

ART 2360-001 Spring 2016

INTRO TO PHOTOGRAPHIC CONCEPTS

TTH 8AM-10:50AM

Classroom- FAB368C (official) also FAB346 and FAB348A

Instructor: Scott Hilton

Office Hours: T Noon-2pm

Office: FA 379B

Phone- 817.272.289 Art Dept. office (not a direct line to me)

E-mail- shilton@uta.edu (preferred contact)

Faculty Profile page- <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/scott-hilton>

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will learn the basics of digital photography, learning to understand the qualities of light, the technical aspects of capture, editing and printing, and various styles of photography. Students will learn to use their digital cameras in different exposure modes, necessitating a comprehension of shutter speeds, apertures, ISOs, white balance, exposure metering, focal lengths, etc. Students will learn about editing techniques using the Adobe Lightroom program. Students will research, propose, and produce a Final Project portfolio of printed 8½"x11" photographs.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students in this class are expected to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of basic digital camera functions including exposure, depth of field, shutter speeds, ISO, and white balance
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of digital photographic editing using Adobe Lightroom, and presentation in a .pdf file
- Produce images showing aesthetic understanding of the formal elements of photographic and 2-D composition
- Produce inkjet prints that show an understanding of tonal range and color balance
- Demonstrate ability to research, contextualize, interpret, and explain the work of historical and contemporary photographers
- Discuss photographs in critique by analyzing content, form and technical skill.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Carroll, Henry--*Read This if You Want to Make Great Photographs* Lawrence King Publishing, 2014 ISBN-10: 1780673353 <http://www.amazon.com/Read-This-Want-Great-Photographs/dp/1780673353>

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Digital camera with manual exposure controls (SLR or mirrorless). 12MP minimum image size. RAW capture preferable, not necessary. Please don't go out and purchase a camera before discussing it first!
 - Appropriate memory card for your specific camera.
- One Epson ink cartridge for Epson 3880 printer (specific color assigned)
 - Your name and UTD ID# written on box, due by Feb 18. You will not be allowed to print if you do not turn in your ink on this day!
- 8½" x 11" Portfolio book- For turning in all prints
- 8½" x 11" Inkjet Photo Paper- Red River Ultra Pro Satin (available at Arlington Camera or from FOCUS the UTA photo club)

BLACKBOARD and EMAIL: My preferred method of communication with all students is through my UTA email - shilton@uta.edu. All class materials will be made available via Blackboard. All announcements and class communication will be posted on Blackboard and sent as email messages to your mavs.uta address. Please use and check your uta email regularly!

ASSIGNMENTS: Each assignment will be discussed more thoroughly during class. An assignment sheet and examples of photographs will be available on Blackboard.

• What Makes a Great Photograph?	10 pts.
• Space and Perspective	20 pts.
• Photographer Presentation	10 pts.
• Motion, Time, and Action	20 pts.
• The Mystery Assignment	20 pts.
• Color and Monochrome	20 pts.
• 2D/3D Documentation	20 pts.
• Midterm Exam	20 pts.
• Final Project	50 pts.
• <u>Critique Participation (cumulative)</u>	<u>10 pts.</u>
Total	200 pts.

Final Grade calculation-

- 181-200 points = A
- 161-180 points = B
- 141-160 points = C
- 121-140 points = D
- < 120 points = F

Assignments are graded on a rubric with categories of strength of concept, aesthetic sensibility, and successful technique. All grades, and the rubric, will be posted on Blackboard. Should you have any questions about the reasons for any grade you receive, you are more than welcome to ask for further explanation, and I will happily oblige.

Late or incomplete (less than the amount required) work will not be accepted and will result in an F for that assignment.

RE-DOs: *If, and only if, an assignment is completed on time*, but the student would like to improve their grade, then an assignment can be redone and resubmitted by the date the final project is due (May 7). The resubmitted assignment will require additional shooting or printing as needed, and will be considered a “new attempt” at the assignment, meaning there is no guarantee that a resubmitted assignment will result in a better grade.

Critiques: I offer, and encourage you to offer, constructive and honest opinions and feedback of all work submitted for critiques. Objective criticism of your work may be painful to hear, but it is a necessary part of the learning process. Criticism should not be taken, or meant, as a personal attack. Critiques are neither a therapy session, nor a battle for intellectual glory.

