

## PHOTO 243: ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

# GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

### **COURSE SYNOPSIS**

**T**his document contains the general information for the Photo 243: Advanced Digital Photography class, for Spring Semester 2011. This material is provided to give the student information that will help them complete assignments, anticipate grading, and help gain the maximum educational experience from the class. This is a college level class and students will be expected to take and exhibit the appropriate level of personal responsibility for their performance and success in the course.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course will cover all the critical and foundational information about digital photography including

- ☛ Using advanced digital photo equipment
- ☛ advanced editing and Digital Zone System techniques.
- ☛ Portrait and fashion retouching and other effects,
- ☛ High end digital printing techniques
- ☛ Using layers and masks for advanced editing and retouching
- ☛ Panorama and Mosaic (multi-row panorama) techniques
- ☛ HDRI
- ☛ Macro and Close Up work.
- ☛ Using portable and studio flash with digital photography
- ☛ Simulating other film and traditional art techniques, and
- ☛ Lens issues in the digital world.

### **REQUIRED TEXT AND READINGS**

The initial Digital or Film introduction texts will do fine. Other recommendations will be made throughout the class for additional reading materials.

However, the information supplied in the course handouts, department handouts, lab handouts, and lectures, **ALWAYS** takes precedence over any material in the texts or other resources. **Any material presented in class takes precedence over any of the written handouts, so pay attention when I point out any changes!!!!** If you have a question about this... ASK!

### **ADDITIONAL READING MATERIAL**

In addition to the required text listed, I would also recommend any and all books and magazines on and about photography you can lay your hands on as additional reading. Consumer magazine need to be read with certain skepticism since the material is more to sell copies than be accurate but they can nevertheless provide a comprehensive overview of material. I will add some recommendations to your reading as I become aware of them. Also look at other books used for the Basic and Intermediate classes. Even though those classes are film classes the core photographic material is the same.

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Other reading may be suggested throughout the class. Digital Photography is an art and craft on the cutting edge of both style and technology. To remain competitive you will need to stay current with the latest in equipment, technology, and, most importantly, style.

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## **COURSE FORMAT AND SCHEDULE**

Photo 243 nominally consists of a lecture class plus a lab class per week. Officially it is 1.5 hrs per lecture to 4.5 hrs of lab. However having the computers available we may well work in and out of lecture/lab/demo methodology as it seems best for the material. Generally at the first of class we will be very heavy on lecture time. By mid class it will be about even and by the end it will be heavy on the lab side.

Obviously lecture classes are crucial since that is when the core material will be presented to you. Lab classes, however, are very, very important as well. That is when I will be available to help you with lab work and you can learn from, interact with, and work with fellow-students. They are part of your class time and attendance will be noted so don't shrug them off as unimportant. In class we will discuss working at your own digital darkroom for assignment work. We may also do one or possibly more shooting 'field trips' to practice some of the material.

I will be giving you plenty of lab class time (over the semester, well over half of your time). Lab class is time designed for you to work on completing your assignments. Generally it is for you to come and use our computers and software where you can work under instructor supervision and is an important part of the learning process. You are expected to be here.

On occasion I may give you permission to use your "lab time" to go shooting for your project if I think it will be of value to you. I may also give you permission to go home and use your own equipment. But if I do either of those things and you take advantage of them then be forewarned: there will be no acceptable excuses for being late with a project or for that submitted project to not exhibit all of the skills and craft we have, to that point, discussed in lecture or lab classes.

The only sources of information that you can absolutely rely on for upcoming topics, readings, assignments, etc are from me during lectures and on specific handouts concerning the topic or the event itself.

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## **THIS IS A "WEB-ENHANCED" CLASS**

You are now in the world of digital photography, a world heavily dependent on computers where your success will be dependent on your ability to use them in a number of functions. This class is being run as a "web-enhanced" class in which you will interface with the District's Online Learning System, "Blackboard/Vista" to receive materials, turn in projects for grading, and other chores. Some of you may already be familiar with this program from other classes but I will go over it in detail early in the course.

