

**Western University  
Department of Visual Arts  
VAS2246B - Digital Photography**

Term/Session: Winter 2018  
 Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 - 11:30am  
 Location: VAC 134/135  
 Professor: Colin Carney [ccarney@uwo.ca](mailto:ccarney@uwo.ca)  
 Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 - 1:00pm - Rm 241B

**Course Description**

This is an introductory course examining a variety of technical and artistic approaches to digital photography in the context of contemporary artistic practice. This course will offer students a technical foundation for using DSLR cameras as well as for using Adobe Photoshop. Students will learn about output preparation, print production and archival maintenance. A combination of demonstrations, in-class exercises, thematic lectures and slideshows will introduce students to the relationship between technical skill and critical thinking in contemporary photography. This class will be an opportunity for students to experiment and discover ways to express themselves in digital photography. It will also be a class concerned with various theoretical discourses which inform artistic practices in digital photography. Students will be making thoughtful work which responds to these considerations in 4 major projects over the term.

Note: Through this course, students will be exposed to a very broad range of photographic art. Some of the visual material students will be expected to view is of an explicit nature, containing for example, scenes or depictions of sexual and/or violent acts. Students must accept that by taking this course they have consented to viewing such material. If this poses a problem for a student, for whatever reason, it must be BROUGHT TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR (DURING THE FIRST CLASS).

**Learning Outcomes**

*Depth and Breadth of Knowledge*

Students will acquire the range of skills required to engage in the material practice being studied, and will have a thorough understanding of the genesis of those skills historically

*Knowledge of Methodologies*

Students will gain an understanding of the critical potential of the medium, be able to identify various ways works in that medium operate critically, and will apply their understanding, in creative ways, to the realization of their projects

*Application of Knowledge*

Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects

**Materials:**

- A small-format, digital, single-lens reflex camera (D-SLR) is **required** for this course
- A memory stick or external hard drive (preferred) , for the storage and transfer of larger digital files.
- A USB card-reader may be useful for transferring images from the camera's memory card to lab computers, especially if your DSLR uses a proprietary memory card (eg. Sony, Olympus).
- Students should expect to produce their own digital files and prints, and, buy their own paper.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Attendance**

Attendance, punctuality and preparedness for class are critical, as the teaching methods used will include class critiques, lectures and studio work. Under University regulations, if a student misses 15% of their classes, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, they can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or critiques.

### **Studio Work**

Class time will be devoted to lectures, tutorials, demonstrations, presentations, critiques and studio work time, allotted to the students of this class to occupy the Lab exclusively for their own purposes to complete assi

**VISUAL ARTS Undergraduate Grading Guidelines – Studio**

These guidelines are benchmarks, not to be followed as rigid regulations. They will be adjusted as

**Evaluation Breakdown:**

10% In-Class Exercises  
15% Project 1  
15% Project 2  
20% Project 3  
20% Project 4  
10% Presentation  
10% Attendance & Participation