

Digital Photography 2: Discovering Your Creative Potential

Course Syllabus

What you will learn in this course

Digital Photography 2: Discovering Your Creative Potential

In today's world, photographs are all around us, including in advertisements, on websites, and hung on our walls as art. Many of the images that we see have been created by professional photographers. In this course, we will examine various aspects of professional photography, including the ethics of the profession, and examine some of the areas that professional photographers may choose to specialize in, such as wedding photography and product photography. We will also learn more about some of the most respected professional photographers in history and we will learn how to critique photographs in order to better understand what creates an eye catching photograph.

Unit 1: Photography as a Career

Taking photographs is a favorite hobby for many people, but some individuals choose to make a career out of taking photographs of people, places, and objects. Individuals who are thinking about a career as a professional photographer should keep in mind that the field offers both benefits and challenges. We will discuss what professional photographers do, the types of professional photographers, and the steps that many professional photographers take in reaching their goal of a career in photography.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Discuss professional photography and what this career is like
- Discuss the different types of professional photography
- Examine some of the steps to becoming a professional photographer
- Investigate the job outlook for professional photographers
- Understand what professional photographers do as part of their jobs

Unit 2: Legal and Ethical Concerns

Many people enjoy taking photographs, and professionals make their living doing this. If you decide to jump into the world of photography, either professionally or just for fun, it is important to know the legal and ethical issues to avoid problems. This is particularly true for professionals, who could face lawsuits and other issues for violating privacy or copyright laws. Knowing more about the legal and ethical issues in the area of photography is vitally important to any photographer, but it is especially important for professional photographers.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Discuss the rights that photographers have to take photographs, including how this is impacted by the First Amendment in the United States
- Understand copyright and how it can affect professional photographers
- Examine the differences between personal, editorial, and commercial uses of a photograph
- Discuss several different types of photograph licenses for commercial use
- Understand model releases and why they are used

Unit 3: Photographers and Critiques

Since the beginning of photography, individuals have shaped the technology, images, and inspiration involved in photographing people, places, and events. Through their innovation and creativity, the photographers of today have works to model, emulate, and build from. Individuals such as Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, Dorothea Lange, and Alfred Eisenstaedt helped to develop the field of professional photography and gave us some of the most iconic images ever taken, such as photographs of World War II and the Great Depression, that still help modern viewers understand those events.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Talk about some of the most well-known professional photographers
- Discuss the influence of these photographers on the practice and field of photography
- Discuss how to critique photographs
- Realize the benefits of photograph critiques
- Understand why photography critiques are subjective in nature

Unit 4: Photography Software

We're now going to dive head first into the area of photography software and, in particular, photo editing software. We'll discuss what some of the more common software choices are for editing digital photographs and look at the basic guidelines for editing images. We will learn more about the common features and tools that are found in photo editing software and how these tools can change and improve images. Finally, we will discuss hardware options and capabilities, finding which one will best fit your needs.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Discuss some of the common photo imaging software choices available today
- Understand the basic guidelines for using photo imaging software
- Talk about some of the advantages and disadvantages to using photography software
- Discuss the common features and tools in image editing software
- Show an understanding of the modern digital darkroom.

Digital Photography B Midterm Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.

- Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

Unit 5: The Darkroom

It's time to consider the film developing process that takes place within the darkroom. In doing so, we'll discuss the history of film development and the safety measures that photographers should keep in mind when developing film. In addition, we will examine how photographers can turn film into negatives within the darkroom and then turn those negatives into actual photographic prints.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Discuss the use of darkrooms and their advantages for photographers
- Talk about the history of film and film development
- Describe how film is developed into negatives
- Understand how a negative is used to create an image print
- Discuss darkroom safety and potential risks

Unit 6: Art, Product, and Stock Photography

Get ready to discover the areas of fine art, product, and stock photography. Fine art photography involves photography that is created for art's sake and includes those photographs that we see in museums and galleries. Over the last several decades, product and stock photography have increased in popularity as businesses need photographs of their products for advertising and websites need stock photographs to illustrate articles and other online content. We will discuss these three areas and examine professional tips and techniques for each type of photography.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Discuss fine art photography and its connections to both fine art and other types of photography
- Describe some of the techniques used to present and display photographs
- Discuss the area of product photography
- Understand more about the area of stock photography and microstock photography
- Discuss the tips and techniques for stock and microstock photography.

Unit 7: Photojournalism

Photojournalists document many of the events and important situations in our world today. Their work is often featured in newspapers, magazines, and online news sites. We'll examine some of the challenges to photojournalism today and the responsibilities that photojournalists have. We'll also examine some of the different types of shots that photojournalists use to tell a story and how photojournalists increase their chances of capturing that perfect shot.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Describe photojournalism and how it relates to journalism
- Discuss why individuals become photojournalists
- Describe the common types of photographic shots that photojournalists use
- Understand how to catch the perfect candid shot of news stories
- Discuss the responsibilities of photojournalists.

Unit 8: Wedding Photography

Wedding photography is a popular area for professional photographers, although it is also a challenging one. We'll discuss the business of wedding photography, the characteristics of a good wedding photographer, and several different types of wedding photography. We'll also discuss the preparation that goes into photographing a wedding and some of the considerations for the wedding itself.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Discuss the business aspect of wedding photography
- Describe what it takes to be a good wedding photographer
- Understand the two types of wedding photography
- Talk about some of the actions needed to prepare to photograph a wedding
- Discuss some aspects of photographing the wedding and reception

Digital Photography 2 Final Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last four units. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)