You can access your area in Blackboard from any computer that has internet access. Its direct URL is <http://online.sdccd.edu>. Your Username is your CSID and your password is your birth date in mm/dd/yyyy format.

On Blackboard you will find copies of all handouts specific to assignments and projects as well as a copy of this course syllabus/outline.

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## **GRADING BASIS**

This is an *advanced* college-level course that requires your attention, discipline, passion, and some hard work to complete successfully. All work performed, as assignments, tests, or other projects, as well as your attendance and participation in class will be given a grade based on the quality of your work as determined by the instructor. You will be required to do some or all of the following types of assignments:

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- Photo projects involving shooting and/or editing digital images
- Written reports or essays
- Exams or tests on your retention of presented information

**GRADES & POINTS**

**Photo Projects** will be graded from multiple perspectives: **technically** (how well it was conceived, exposed, shot, and edited; **aesthetically** (how well it is composed and whether the visual presentation helps convey the image’s “story;” and also **professionally** for such elements as following directions accurately, and turning it in on time and as asked for.

All work submitted work **MUST** be your own work and not that of another. **Turning in work that is not your own or is a copy of someone else’s work will result in a failing grade and subject you to disciplinary action with the Dean of Students.**

**Tests** will be assigned specific points per question based on difficulty or type. A wrong answer gains zero points, a correct one gains all the points assigned that question. *At the instructor’s discretion* a partial right answer may receive partial credit.

**Written Assignments.** If I should give you a written assignment here are some general rules about it.

1. If I can’t read it... it does not exist. Meaning? Type or computer print it.
2. This is not an English class but computers have spell check. I expect you to spell correctly and use the right terms — especially photo-related terms — in your paper.

**If I assign a written piece it is expected that the result will be your own thinking and work.** Essay assignments at City College are run through an online resource and database called “www.turnitin.com” that checks a massive internal library of books, magazines, even graduate theses and dissertations for plagiarism and copying. I seriously grade down for using un-cited work that is not your own.

**GRADES**

Grades will be based on points awarded for each project, written assignment, exam, as well as for attendance and class participation. Each point score will have an equivalent letter grade. At the end of the class, all grade scores will be averaged as detailed below and a final class grade given. I suggest keeping track of them in your notebook.

**GRADE MEANINGS**

The following table will illustrate the value and meanings used to define and allocate grades. Especially in an advanced class such as this one, you should take these descriptions literally and honestly when evaluating your own work and the work you are about to turn in. A basic level of skill will be presumed as we start so we can be pretty objective about it.

Ltr	Value	Description of Work
<b>A</b>	<b>90+</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b> work. Your project is as good as anyone can possibly be expected to do for this level of class. Nearly perfect and beyond what was asked for.
<b>B</b>	<b>80-89</b>	<b>SUPERIOR</b> work. There may be a few small issues but generally it is a very good, above-average effort.
<b>C</b>	<b>70-79</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b> work. You did what was asked and all the parts were there, but several issues exist and just average effort is apparent.

<b>D</b>	<b>60-69</b>	<b>BELOW AVERAGE</b> work, Directions were not followed, or, there are parts missing, shooting or printing or presentation is sub-par, numerous issues exist with work that should have been solved by now.
<b>F</b>	<b>0-59</b>	<b>FAILING</b> work. This is truly Sub-standard work with major technical or aesthetic issues or where directions or requirements were generally ignored. Or it was not turned in at all.

**DIRECTIONS AND HANDOUTS FOR PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Class assignments will be described with complete instructions in Blackboard. There will be an accompanying written assignment sheet handout you can download. These instructions are very important and will be the final arbiter of what is minimally required for the project and any additional criteria (other than noted above) for the grading. The instructions/handout for each assignment will list all items to be turned in along with size and format details for the project to be considered complete.

Read each project handout carefully as the particulars may vary project to project.

