

**Wheeling Jesuit University**  
**Department of Fine Arts**  
**ARTS-142-80: Digital Photography (3 cr.)**  
**Online Course**  
**Spring 2019**

**Instructor: Dr. Nancy Bressler**

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**Office Hours: T/Th 11:00-11:50; M 3:30-5:30 and by appointment**

**Required Materials:**

Digital camera that can be placed completely on manual operation (including manual focus, aperture setting, and shutter speed)

Sheppard, R. (2011). *Digital photography simplified, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (ISBN: 978-1118029343)

Dickman, J. & Kinghorn, J. (2009). *Perfect digital photography, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (ISBN: 978-0071601665)

Internet access to check our Blackboard site often for information, assignments, and updates

**Course Catalog Description:**

This course introduces students to the history, aesthetics, and principles of photography with an emphasis on the rhetoric of digital photography. Students will explore the history and development of photography and learn the principles of composition, lighting, exposure, and special effects. This course has no prerequisites but requires the use of a digital camera with manual settings.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Explain how composition choices communicate meaning within photographs (*"Understanding" on Bloom's Taxonomy Scale*).
- 2) Recognize how shutter speed, aperture, and camera angles affect aesthetic meaning and influence lighting choices (*"Remembering" on Bloom's Taxonomy Scale*).
- 3) Illustrate course concepts by shooting a variety of subjects using a combination of composition techniques (*"Understanding" on Bloom's Taxonomy Scale*).
- 4) Create a digital portfolio of your best digital photographs (*"Creating" on Bloom's Taxonomy Scale*)

## **Grading Structure:**

You will have the opportunity to **earn** 1000 points this semester in the following ways:

**Photograph Assignments (3)** = 350 points (#1 & #2 = 100 points; #3 = 150 points)

**Reflection Papers (3)** = 150 points (50 points each)

**Photograph Presentations (2)** = 150 points (75 points each)

**Online Exam** = 150 points

**Class Application Activities** = 200 points

## **Final Grades**

A = 1000-930 points

A- = 929-900 points

B+ = 899-870 points

B = 869-830 points

B- = 829-800 points

C+ = 799-770 points

C = 769-730 points

C- = 729-700 points

D+ = 699-670 points

D = 669-600 points

F = 599 and below

\*\*Note: Final grades are NOT rounded up! If you earn 799 points, it is a C+.

## **Assignments:**

### ***Photograph Assignments***

Throughout the course, you will shoot a variety of photographs. Overall, you will select 3 groups of photographs for feedback and assessment. These should be representative of your best work and demonstrate the concepts that you will learn in the class. Further details for the photographs will be posted on Blackboard.

**Photograph #1: Friday, February 8 by 4 pm**

**Photograph #2: Friday, March 15 by 4 pm**

**Photograph #3: Friday, April 26 by 4 pm**

### ***Reflection Papers***

While you are crafting your photograph portfolio, I will ask you to think about what influences from your textbook and online readings are impacting and inspiring your work. When you submit each of your photograph assignments, I will ask you to submit a minimum 1 ½ page paper discussing your influences and application of the course material to your photographs. Papers must be submitted on Blackboard on the assigned due dates. Further details for the papers will be posted on Blackboard.

**Paper #1: Friday, February 8 by 4 pm**

**Paper #2: Friday, March 15 by 4 pm**

**Paper #3: Friday, April 26 by 4 pm**

### ***Photograph Presentations***

Twice during the semester, you will present your photographic work as online presentations. In your presentations, you will explain how your work demonstrates course concepts and represents the ideas/interpretations that you are communicating to your audience. Presentations should be approximately 4-6 minutes and uploaded to our

Google Drive so only the class can view the video. Further details for the presentation will be posted on Blackboard.

**Presentation #1: Friday, February 8 by 4 pm**

**Presentation #2: Friday, March 15 by 4 pm**

### ***Online Exam***

This course will have 1 exam in which I will ask you to apply the course concepts we have been discussing. Ideas from your textbook and additional information on Blackboard may be included. The exam will be taken on Blackboard; once you start the exam, you must finish the exam. There is also a time limit once you start the exam, so while using notes that you take from your readings is encouraged, there will not be time to look up answers in your textbooks.

