

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL ART

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Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce non-art majors to the visual and technical fundamentals of art-making on Mac computers. Photoshop CS3 will be used as a tool for creative exploration and self-expression within the tradition of fine arts.

Course Objectives:

Students will be introduced to the basics of creating visual art using Photoshop CS3 and will be able to:

- Import, save, and re-size images from the internet, scanners, and digital cameras
- Collage, enhance, transform, layer, and construct digital images
- Explore visual design elements and principles such as color, light, line, shape, space, texture, movement, unity, contrast, emphasis, balance, and rhythm.
- Examine a variety of artistic styles as they apply to digital media

Course Rationale:

Students will gain technical dexterity and confidence with Photoshop and Mac computers. The course will enhance students' ability to apply creative thinking while developing digital imagery.

Resources:

Supplemental readings will be distributed by the instructor.

Visual Quickstart Guide: Photoshop CS3, by Elaine Weinmann and Peter Lourekas, 2007

Digital Collage and Painting: Using Photoshop to Create Fine Art, by Susan Bloom, 2006

On-line Photoshop CS3 tutorials can be found at: www.lynda.com

Supplies:

USB flash drive (1GB or larger), HP laser jet paper.

**Students should wait until after the first class before buying any supplies.*

Policies and Evaluation:

- Cell phones must be turned OFF before class begins.
- Absences, lateness, and leaving early will adversely affect your grade. Four unexcused absences will result in a F. Three late arrivals will count as one absence. Please see me if you are planning on missing class, or to catch-up on material missed.
- There will be no eating or drinking in the computer lab. A short break will be allotted during each class.
- Although students will have time in-class to work on projects it will be necessary to put in additional time to complete projects outside of class. Lab hours are posted on the door.

Grading

15% Attendance: A deduction will be made each time you are absent or late to class.

15% Enthusiasm/ Seriousness of Intent: Participation in discussion and critiques (class, peer-to-peer, teacher-student). Seriousness of purpose in class habits: come to class prepared with energy, ideas, and supplies. Work consistently in class.

30% * Mid-Semester Review

40% * Final Portfolio

* Digital Artworks are to be completed and submitted (in digital format, not printed) on a weekly basis and will be printed and graded during the Mid-Semester Review and Final Portfolio. Works will be graded based on effort, creativity, artistic growth, technical proficiency, demonstration of learned skills, and content development.

Weekly Syllabus

1/26	DISCUSSION: What is digital art? Review of Syllabus, Lab rules, working on a Mac, DEMO: Working with digital images: file formats, resolution, image size, cropping	WORKSHOP: <i>Close, Closer, Closest</i>
2/2	DISCUSSION: & DEMO: Photoshop basics, workspace, menus, tools, keyboard shortcuts, screen navigation, basic selection tools	WORKSHOP: <i>Deconstruction/Construction</i>
2/9	DISCUSSION: How is computer art similar to/different from traditional fine art media? DEMO: Move, transformation, history palette, opacity, eraser, layers	WORKSHOP: <i>Collage inspired by an historic artwork</i>
2/16	DISCUSSION: Play, imagination and science fiction DEMO: Lasso, magic wand, quick selection, clone, Selection refinement: feather, smooth, expand	WORKSHOP: <i>Hybrids (animals/plants/technology)</i>
2/23	DISCUSSION: How are visual design elements & principles used to create images? (color, light, line, shape, space, texture, movement, unity, contrast, emphasis, balance and rhythm) DEMO: Brush, bucket, gradient, pattern, smudge	WORKSHOP: <i>Abstract</i>
3/2	DISCUSSION: Exhibiting digital art DEMO: Print production: image size, print size, image resolution, color modes, paper & ink	Preparation for Mid-Semester Review
3/9	MID-SEMESTER REVIEW DISCUSSION: What attitudes or emotions can be expressed in a portrait? DEMO: Patch tool, healing brush, dodge/burn, masking, color correction (color, hue, saturation, brightness) *No Class Monday March 16 th	WORKSHOP: <i>Portrait</i>
3/23	DISCUSSION: What creates the illusion of 3D space in a 2D image? DEMO: Perspective, crop, blending, photomerge, color correction	WORKSHOP: <i>Landscape</i>
3/30	DISCUSSION: How can images and text be used together to create an artwork? DEMO: Type tool, pen tool, characters, warping text, clipping mask, linking layers, rasterize	WORKSHOP: <i>Type</i>
4/6	DISCUSSION: What are some differences between still images and animated images? DEMO: Animation, tweening, movie file formats, exporting to image ready.	WORKSHOP: <i>Animation</i>
4/13	Continue work on <i>Animation</i> and/or other projects. *No class on Monday, April 20 th	
4/27	DISCUSSION: Series and Editions, Multiples vs. Unique artworks.	WORKSHOP: <i>Cards</i>
5/4	Continue work on <i>Cards</i> and portfolio	
5/11	Exhibition, review, evaluation and portfolios	