**EFFECT OF FINALS**

The final projects and/or final exam will have a critical effect on your grade *regardless* of how well you have done up to that point on individual projects.

- ◆ If you do not take the final exam or do not submit an acceptable Final Portfolio or final Project as assigned, your maximum attainable grade *for the course* will be a "D" *regardless* of your other points earned to date.
- ◆ If your Final Project achieves less than 60% of the possible points your maximum attainable grade will be a "D" or,
- ◆ If your final Written Exam achieves less than 60% of the possible points your maximum attainable grade will be a "D"

**Final projects are important to your grade!**

**ATTENDANCE AND GRADES**

Attendance is not just mandated by student policy, it is vital to your learning capabilities. The college has set very strict guidelines for instructors to follow relative to student absences and tardiness. The following standards have been set by the school.

- ◆ Three (3) consecutive unexcused absences or five (5) total unexcused absences in a semester will lower your grade AT LEAST a letter.
- ◆ Also, tardiness is disruptive to the entire class and will not be tolerated. Unexcused tardiness will be counted as an unexcused absence. All unexcused absences (and tardiness) WILL count against your grade.

If you anticipate a legitimate absence then tell me BEFORE or have a really good excuse and a pathetic voice when you call from your hospital bed!

Although it is not listed in your gradebook on Blackboard, attendance points will equal about the same as one project when the final points are tallied.

**DROPPING THE CLASS**

It is vital that you remember however, that although I *can* drop you automatically for unexcused absences, do not rely on my doing so... *because I won't*.

**It is *your* responsibility to turn in the proper paperwork to the Admissions office should you have to drop the class. Depending on the amount and grades of work already turned in, failure to take yourself off of the roster through admissions COULD result in an "F" you didn't expect on your record.**

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Sometimes life gets in the way of the best plans, believe me I know and understand. But if you wish, or need, to drop, *you* must take responsibility for making sure that the admissions office has officially dropped you from the roster. Why is this so important? The reason is that if you are still on the school roster I *must* enter a grade for you at the end of the semester; and you will almost certainly get a major and negative hit on your grade. It usually becomes an “F.”

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## FINAL GRADES

Your final grade will be determined by your semester’s cumulative points (projects, assignments, tests, and attendance) as a percentage of the total possible points. That percentage will yield a letter grade based on the following table:

<b>90% - 100%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>80% - 89%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>70% - 79%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>60% - 69%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>0% - 59%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>F</b>

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## ASSIGNMENT TOPICS

At the end of this course syllabus there is a tentative list of class topics and assignments by week.

Each assignment will usually (but not always or necessarily) have two weeks to complete from the time it is given until it is due. You will need to follow along in your chosen text as we cover these topics.

I’ve not given the precise dates, instructions for, or order of the assignments here because I do not want you working ahead, trying to anticipate what will be needed. Doing that in the past has always led to a student having to do the project over because they did what they **THOUGHT** would be needed before hearing the actual assignment.

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## PROJECT / ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

As noted but needs repeating, each photo project assignment will include instructions explaining in detail the requirements for that project. Read each project description and instructions carefully and listen closely to any modifications given in class for the specific instructions to be followed for that project.

For this course however, *unless specifically noted otherwise* in the project instructions, all projects will be turned in as an electronic file submission in Blackboard.

Failure to follow the instructions will be reflected in the project grade up to and including being considered incomplete. You may use the classroom computers to do this during lab periods if you do not have internet access at home or elsewhere.

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## FINAL PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT

The final portfolio project will be an exception to the above. For that assignment, you will create a digital print portfolio which will be shown in class. I will cover that in detail during an appropriate lecture. You will also need to produce an electronic contact sheet to submit to blackboard and it is using that that I can enter your grades into the system.

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## DEADLINES

All projects are to be turned in by end of the day on the **due date**. I have set Blackboard to allow an additional “cut-off” date which is to one week after the due date except for the final project. Although you will start losing points for every day the project is turned in after the due date, you may submit your project up to the cut off date but after that the computer will not accept any submissions and you will receive a “0” score on that project.

