can use this class as an opportunity to work on changing that habit. However, I'd rather you were late, than miss class, so if you are running late, please come in quietly and take your seat.

Critiques:
> Critiques are a crucial part of learning. During critiques, the instructor and students will offer feedback on your work. The following rules apply to critiques.

1. Be respectful!
2. Give positive and negative feedback. Positive feedback is important to learn what is working and to build confidence. Negative feedback is important because we cannot improve without it. All negative feedback should be as constructive as possible.
3. When receiving a critique, keep an open mind and don't get defensive. Remember, no one is attacking you or your work. The goal is to learn. You cannot learn with a closed mind or defensive attitude.

Photography Program Internship/Field Study Guidelines (Practicum)

- Student's in Dakota College at Bottineau's (DCB) photography classes will do internship or field study experiences as part of their educational training. These applied experiences will help them to be "job ready" when they enter the profession. The classes for which internship or field study instruction will be provided are as follows:

PHOTO 180	PHOTO 235
PHOTO 190	PHOTO 240
PHOTO 290	PHOTO 250
PHOTO 210	PHOTO 270
PHOTO 292	PHOTO 289
PHOTO 232	

- The DCB photography program will not assertively or opportunistically promote its services outside of the campus environment in order to not be in competition with the private sector. The program will take measures that

will help prevent it from requisitioning work otherwise accomplished by persons in the profession.

- Pictures taken by photography students as part of their course of study will not belong to them. Ownership rights will lie with the parties for whom the photographs have been taken. Students will sign a waiver stating that the product of their internship or field study photography work belongs to the subjects of the photos or to their representatives.
- All revenue generated by students' internship or field study experiences will be invested back into the program to cover operation and equipment costs. Dakota College students, instructors, or staff will gain no monetary benefit from their participation.
- Students participating in an internship or field study exercise will be supervised and provided guidance by their instructor and advisor. No applied training event will be approved that does not have proper authorization from the photography program's instructor/advisor. However, although the students will be taught and directed by the institution, the actual engagement in the educational experience may or may not be done under direct supervision of their instructor.
- Transportation to the locations where the photos will be taken will not be provided by the institution.

Disclaimer Statement:
The instructor of this course reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus without prior notice.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week 1 – Introduction and Important Terms and Concepts
- What is a digital image
- Color and Tone
- File Formats for Digital Images
- The Lightroom Catalogue

Week 1 – System Configurations
- Computer Requirements
- Work Environments
- Application and Preference Settings

Week 2 – The Interface
- Finding your way in Photoshop
- Finding your way in Bridge
- Finding your way in Adobe Camera Raw

- Finding your way in Lightroom

Week 2 – Capture and Import
- Capture Formats
- Lens Profile Creator
- Standard Practices
- Digital Negatives

Week 3– Organizing and Archiving Images
- File Management
- Rating Systems & Methods
- Keyword & Other Metadata
- Labels

Week 4 – Global Adjustments
- White Balance
- Tone
- Color and Presence
- Sharpening and Noise Reduction
- Lens & Composition Corrections
- Saving and Sharing

Week 5 – Local Adjustments
- Defining an Adjustment Scope
- Graduated Adjustments
- Painting Adjustments
- Precise Area Adjustments

Week 6 – Cleaning and Retouching
- Removing Dust and Defects
- Removing Small Defects
- Large Defects
- Transformations

Week 7 - Creative Edits and Alternates
- Managing Versions
- Combining Images
- Photographic Effects
- Video

Week 8 – Output
- Digital Deliverables
- Web
- Slideshows
- Print Output
- Print Mounting/framing