Presence at all critiques is mandatory, regardless of your assignment being completed or not. Missing *any* critique will result in a “Zero” participation grade for the entire class. If you know that you will not be able attend a critique, you must inform me and turn in your work ahead of time, to avoid penalty. If you are absent at a critique due to immediate unforeseen circumstances (accident, injury, sudden family tragedy) then inform me of this as soon as is practical.

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance.

Scott Hilton's attendance policy-

- Missing any critique or assignment due date without prior notice, or sufficient reason, will result in a 0 for your class participation grade.
- If you must miss a demo, you are responsible for informing yourself about what was covered. Ask a fellow student to explain it to you or make an appointment to go over it with me in my office hours.
- You are all adults. Someone paid a lot of money for you to be in this class. If you want to waste that money by not showing up for class lectures, demos, or open lab days, I can't stop you- but don't act surprised when your grades suffer for it. Which will happen.

Facilities: We use three different rooms/areas in this class.

- 368C- our *official* classroom, for all computer work, printing, and lectures. 24/7 access by using card lock on door.
- 346 and 348A- For critiques (across the hall from each other) and work on the 2D/3D assignment. 24/7 access to 348A through the card lock on door 348.

Enter these rooms by swiping your UTA student ID, and entering your 5-digit PIN in the door lock. If you do not know your 5-digit PIN, you will need to follow the instructions on the NetID Self Service web page- <https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/>. No person who is not enrolled in the class, including children, spouses or pets, are allowed in classroom or lab areas. DO NOT let anyone in the classrooms because they knock on the door. If you leave the room, bring your ID with you so you can re-enter.

You will need to work in both spaces outside of regular class time. Check the signs outside the door for when other classes are scheduled in those rooms. If you need to have access to either area when another class is in session, you must FIRST ask permission from the instructor in that room, who has sole discretion to say yes or no.

Your access and use of the lab and the equipment is a privilege; we expect you to be role models for the other students. You are expected to properly set up your work area AND to clean up when you are finished. You are expected to notify staff if you break equipment, or if you find something that is broken or missing.

Any student who is consistently messy, rude or found with our stuff in your pockets will be denied further access.

Please take precautions in the facility at night. After 5pm, an escort service is available in the evenings. Never leave your cameras, wallets or other valuables unattended in the lab-use your locker!

Equipment Checkout- The photography program does have a limited selection of cameras and tripods that are available to use on a short-term basis, 3 days maximum. You are welcome to use them but you must sign a checkout agreement form, which states that you will be financially liable for replacing or repairing the equipment if it is lost or damaged during the time you have it checked out. This equipment is made available for temporary or emergency use only, and is not to be relied upon for all your needs for this class.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the

University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. According to the UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. **Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit <https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/>. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at helpdesk@uta.edu.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Finals and Finals Review Week Faculty in the photography area usually schedule critiques for final portfolio class work during the last regular week of classes. Faculty are available during Finals Week for meetings, discussion and pick up of the final portfolios. The photography area schedules a Photo Area Portfolio Review during Finals Week after completion of 9 upper level credits and again at the semester prior to graduation. This is a comprehensive review with the entire photography faculty and is highly recommended although not required by the Art Department.

Class Schedule (subject to change)