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Deadlines are sacred in the photo industry and sacred in this class. Projects turned in late will automatically be deducted 10% of their possible points (basically equal to one letter grade); with an additional point being deducted for **every school day** they continue late. Do the math... this is not good for your grade!

A project will be returned ungraded if it is incomplete and points will be deducted as above. However, the project must be corrected and resubmitted or it will achieve a grade of zero (0) points.

**If you are having a problem, talk to me BEFORE a project is due, not after.**

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## TESTS

I believe the proof is in the image and you will be asked to show (and be evaluated based on) your growing skills via the quality of your photo projects. However from time to time, if, based on the incoming work, I think something has been missed, I may give short ad hoc quizzes to determine the absorption and retention of material covered in the classes. Any test I give will be based on materials provided by me IN CLASS so your best review material is your class notes.

Photography is more art than science. Nevertheless, especially in the realm of digital photography, there are some scientific underpinnings that you must know in order to be free to create using the medium. Those are the things I would test on so I will try to warn you in advance of topics that “you would need to know” should there be an exam. I do not use trick questions: I’m not interested in your test taking skills, only your knowledge of fundamental data.

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## CLASS CRITIQUES

Following the grading of projects, they will be critiqued in class. This is NOT a forum to embarrass anyone but a chance to learn and let the entire class learn together from observances about each other’s work and how to improve them digitally.

The goal is to get you to be doing professional quality work. I will be showing you the tips and techniques to improve your work with each critique.

Projects turned in late *will not* be included in the class critiques.

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## CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR

You may leave the instructor, David King an E-mail (preferred) or phone message as follows:

- Email: [dking@sdccd.edu](mailto:dking@sdccd.edu) (the most reliable means of contacting me.)
  - Appointments can be arranged as needed.
  - My office phone is: **619-388-3649** but is *far less reliable* as a way to contact me than by email.
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## MY WEB SITE

My personal web site, [www.ndavidking.com](http://www.ndavidking.com) has a page reserved to be a resource for you and other students. If you log on and go to the “SDCC” page there is a lot of material for you. You can scroll down to your class for copies of class materials and other handouts such as datasheets. These are often in MS Word format and some are large files that contain photo illustrations so be patient as they download. Also there are links to other resources such as a student news and announcements page. And, if you want to see some of my work you can open the “Gallery” page. Additionally on my site there is a “Links” page with links to many online photo related web sites.

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**CELL PHONES**

When you come into class there is a simple rule regarding cell phones:

**Unless you are a medical doctor on-call or a parent with a sick child at home (AND tell me if that is the case)...**

**TURN THE \*#%@\*^@ THING OFF ! ! ! ! !**

You will be able, despite your fears to the contrary, to actually survive for the class duration without getting a call (or making a call). It is an amazing historical fact that just a few years ago you actually had to wait until you got home to have access to a telephone and yet most of those students managed to survive the ordeal (though a few were found quivering in a heap by the campus police dialing an “air phone” and mumbling, “Can you hear me?” over and over, they responded to therapy and have recovered). You can therefore survive for a few hours!

Let your friends know your class schedule and when you are NOT available for calls. Do not use vibrate since I will wonder why you are smiling, nor use the high frequency ring tones because seeing others all look around when I can’t hear anything is still a good clue. **If the phone is more important than class then please spare us the interruption.**

**NOTE: THIS PROHIBITION INCLUDES TEXTING!!!**

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**COMPUTER USE**

You will be able to use the school computers for your assignments both during the lab class and during directed lab periods. But the reality is, if you want to get serious about digital photography then you need to have a computer with sufficient power and applications to download, convert, edit, and then print or transmit your images. In class we will discuss the minimal requirements for a sufficient computer along with some recommendations.

Also, you are free to bring in your own laptops for use during lab periods.