**Online Exam: Wednesday, April 3 – Friday, April 5**

### ***Class Application Activities / Peer Reviews***

This class requires your active engagement in the course and preparation for every week. I expect that you will have READ the material assigned for that week and can apply it to your photographs. You cannot complete the class activities without preparing for class; they are intended to assist you in understanding and applying the course material beyond reading in the textbook and online information. The photographs do not need to be perfect but should demonstrate your attempts at utilizing the information that you have learned that week. Weekly activities are to be submitted as a Word or PDF file ONLY on Blackboard. They are due no later than **Friday by 4 pm** each week.

Twice during the semester you will also have the opportunity to peer review each others' work. Your grade on the peer reviews will be based on the thoroughness of your feedback/comments and your constructive criticism of each other's work.

**NOTE:** The last day of the Add/Drop Period for this semester is **Friday, January 11, 2019**. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of a W is **Tuesday, March 26, 2019**.

### **Submitting Your Work:**

For this course, all written assignments must follow proper APA Style. Written assignments must be typed in a 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, spell-checked, and grammatically correct. For all assignments requiring the use of sources, proper APA style must be followed. Be certain to proofread and especially spell-check your work!

All major assignments in this class must be submitted to **Blackboard** by the assignment's deadline. Be certain to check and double check that you have uploaded the correct file of the assignment and have submitted it to the correct location. For example, if you submit a draft of your work, I will grade your draft. Or, for example, if you submit your First Paper as your Second Paper, it will be considered late if you resubmit it after the deadline. **All late work is subject to a 20% reduction per 24 hour**

**period.** Because assignments can be submitted via Blackboard online, each 24 hour period (including non-class days and weekends) are subject to the penalty. **If your assignment is more than 72 hours late, you will receive a 0 for the assignment.** It is essential that you submit your assignments as early as possible. Late work by even 1 minute will be assessed as late. Technical difficulties, computer crashes, and faulty internet connections will NOT be assessed as on time - please allow extra time for these possibilities and do not attempt to start uploading your assignments 5 minutes before the deadline. In addition, be certain to bring a hard copy of your work to class.

Failure to properly attribute and cite other people's work is considered academically dishonest. Even paraphrasing or summarizing someone else's work without providing citations is considered academically dishonest. "I didn't know" is NOT a valid excuse – it is your responsibility to read the instructions on Blackboard and to ask questions IN ADVANCE. After the fact, not knowing is not acceptable! When in doubt, **SOMEHOW cite the source!!**

You are expected to submit your original work from this semester. The Turn-It-In site will give me a report if this paper has ever been submitted in another class. If you submit an assignment that you have used for another class – whether this semester or a previous semester – you will receive a 0 for the assignment. Students who resubmit work that they had done in a previous semester for this class will also receive a 0. This is considered self-plagiarism and is not allowed at WJU.

## **University Policies:**

### ***Academic Integrity***

Students are advised that WJU's Academic Integrity Policy will strictly be enforced in this course (see [www.wju.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.wju.edu/studenthandbook)). Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of the Academic Vice-President.

Academic integrity means giving credit where credit is due in an academic setting. A violation of academic integrity at Wheeling Jesuit University can fall under one of two categories:

1. It is unethical to present as your own work the ideas, representations, or work of another.
2. It is unethical to permit someone else to present your ideas, representations, or work as his/her own intellectual property.

The sanctions that may be imposed upon finding that a violation of academic integrity has occurred range from a reduction in grade on the assignment to dismissal from Wheeling Jesuit University without expectation of re-admission.

All violations of academic integrity are reported to the Faculty Academic Integrity Officer for inclusion in your permanent file. A faculty member is required to inform the student that he/she has filed a formal citation with the Faculty Academic Integrity Officer. Within five days of having been notified, the student must contact the Faculty Academic Integrity Officer in order to set up a mandatory meeting, during which the concept of academic dishonesty, the sanction(s) imposed by the faculty member, and the process by which a student can appeal the instructor's charge will be discussed. If the student does not contact the Faculty Academic Integrity Officer within the allotted

time, the faculty member's sanction is automatically imposed and the citation is placed in his/her academic record.

Please visit the "Academic Integrity and Dishonesty Policy" section of the student handbook for further details on the academic integrity policy and the consequences of violating this policy at WJU:

[http://www.wju.edu/about/hr/policies/cl\\_academicdishonesty.asp](http://www.wju.edu/about/hr/policies/cl_academicdishonesty.asp)

Plagiarism includes:

- Obtaining a paper in whole or in part from another source, such as a book, a database, the internet, another student, etc.
- Failing to use quotation marks or block indentations for all words quoted verbatim
- Failing to include citations for all borrowed ideas, whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.

