

ART 2360-003 Spring 2017
INTRO TO PHOTOGRAPHIC CONCEPTS
TTH 2:00-4:50PM

Classroom- FAB368C (official) also FAB346 (for critiques) and other rooms (see below)

Instructor: Scott Hilton
Office Hours: W, 2-4 PM
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 with me first!
 - Appropriate memory card for your specific camera.
- One Epson ink cartridge for Epson 3880 printer (specific color will be assigned, link for where to purchase is on Blackboard)
 - Ink with your name and UTA ID# written on box, is due by Feb 23. You will not be allowed to print if you do not turn in your ink by 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)
- 1 USB drive, 32GB, for turning in full-size digital files

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

• What Do You See in a Photograph?	10 pts.
• Documentation	25 pts.
• Controlling Light	25 pts.
• Photographer Presentation	10 pts.
• Narrative and Collaboration	25 pts.
• Urban/Suburban Universe	25 pts.
• Final Project	50 pts.
• <u>Participation/ Attendance</u>	<u>30 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 rubrics with categories such as strength of concept, aesthetic sensibility, and successful technique. Emphasis on these categories will vary with the nature of the assignment. All grades, and the rubric, will be posted on Blackboard. Should you have any questions about any grade you receive, you are more than welcome to ask for further explanation, and I will happily oblige.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class time on the date indicated on the syllabus, and on the assignment sheets that will be posted to Blackboard. All elements of an assignment indicated on the assignment sheet (paper prints, digital submissions, etc.) MUST be turned in by the due date and time, in order to receive credit for the assignment. If ANY element for an assignment is not turned in on time, it can be considered an INCOMPLETE assignment, and no credit may be given. (See also the section below under "Attendance" regarding missing critiques.)

DO-OVERS: *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 2). Students interested in a Do-Over must consult with the instructor to determine what needs to be done to improve their grade. All Do-Overs will be considered a "new attempt" at the assignment, meaning there is no guarantee that a resubmitted assignment will result in a better grade. Students are allowed one Do-Over, of any assignment other than the Final Project.

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.

Attendance at critiques, and active participation in the discussion, is critically important for success in this class. Critiques are more than just the opportunity to present your finished work, they are also your opportunity to offer feedback and insight into the work of your fellow students. 30 cumulative points are awarded for participation in class critiques. To receive full credit for participation, students must speak up during critiques, without prompting. Any unexcused absence from any critique will result in 0 participation points for the class (see below). Even if you don't have any completed work to turn in for an assignment, it is still important that you show up and participate.

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-

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class time. If you arrive late, you are responsible for informing me that you are present. Being late will result in a 5-point deduction to your Attendance grade. Being absent from any class (other than those labeled "Open Work Day" on the syllabus) results in 10 points off your Attendance grade. If you know you will not be able to attend a class, you must give 3 days' notice to avoid penalty. Four absences will result in a failing grade for the class.
- Missing any critique without prior notice or reason, will result in an F grade for that assignment, and a 0 for your class participation grade. If you know that you will not be able to attend a critique, you must give 3 days' notice, and turn in your work ahead of time (paper prints and digital versions to Blackboard) to avoid penalty.
- If you must be absent from any class or critique due to immediate and unforeseen circumstances (accident, injury, sudden family tragedy) then inform me of this as soon as possible, and provide written/ visual documentation, in order to avoid penalty.
- 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. You, or someone, paid 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, or by generally treating this class as a burden to be endured, rather than as an opportunity or privilege not to be wasted, I can't stop you. But don't act surprised when your grades suffer for it.

FACILITIES: You must use your UTA Student ID card to access many of the areas we use for this class, please have it with you at all times to ensure access. We use several different rooms/areas in this class.

- 368C- "Computer Lab" Our *official* classroom, for all computer work and printing. Students have 24/7 access by using card lock on door. Printers are set up to be usable during times when Photo Lab Techs or Photo Faculty are present, generally M-Th 8AM to 9PM, and S-Su Noon to 4PM (these hours are posted in the room).
- 346- "The Cave" Our main area for critiques and lectures. We will also do some shooting for the "Documentation" assignment in this room.
- 348, 348A and 349- (24/7 accessible through the card lock door marked 349) An area of rooms we use for the Documentation assignment, and other purposes.

Rooms with card locks are accessible by swiping your UTA student ID, and entering your 5-digit PIN in the door lock, and waiting for the double flashing green lights. 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 into these rooms just because they are knocking on the door. If you leave the room, bring your ID with you so you can re-enter on your own.

If you are planning to work in any of these areas outside of our regular class time, check the signs outside the door for other classes scheduled to be in those rooms. If another class is there, you must FIRST ask for permission from that instructor, who has sole discretion to allow you in or not.

Your access and use of the lab and the equipment is a privilege. 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 inconsiderate will be denied further access.

Please take precautions when leaving the facility at night. From 7PM to 1AM, the Mavs Courtesy Escort service is available by calling 817-272-5252. Never leave your cameras, wallets or other valuables unattended in the lab-use your locker!

