Digital Photography has introduced new processes to create images and sharing them with others. The ability to immediately be able to check exposure and review our work can be very helpful, if we know what we are looking for! With the advent of these new photographic tools, we can capture and share in ways that were simply not possible a decade ago. Due to many factors, digital photography has also created and renewed a greater interest in photography.

The purpose of this class is to help you get the most out of your digital camera, improving your abilities to work with your equipment in a variety of photographic situations. The first three classes will cover primarily technical and general photographic issues, light and color, with the last three classes focusing more on real world situations and applying these techniques and ideas to further your photographic skills.

Helpful skills for this class are:

- Familiarity with computers and software
- A good, basic understanding of pixels, RGB color, etc.
- A solid, working knowledge of your camera and navigating the menus

Essential Equipment for the Classes

- A Digital Camera
- The Manual for your camera
- Fully charged battery

Suggested Equipment

- Additional Lenses (if applicable)
- A tripod or Monopod
- A circular polarizing filter

Class 1– Digital Camera Overview

The essential features for the creative use of your camera

- Essential Features of digital cameras for this class
- Overview of Digital Workflow. Capture, review on camera, download and storage
- Shoot in RAW or JPEG?
- Review of the Exposure Basics: Shutter, Aperture (Depth of Field) and ISO
- Viewing Shutter Speed and Aperture you are using
- Aperture Camera Mode (A or Av) Creative use
- Overview of using Exposure Compensation with Aperture Mode and why
• Digital Workflow – Reviewing exposure with Histograms and Highlights warning (introduction-more next week)
• Overview of Focal lengths
• Setting and selecting the camera focus point
• Taking in a wide view- exploring the world of wide angle with your camera

Last 30 minutes – Practice in Aperture mode. Review viewing histogram and Highlight warning. View the world through your camera using only a wide view.

Homework: Practice photography using only your wide angle view (short focal length). Try doing some of the examples presented in class. Know where to access Exposure Compensation (EC) and note where you find the histogram and highlight warnings when reviewing your images. Know how to turn off your flash.

Send me one or two photos to discuss in class next week. Need to be wide angle shots, but not necessarily new pictures. When shooting, be sure to try both Landscape and Portrait modes.

Class 2 – Light
The understanding and the capturing of light

• Review and discussion of Class Pictures
• Light and Exposure: Controlling Exposure and Exposure issues
• Use of Exposure Compensation
• Using Histograms for review and control of exposure with exposure compensation
• Highlights warning to review exposure and adjust with exposure compensation
• The Three Factors of Exposure- Shutter Speed, Aperture and ISO
• Using Auto ISO or Manual setting
• Light Awareness: Becoming a Light Observer
• Types of Light and Direction of Light
• Emotional effects of Light and Subject
• Key light or Chiaroscuro
• Low Key/High Key
• Using your Telephoto lens setting
• Textures and Patterns- Shooting the Hidden

• 30 minutes photographing texture and patterns around campus- observing light and checking your exposure with histogram and highlights warning

Homework: Shoot subjects from various distances using a medium telephoto setting. Observe light and its effects throughout the day. What kind of light is it? What kind of photography and art do you enjoy and are interested in creating with your camera?

Send me one or two photos to discuss regarding light in class next week. Need to be medium or long telephoto shots, but not necessarily new pictures.
Class 3 – Light and Color

- Review and discussion of Class Pictures-Light
- Light: Light color and temperature
- Color Terms: Hue, Saturation and Luminance
- Exploring White Balance
- White Balance Settings- Auto or Manual?
- The Color Histogram and Color Channels
- Camera Settings and Color
- Emotional effects of color
- Setting mood with color
- Intro. to composition using Color relationships
- Exposure and camera color settings for JPEG and RAW

30-45 minutes classroom photography seeking color/color contrasts

Send me two photos to discuss in class next week with color as the main element.

Bring a tripod or monopod (if you use them) for the next class.

Class 4 – In the Zone: Increasing your Compositional Skills

Having more success and more "keepers"

- Review and discussion of Class Pictures-Color
- Some thoughts on Photography as a medium
- Technique and Art: Focusing more on why, not how
- Central Focus or Theme, Attention to Light, Capture of Emotion
- What’s your Subject- Simplifying a composition
- Working your Subject
- Understanding and using Depth of Field creatively
- DOF workarounds for compact cameras
- Using ISO effectively with Aperture Mode
- Composition Rules: Rule of Thirds, Golden Mean
- Balance, Lines, Groups
- Changing perspectives: Looking Up and Down
- Ideas for Composition in the classroom and around the campus

30-40 minutes shooting around campus. Choose a theme or subject on campus. This can be fellow classmates, architecture, chairs, instructor, etc.

Homework: Having fun with a subject. Find something you are interested in and try shooting from many angles, simplifying, look for patterns and colors, combinations of colors, pay attention to the background and how it changes with different focal lengths, shoot up, shoot down. Portrait, landscape, get in close or zoom and and compare. Come back in different light. Shoot during day and then at night.

Send me one or two photos to discuss in class next week with a subject or theme of your choice as the main element. Bring a tripod (if you use one) for the next class.
Class 5

Landscape, close-up, still life, indoor and outdoor portraits, use of onboard Flash

- Review and discussion of Class Pictures- Subject or Theme
- Useful camera settings: focusing, DOF, etc.
- Light for various subjects
- White Balance and WB settings
- Use of tripod and filters
- Low-light issues and stopping motion
- Night time photography
- Use of fill flash, day and night
- 30-40 minutes photographing around campus

Send me one or two photos of your favorite photographs to discuss in class next week.

Class 6 – Motion Photography

Sports, pedestrian and traffic photos, animals and children

- Review and discussion of Class Pictures- Your Favorites
- Useful camera settings: focusing modes, DOF, etc.
- Using Shutter Speed Mode for effects
- Abstractions – Shooting while moving your camera
- Panning, focusing on the move
- Burst mode or waiting for the “decisive moment”
- Low light, fill flash and slow sync flash with motion
- Balancing Shutter speed and ISO for different situations
- Photographing motion with and without flash around campus

Downtown Field Trip – We will decide which Saturday morning (10 am) works for the majority of us, preferably near the end of our class. The Japanese Gardens for good weather, and the Chinese Gardens for very inclement weather.