
Photo 204: Creative Photographic Techniques
SPECIAL TECHNIQUES & EFFECTS:
MACRO AND CLOSE UP PHOTOGRAPHY

Course Outline & Syllabus

This course is designed for intermediate to advanced photography students. It will introduce and explore various special equipment and both shooting and digital techniques used to produce close ups and macro photographs such as “stacking,” digital depth of field, expanding tonal ranges digitally, and, of course, the special camera attachments and equipment used to capture these images.

**COURSE
APPROACH**

This is a once per week lecture/demonstration/critique only class. We will be exploring close up and macro solutions to image creation problems as well as some post processing techniques and functions to enhance or modify the image to best convey your vision for the subject. That means students will be expected to work on their own (or, in some cases, allowed class time) to produce the assigned projects.

OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- ☒ Identify types and applications of equipment specialized for close-up and macro photography,
- ☒ Demonstrate the use of this equipment to produce various types of macro and close up photographs,
- ☒ Apply digital post production techniques to intensify or enhance the close-up and macro photographs.

GRADING

Students will be graded based on assigned projects and class attendance and participation. Because of the subjective nature of the material, student grades will be individualized and based on student’s demonstration of the use of the material for their own photographs. You will be evaluated not on the images per se but upon the work applied to them using class discussed and demonstrated techniques.

ASSIGNMENTS

You will normally have two weeks per assignment to complete the work and turn it in. However in some cases I might have two assignments given to you that overlap to make your work more efficient.

Each assignment will have a handout specifying the work to be

done and any other important information about that specific project. This handout will be available for download on either my web site (www.ndavidking.com/sdcc.htm) in the Photo 204 section or on Blackboard. The Assignment page on Blackboard will also have the specifics of the assignment enumerated for you as well as the necessary formatting you will need to do in order to properly submit your finished projects.

ATTENDANCE

This is a once per week class so we have minimal chances to meet. Attendance and participation in class will be given a grade component equal to one project assignment. Every absence has twice the impact that it would in a full 16-week class.

If you need to drop the class it will be your responsibility to contact admissions and officially withdraw. Failure to do so will leave your name on my grading roster and I have to give a grade to every name on that roster. There are so few projects that each has a major proportion of the grade. Missing even one, plus the attendance hit will likely result in a less than optimal grade...

TARDINESS

Tardiness is rude, disrespectful of other students, insulting to the instructor, unprofessional, disruptive of the class, and, basically, unacceptable to me. If the class does not mean enough to you to make arrangements to show up on time, then drop it. District rules allow me to translate 3 tardies into an absence and three absences in a row (or five total) into an instructor initiated drop. That includes lab classes unless otherwise announced to you.

I will generally start classes on time or no more than ten minutes into the class period. I'm normally not amused by having you slip in when I am in mid-sentence for the students who cared enough to make it on time.

If you have a work-related issue then please tell me so I will understand the issue and not mark you down. However, you did know the times of the class so please try to accommodate them to the best of your ability. If you are relying on public transportation learn the times needed and adjust your own scheduling accordingly.

COMPUTER AND CELL PHONE USE IN CLASS

During specified lab times you will be allowed to use the computers in the classroom to work on your projects. However when I am giving you information and attempting to conduct a lecture it is also rude, disrespectful and insulting to me to see you playing away on your computer or texting or otherwise using your cell phone. It is also distracting to the class and disruptive of the

educational process for others. I will not tolerate it.

If you think talking on the phone or email or texting is more important than the class you are free to do that... somewhere else. Let your friends know when your class times are and when you enter the class room, unless you are a Doctor on call or a parent with a sick child, **TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF!!!**

**CONTACTING THE
INSTRUCTOR**

The most reliable way to contact me is via email. Please feel free to email me about any issues that arise during the class. However be sure to include in the subject line something about the class or City College so I will not delete it as spam. My email is...

dking@sdccd.edu

**EQUIPMENT &
SUPPLIES**

It is necessary that you have a digital camera with which to take photos or the ability to scan files from film-based images. You will also need memory cards or film sufficient for at least 4 projects. Your work should all be shot specifically for the class so plan on the supplies needed to accomplish the need for 3 normal assignments plus a final portfolio of 6-8 images.

The class is about macro and close up photography and also about the enhancements and modifications possible in the digital arena. We will be demo-ing techniques using Photoshop CS5. Most of these techniques could be accomplished in any version from 6.0 to CS3. If you have a different photo editor, you will have to learn how to translate what we do in Photoshop into the functionality of your own software.

You will normally turn in your assignments online through Blackboard Vista, the online course web function used by the district. Therefore you will not need folders, envelopes, CDs or other means of project submission. However the final portfolio will need not only the online submission but also 6-8 matted and mounted images for class critique. We have mat board at the checkout room for sale if you need it.

**TEXTS AND
READING**

There are no required texts for this class although I would highly recommend that you have and are familiar with the texts required for the Photo 143: Intro to Digital Photography or Photo 100 classes for basic photo capture information and the Photo 180/181 Digital Imaging class for basic Photoshop information.

During the class I will also recommend other reading material as

appropriate for the material being covered.

PROJECT SUBMISSIONS

As noted above, all projects will be submitted using Blackboard/Vista. This will allow us to easily project the images on the screen for critiques and analysis and to demonstrate techniques for improvement or enhancement.

I will show you how this is done if you are new to online or web enhanced classes. I have handouts on both my site and Blackboard about the process and also about the size/format requirements for your submitted images files. Both the handout and the project instructions on Blackboard will repeat these requirements to make sure they are available to you in several forms. There is also a video available on blackboard and my site showing you the steps to take in Photoshop CS4.

But just to make sure all bases are covered... here are the requirements in one more document:

Submitted image files must be...

- ☞ **Flattened with no layers**
- ☞ **8-bit**
- ☞ **sRGB Color Space**
- ☞ **100 ppi resolution**
- ☞ **1,000 pixels along the largest dimension (height OR width, whichever is greater)**
- ☞ **JPEG format**

Not doing this will have a grade impact.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

This is a short 8-week class meeting once per week. That means we will be moving fairly quickly through the material. Here is a tentative topical itinerary for the class but it is subject to change as needs arise.

Wk	Topic	Notes
1	Intro to course and equipment	
2	Discussion: Nature Detail/Close Up	
3	Extended Depth of Field	Close Up Due
4	Abstract	Extended DoF Due
5	Discussion of macro mosaics and 3D	Abstract Due
6	Final Portfolio Discussion: Matting and Mounting Prints	
7	Lab Time	Web Submission of final due
8	Critique of Final Portfolio	