EQUIPMENT CHECKOUT- The Photo Lab Tech Office is Rm 344. A schedule will be posted outside that door, showing when Lab Techs, or Faculty, are available to check out equipment. The photography program does have a limited selection of cameras and tripods that are available to use on a short-term basis, usually 3 days. 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.

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 <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/helpdes>

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)

Jan 17	Introductions: People, Labs, Syllabus, Intro to What Do You See in a Photograph? Uploading images to Blackboard
Jan 19	Review of images for What Do You See in a Photograph?
Jan 24	Cameras, Light, Digital Photo basics- Bring your cameras to class from now on!
Jan 26	Cameras, Light, Digital Photo basics
Jan 31	Digital Camera Basics- shutter, aperture, ISO, image size/quality (jpeg and RAW)
Feb 2	MEET IN ROOM 348- Intro to Documentation- manual exposure, neutral gray, color balance, bracketing
Feb 7	Rm 348- In- class work on Documentation
Feb 9	Rm 368C- Adobe Lightroom- importing images, navigation, basic editing
Feb 14	Rm 368C- Adobe Lightroom- Documentation assignment due by end of class
Feb 16	Rm 368C- Intro of Controlling Light - exposure modes, DoF, effects of shutter
Feb 21	Rm 368C- work on images shot for Controlling Light (60 required)- histogram, crop tool, graduated filter, spot adjustment filter, Intro to Photographer Presentations
Feb 23	Rm 368C- In-class work with Lightroom Printing from Lightroom (ink due by this day!)
Feb 28	Rm 346- Crit on Controlling Light, Choice of photographer for presentation due
Mar 2	Intro to Collaborative Narrative- watch film <i>Brief Encounters</i> , about Gregory Crewdson
Mar 7	Rm 346- Photographer presentations due
Mar 9	Rm 346- Photographer presentations cont'd (Scott Gone)
Mar 14	SPRING BREAK
Mar 16	SPRING BREAK
Mar 21	Rm 368C- work on images shot for Collaborative Narrative (60 required)
Mar 23	Rm 368C- work day for Collaborative Narrative
Mar 28	Rm 346- Crit for Collaboration and Narrative
Mar 30	Intro to Urban/Suburban Landscape- Perspective, Dof, Long exposure, Color temperature/ time of day Discussion on Final Project, proposals
Mar 31	<i>Drop date- requests due to Advisors by 4:00 PM</i>
Apr 4	Rm 368C- work on images shot for Urban/Suburban Landscape (60 required)
Apr 6	Rm 368C- work for Urban/ Suburban Landscape
Apr 11	Rm 346- Crit on Urban/Suburban Universe, Final Project Proposals due
Apr 13	Open work day
Apr 18	Individual meetings- 60 images due for Final Project
Apr 20	Individual meetings
Apr 25	Open work day
Apr 27	Open work day
May 2	Open lab day
May 4	FINAL CRITIQUE

ASSIGNMENTS and other graded efforts

1) What do you see in a Photograph? - Jan 19

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) Documentation - Feb 14

Students will need to post six images to Blackboard that are produced using the techniques demonstrated for documenting 2- and 3- dimensional objects. This is a precise and technical process, and instructions must be followed carefully. Correct and consistent exposure, color, lighting, and editing are critical.

3) Controlling Light - Feb 28

An assignment meant to familiarize students with some of the fundamental visual elements of photographic images, and with the utility of various camera exposure modes. Students will start by shooting a minimum of 60 images, 20 each using three different exposure modes- aperture priority, shutter priority, and manual. Images must demonstrate different visual qualities of depth-of-field and motion blur, as well as successful use of various photographic compositional elements that will be discussed in class. Six images, chosen from those sixty (two from each group) will be printed for critique.

4) Photographer Presentations- Choice of photographer due Feb 28, presentations due March 7

A short presentation on a photographer, you must choose from the list provided in the description on Blackboard.

5) Collaboration and Narrative- Mar 28

Stories are more than just entertainment; they help form the fundamental modes of understanding that guide people in their day-to-day lives. Students will work in pairs, and individually, to create photographs that are meant to relate a meaningful narrative. Peer groups will need to produce two photographs restaging a historical event, or work of art. Each individual student will need to produce two photographs that imply a story by using suspenseful or unseen elements.

6) Urban/Suburban Universe (B&W)- Apr 11

Students will produce a small portfolio of six images that visually explore and represent the environment of streets, buildings, structures, and spaces that comprise the contemporary world we all live in. How can you find visually interesting ways of relating the world you see every day, and have learned to ignore? How can you discover fascination within familiarity? Particular emphasis will be placed on using linear perspective and negative space. This project will also deal with converting a color digital image to monochrome, or Black and White.

7) Final Portfolio- May 4

Students will engage in a process of brainstorming, refining, and researching a concept or thesis that will be the foundation for a portfolio of photographs. This "body" of work can be on any subject, but it must have a coherent and consistent visual style. Just as a written essay is meant to persuade the reader to the writer's point of view, the portfolio of photographs must persuade the viewer to understand the photographer's intent.