### ***Academic Resource Center (ARC)***

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) is a totally free academic-support service available to all enrolled Wheeling Jesuit University students and staffed almost exclusively by WJU students recommended for employment by WJU faculty. The ARC is located in **Bishop Hodges Library** and is open five days a week:

Sundays 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Mondays-Thursdays 1:00-9:00 p.m.

Please visit the ARC's website (the first listing under "Student Services" on the Cardinal homepage) to learn about the ARC's services (emphasizing writing, math, and the sciences) and to schedule appointments.

### ***Wheeling Jesuit University Disability Services***

Wheeling Jesuit University offers students with documented disabilities individual accommodations on a case-by case basis with confidentiality in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In order to receive academic or physical accommodations, students with disabilities must provide current (within three years) and comprehensive documentation concerning the nature and extent of the disability and communicate their needs to the Disability Services Director, located in Ignatius Hall Room G 24 or call 304-243-4484. Students are required to meet with the director to develop accommodation plans that they will present to their course instructors at the beginning of each semester. Students with disabilities that require specific housing accommodations must contact both the Director of Residence Life and the Disability Services Director.

Ultimately, all students with disabilities are responsible for their own academic achievement. They must attend classes, complete course assignments, and fulfill all university requirements for their chosen field of study. It is up to students with disabilities to seek out available assistance on campus and to utilize individualized accommodations that promote academic success.

### ***Title IX Statement***

Wheeling Jesuit University seeks to provide an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual harassment,

misconduct, or assault we encourage you to report this. If you report this to a faculty member, she or he must notify our college's Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). For more information about your options at WJU, please go to <http://wju.edu/titleix/>.

## **Course Policies:**

### ***Communication / Email***

Students are responsible for checking their WJU emails regularly. I frequently send emails through the week (particularly with online courses) with additional information. Students are responsible for all content in those emails – if you got a welcome email from me, that is the account I will be sending future emails to. Checking your email is crucial because there will be a lot communicated to you via email and postings on Blackboard.

Email is the BEST and fastest way to reach me. Please be sure to email [nbressler@wju.edu](mailto:nbressler@wju.edu). I typically respond within 48 hours, but please allow up to 72 hours for a reply. If you still have not heard back from me, feel free to send another email. Within your email, be sure to include the course number and time in the SUBJECT line. In the body of the email, be sure to include your first and last name – do not assume that I will recognize your email address automatically. Always avoid “texting lingo” – phrases and sentences should always be used when communicating with any professor.

Assignments should **NEVER** be emailed to me unless it is specifically stated. Late assignments should **NEVER** be emailed to me. Use Blackboard to submit your work.

### ***Your Grade***

Please note that in my classes I do not give you a grade – you EARN it. There are 16 weeks in the semester, so please use each week to check your grade and ensure that it is the one that you want in the class. If not, invest some time toward improving your assignments or preparing for the next exam. If a problem arises and you need help, contact me as soon as possible. Do not wait until your grade is so mathematically low that I can no longer help. A few important notes about grades:

1. No exam, presentation, or assignment grade will ever be curved.
2. Final grades are not rounded up (an 89.8% is a B+, not an A-). Consult the grading scale on page 2.
3. After an assignment is returned to you, I ask that you wait at least 24 hours to review my comments and feedback. If you still have questions after that time has passed, feel free to contact me to schedule an appointment. You must contact me within 2 weeks of the assignment in question being posted on Blackboard. All grades are final unless there has been a mathematical error.
4. All grades become 100% final 3 weeks after I post feedback/scores about any assignment. If you notice that a grade is missing on an assignment, there is a mathematical error, or any other mistake has been made, you must notify me

within this time period. Informing me on the last day of the semester is not permitted.

5. There are NO small questions. Please feel free to speak up if you have a question and email me. If you are on campus this semester, I invite you to visit my office during office hours. If you are not on campus this semester, we can setup a phone conference time to discuss any questions or concerns that you have. I am happy to discuss anything with you about the course. For either option, I HIGHLY recommend that you schedule an appointment with me during office hours - I will prioritize students who have arranged to meet with me in advance of walk-ins that day.

### **Course Outline:**

A course schedule will be provided on Blackboard under the "Course Calendar" tab. It is subject to change and students will be notified on Blackboard of any changes in advance.