1- Jan 19	Introductions: People, Labs, Syllabus, Intro to What Makes a Great Photograph?
2- Jan 21	Review of images for What Makes a Great Photograph?
3- Jan 26	Intro of Space and Perspective assignment Introduction to DSLR (or mirrorless) cameras
4- Jan 28	Digital Cameras
5- Feb 2	Digital Cameras
6- Feb 4	Camera Q&A (Scott gone)
7- Feb 9	Adobe Lightroom- Discussion on Photographer Presentations
8- Feb 11	Adobe Lightroom
9- Feb 16	Adobe Lightroom Intro of Motion, Time, and Action assignment
10- Feb 18	Printing from Lightroom – Contact sheets for Space and Perspective due (24 images) All ink cartridges are due on this day!!!
11- Feb 23	Critique #1- Space and Perspective Four jpegs due (minimum) posted to Blackboard and four 8½"x11" prints (minimum) due in book
12- Feb 25	Intro of The Mystery Assignment
13- Mar 1	Photographer Presentations due
14- Mar 3	Photographer Presentations Contact sheets for Motion, Time, and Action due (24 images)
15- Mar 8	Critique #2 – Motion, Time, and Action Four jpegs (minimum) due on Blackboard and four 8½"x11" prints (minimum) due in book
16- Mar 10	Midterm Exam on Blackboard
17- Mar 15	Spring break
18- Mar 17	Spring break
19- Mar 22	Work day for Assignment #3 Discussion on Final Project Contact sheets for The Mystery Assignment due (24 images)
20- Mar 24	Critique #3 – The Mystery Assignment Six jpegs (minimum) due posted to Blackboard and six 8½"x11" prints (minimum) due in portfolio book
21- Mar 29	Intro to Color and Monochrome
22- Mar 31	Intro to Documentation
23- Apr 5	Work day for Documentation
24- Apr 7	Critique #4 – Color and Monochrome Six jpegs due posted to Blackboard and six 8½"x11" prints due in portfolio book 2D/3D Documentation Six jpegs due on Blackboard (no prints) Proposal due for Final Project
25- Apr 12	Open lab day (Individual meetings)
26- Apr 14	Open lab day (Individual meetings)
27- Apr 19	Open lab day
28- Apr 21	Open lab day
29- Apr 26	Open lab day Contact sheets due for Final Project (36 images)
30- Apr 28	Open lab day
31- May 3	Open lab Day
32- May 7	FINAL CRITIQUE Eight jpegs (minimum) due posted to Blackboard and eight 8½"x11" prints (minimum) due in portfolio book

ASSIGNMENTS (numbered) and other graded efforts

1) What Makes a Great Photograph? Jan 21

Student must find and post three digitized images (from any source other than a google search for "great photographs") to Blackboard that they find truly *exceptional*. Each student must write a 100 word explanation of what qualities make it truly exceptional. Be specific, detailed and descriptive rather than vague or general.

- Vague BAD- "I really like it!" "It captures the moment." "It's a powerful statement."
- Specific GOOD- "The intensely red car stands out against the drab gray background." "Her smile looks like she's trying to be happy, but the veins on her hand are standing out because of her tense grip on the doorknob. There are mixed messages here."

2) Space and Perspective – *Contact sheets with 24 images due Feb 18, four edited jpgs (minimum) posted to Blackboard and four 8½ x11 prints (minimum) due Feb 23, in portfolio*

- Introduction to Cameras, Adobe Lightroom, inkjet printing
- Basic photographic composition, emphasizing linear perspective and the use of space
- Depth of field, Aperture-priority exposure mode

Photographer Presentations – *10 minute presentation about the work of one photographer, PowerPoint or .pdf document due on Blackboard Mar 1*

- Basic research, explaining concepts and historical context

Midterm Exam – Test posted to Blackboard, will be during class time on March 10

3) Motion, Time, and Action – *Contact sheets with 24 images due Mar 3, four edited jpgs (minimum) posted to Blackboard and four 8½ x11 prints (minimum) due Mar 8, in portfolio*

- Use of tripods for camera steadiness
- Creative use of the shutter- very short, medium-long, and very long exposure times
- Shutter-priority exposure mode

4) The Mystery Assignment – *Contact sheets with 24 images due Mar 22, six edited jpgs (minimum) posted to Blackboard and six 8½ x11 prints (minimum) due Mar 24, in portfolio*

- If I put anything here, it would be less of a mystery, wouldn't it?

5) Color and Monochrome – *Six edited jpgs posted to Blackboard April 7*

- Color temperature variations in time of day
- Interpretive (unnatural) color
- Black & White conversion

6) 2D/3D Documentation – *Four jpegs, edited and color corrected*

- White balance, neutral gray card
- Artwork reproduction
- Basic tabletop lighting

Final Project – *Project proposal due April 7, Contact sheets with 36 images due April 26, eight edited jpegs (minimum) posted to Blackboard and eight 8½" x 11" prints due May 7, in portfolio*

- Developing and researching a concept
- Anticipating difficulties and forming a plan, time management
- Executing your concept, adjusting as needed
- Completing and presenting your finished work

Critique Participation – Assessment of how well a student speaks up, asks questions, and offers critical responses without being prompted, during all class critiques.