Course Description:

This course will familiarize the student with the fundamentals of digital photography, including but not limited to the operation, controls, and functions of most digital cameras, composition, light wrangling, and digital editing.

Projected Learning Outcomes:

Upon the completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the principles of photography: Exposure, shutter speed, aperture, ISO, lighting and composition, and how to build an igloo.

2. Have a firm grasp on how to utilize their camera in most any situation in order to capture the image that they wish to capture.

3. Understand a variety of interchangeable lenses and their various applications.

4. Understand the principles of digital imaging, white balance, file formats, file transfer, file storage, and the organization of seventy two billion individual files.

5. Be able to utilize basic digital editing software such as Photoshop.

Materials Required:

1. A digital camera. (Yeah, really.) Recommended: A Digital Single Lens Reflex Camera or DSLR. A student's ability to interchange lenses will greatly enhance their experience within the realm of photography. Alternately, an adjustable point and shoot digital camera can be used, though the student must be able to adjust aperture, ISO, and shutter speed.

2. Fresh batteries. Recharged, happy, ready to be drained batteries… for every class. A camera without batteries will be both extraordinarily boring, and about as useful as a five hundred dollar paper-weight.

3. Digital media for the camera being utilized. E.g. Compact Flash (CF) card, Secure Digital (SD) card, or other appropriate media. (Everyone else would just call this "film for the dang camera.")
4. Electronic Flash or strobe unit. (This is optional, but will be utilized extensively within the classroom setting.)

5. Good shoes. We'll be doing a great deal of moving around in eight weeks of photography. High heels might be rough on the student's ongoing motivation to continue beyond the first session. Wear something comfy, and if you're in a wheel chair bring extra tires, we're going to burn them up.

Required Class Text:

The student will have access to wikibooks throughout the class sessions electronically or in print (provided). There is no standard text for this course for two equally important reasons: 1. The world of photography is simply too vast to be condensed into a single text. Even at the introductory levels, the variables of shooting for pleasure, for profession, or pragmatism are as boundless as they are ever evolving. 2. Texts are expensive and, as mentioned supra, tend to become rapidly outdated. You'll need that money if you decide that photography is actually a hobby worth pursuing in life.

Text Link:

Class Schedule:

**Week One: Introductions Galore**
Session one will be a grand overview of both the intent and focus of the course as a whole, introductions will be made, cameras taken out of their cases, and pre-misconceptions debunked.
Assignment #1: TBA.

**Week Two: Shutter Speed, Aperture, ISO and the Button of Doom**
The nuts and bolts of putting together a photograph from step 1 to step 573,201. We'll take a look at our cameras and use the pliers to twist the settings off of "Auto."
Review of Assignment 1
Question and Answer Session based upon the experiences gleaned from Assignment 1.
Assignment 2: TBA.

**Week Three: Lighting, Sharks, and Laser beams**
Light wrangling is hard. Really hard. (Until you know how to do it, and that's what we're going to figure out. Right now.)
Review of Assignment 2
Week Four: Exposure, Northern et.al.
We’ll wrap up all that we’ve learned in this mysterious word, "Exposure." Shutter Speed, Aperture, ISO, the button of doom, and lighting… all in one itty bitty living space.
Review of Assignment 3
Question and Answer Session based upon the experiences gleaned from Assignment 3.
Assignment 4: TBA.

Week Five: Lenses > Ants
Lenses are shiny, should I buy them all? We'll take a peek at what lenses do what, why, how, and for… ahem… how much.
Review of Assignment 4
Question and Answer Session based upon the experiences gleaned from Assignment 4.
Assignment 5: TBA.

Week Six: Bach, Williams, Glitch Mob, and other Composers too
Hokay, I understand this machine… but people cry when they look at my work when they're supposed to be laughing. What gives?
Review of Assignment 5
Question and Answer Session based upon the experiences gleaned from Assignment 5.
Assignment 6: TBA.

Week Seven: Photoshop is your Friend and Bane
It's time to understand the brave new world of how computers and cameras interact… intra-technological relationships, oh my!
Review of Assignment 6
Question and Answer Session based upon the experiences gleaned from Assignment 6.
Assignment 7: TBA.

Week Eight: Kicking the Tires and Testing the Octane
Let's put it all together and see what happens, shall we? We'll go back over everything and see if it all makes sense, and then see if it applies to anything useful at all.
Review of Assignment 7
Question and Answer Session based upon the experiences gleaned from Assignment 7.
Course Grade will be based on a non-random and un-supercilious point system:
1). Weekly shooting assignments, class participation & attendance.
2). Mid-term Quiz.
3). Final Exam.
4). Moxie.