**However, do NOT – REPEAT: DO NOT – work or play with the school’s or your own computer when I am trying to lecture to the class. That is rude and distracting, and won’t be tolerated. Since you are not paying attention then I will mark you as having an unexcused absence for that day. Remember: 3 such days will equal a final letter grade.**

**Plus when I see your screen on the instructor’s station I may, if it looks particularly juicy, simply pipe it through to the projector for all to enjoy...**

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**INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE OR BEHAVIOR**

We have very clear guidelines from the administration stating we are not to tolerate any offensive language or behavior that would be disruptive to the educational process or offensive to the class. In my classroom this is a zero-tolerance position. I may only warn you the first time if I think it was a slip, otherwise even the first time takes you out of class for the rest of the day. The second time takes you out of the class for the rest of the semester.

We have, overall, a dedicated and talented group of students who have signed up for the class to learn. Photography is not an easy topic and an even harder profession. Disruptive behavior that is distracting or offensive makes it harder to deal with an already hard topic. So don’t even think about it.

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**PROBLEMS WITH THE INSTRUCTOR**

It happens sometimes. There may be a personality conflict, or you feel the instructor did not give you proper credit on something or perhaps unfairly singled out an image of yours during a critique. Any number of things in a venue as dynamic as a creative skills class can lead to a student feeling they have a problem with the instructor. If it

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should happen, then there is a set protocol and “chain of command” for you to follow to address the situation.

The first stop is the instructor themselves. Common courtesy demands, and efficient resolution depends on your first making an appointment and talking to them about your issues. Do not be intimidated by this. We really are here to help you learn and if something is standing in the way we will do all we can to correct it including, if it is necessary, helping to get you into another section of the class.

If, after meeting with the instructor you feel the issues was not resolved to your satisfaction the next step is the Chairperson of the Department. Currently that is **June Richards**. She will ask if you have spoken with the instructor and if not you will be sent back down to try that first.

If after meeting with the Chair you still feel the situation is unresolved then you can make an appointment with the Dean of the Arts and Humanities School. Currently that is **Trudy Gerald**. She too will ask if you have worked your way up the chain of command.

If you still have not received satisfaction then the Dean can recommend the next steps for you to take. This may involve a group meeting to mediate the situation.

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## INCOMPLETES

School policy is VERY clear on this: an incomplete is to be given ONLY in cases of medical emergencies arising at the last part of the class. They are not given for vacation time, party time, or ANY reason other than a legitimate medical emergency.

You have made a commitment to the school, to me, and to yourself to register for and attend this class from the start to the finish. If you cannot do that or do not want to do that then now is a good time to drop when there are others who would dearly like to register and devote the proper time to it.

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## PHOTO 102 CLASSES

Photo 102 – Directed Lab Studies, are classes where you have access to either darkroom or digital labs to complete assignments, enhance skills, etc. under the supervision and guidance of an instructor. As such they can be invaluable to you especially if your normal schedule is really crowded.

The rules are if you sign up for one section you can attend any of the sections. It is as close to an open lab as we can get. They are one credit, pass/fail classes and to earn that credit all you need to do is show the instructor of record (whichever section had room) 4 prints or files made during the semester.

If you have maxed out your repeats for the 102 we are bringing on line Photo 103s to be run concurrently so you can continue to take advantage of these extra lab classes.

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**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

This list shows the basic, minimal equipment and supplies you will need in order to complete the assignments for the class. The good news is that apart from the camera itself, the supplies cost will be far less than it would be for a film-based class but could still end up being over \$100.00 in addition to the cost of the shooting equipment.

**EQUIPMENT:**

- DIGITAL CAMERA\*\* .....Camera must have adjustable focus, shutter, and aperture. By this time in your photo education and progress this must be a true DSLR, that you can manually set exposure and focus. See note below.
- TRIPOD .....The best you can afford
- SHUTTER (CABLE) RELEASE .....Electronic or mechanical 9-12" long
- COMPUTER (Optional) ..... (See notes above)
- MEMORY/STORAGE ..... Flash media cards of sufficient capacity for 30 frames at maximum quality
- SENSOR CLEANING FLUID/BRUSH/SWABS (only if you have a DSLR) but wait for the discussion.

**SUPPLIES:**

- USB "Pen" or external drive to bring working files to lab classes to edit.
- Notebook for class notes ..... 1 book
- Mounting Boards for final portfolio ..... We'll discuss needs in class

**COSTS:**

**PLEASE NOTE! PHOTOGRAPHY, AS A STUDENT OR AS A PRACTICING PHOTOGRAPHER, IS NOT AN INEXPENSIVE ACTIVITY. FOR FILM-BASED PHOTO CLASSES, IT IS COMMON FOR STUDENTS TO HAVE TO SPEND UPWARDS OF \$300.00 FOR SUPPLIES OVER THE COURSE OF A SEMESTER. THE DIGITAL CLASS WILL PROBABLY NOT COME TO THAT AMOUNT BUT IT MIGHT GET CLOSE IF YOU DO A LOT OF YOUR OWN PRINTING.**

**\*\* RE THE CAMERA... THIS IS AN ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS. YOU NEED TO HAVE A CAMERA IN WHICH YOU CAN CONTROL THE APERTURE, SHUTTER SPEED, AND FOCUS RATHER THAN HAVING THE CAMERA DO IT FOR YOU. IDEALLY YOU SHOULD HAVE A CAMERA CAPABLE OF AT LEAST 6 MEGAPIXELS BUT YOU CAN COMPLETE THE COURSE WITH LESS. MORE, HOWEVER, IS BETTER!**

**PUT YOUR NAME ON EVERYTHING!!!**

## TOPICS BY WEEK:

Note that this table is only a **rough guideline** of how the class may go. Depending on the dynamics and specific needs (or speeds) of a particular class, or the availability of guest lecturers, the sequence of topics may be modified on the fly. When a lecture ends early you may use the rest of the time for lab work.

Week	1 <sup>st</sup> Day	2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	Assignments / Notes
1	Lecture: Course outline and rules	Lecture: Review: Exposure Control and Digital Zone System	
2	Lecture: Workflow for photo editing. Review Color Space.	Lecture: Color System Management from shot to print	Download editing workflow datasheet and diagram
3	Lecture: <b>HDR</b> Lecture/Demo: Using Layers & Masks. Review of sharpening	Lecture: Printing Review and Prep; Profiling printers & outsourcing your printing. Sizing and scaling images;	Download HDR Datasheet
4	TBA	Lab Time	Download Sharpening datasheet <b>HDR Due</b>
5	Critique HDR Lecture: <b>Portrait, Fashion and Special Effects retouching</b>	Lab Time	Download Portrait lighting styles handout
6	Lecture: <b>Extended Depth of Field</b> Lecture: Lenses for Digital Photography / Using Filters / plug-ins	Lab Time	<b>Portrait/Fashion Retouching due</b>
7	Critique Portrait Retouching. Lecture: Electronic Flash/Flash fill.	Lab Time	<b>Extended Depth of Field Due</b>
8	Critique Extended Depth of Field Lecture/Demo: <b>Digital Simulations</b> of Photo and art technologies and styles	Lab Time	
9	TBA or Lab time	Lab Time	<b>Simulations Due</b>
10	Lecture: <b>Restoring Old Photos</b>	Lab Time	
11	Lecture: <b>Panoramas and Mosaics</b>	Lab Time	
12	Lecture: Final Portfolio	Lab time	<b>Restorations Due</b>
13	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
14	Lecture <b>3D Photography</b>	Lab time	<b>Panoramas and mosaics Due</b>
15	Critique Panoramas	Lab time	<b>3D Due</b>
16	Critique 3D		<b>Contacts of portfolio due</b>
17	<b>FINAL PORTFOLIOS DUE FOR CRITIQUE</b>		Have a fun summer!!!