

VCP101 Course Syllabus

Instructor

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Course Description

VCP101 — Photography I will introduce the art and craft of photography. Students learn digital camera operation, image processing, and print production. Emphasis is placed on visual thinking and visual communication. Students complete weekly lab assignments in addition to class activities to produce a portfolio of fine black and white and color photographs.

Course policies

Late work

All assignments are due at the beginning of our scheduled class time to be considered on time. Unexcused late work will be penalized as follows: One week late will lose one letter grade, two weeks will lose two letter grades, and so forth. If you are going to have trouble meeting a deadline, please message me beforehand. I may provide extension if notice is received in advance, but this is not guaranteed.

Communication etiquette

We will be using a visual language to create both written and spoken critique dialog throughout the semester. This takes a bit of training and practice, but it's worth noting that a simple "I like it," will not be sufficient. Although we are communicating online, we are still working together in an academic setting. This rhetorical environment should guide the content, tone, and formality of your exchanges with others in the course. Be sure to always check that your messages are clear, complete, and courteous.

Academic Integrity

Cecil College adheres to the highest standards of academic integrity. Students at Cecil College are expected to maintain that high standard by taking responsibility for their own academic success and achievement. All forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, will not be tolerated, and could lead to sanctions up to and including expulsion from the college. The students, faculty, and staff of Cecil College share an obligation to participate in the academic life of the College in a responsible and intellectually honest manner. As members of the Cecil College community, students have responsibilities and duties commensurate with their rights and privileges. One of these responsibilities is to be honest and forthright in their academic work. To falsify the results of one's work, to steal the words or ideas of another, or to cheat on an examination corrupts the academic process. Academic Integrity is a critical

component of continued membership in the College community. For more information about Cecil College's Academic Integrity policy, please visit <https://my.cecil.edu/ICS/> and search for Academic Integrity.

For the reasons expressed above, any work that you submit in this course must be your own. In addition, any words, ideas, or data that you borrow from another person(s) must be properly documented. Failing to do either of these things is considered plagiarism.

Disability Accommodations

Cecil College abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that stipulates no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of disability." Disabilities covered by law include, but not limited to, learning, psychiatric, hearing, sight and mobility disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please contact Disability & Support Services so accommodations may be arranged. You may reach Disability & Support Services by phone at 443-674-1993 or by email at disabilityservices@cecil.edu to arrange an appointment.

Temporary accommodations are provided for temporary medical conditions –such as a broken hand, arm, or shoulder; surgery; or other medical conditions– that may impact your academics during the semester. We also provide support services to all students, whether it is a short-term crisis or if basic needs are not being met. For more information, please contact Disability & Support Services.

Statement on Sexual Misconduct and Title IX

Cecil College is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment free from any form of Sexual Misconduct, including sexual and gender-based harassment or discrimination, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual exploitation and sexual intimidation. Cecil College prohibits and will not tolerate Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 as amended ("Title IX") and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, and also may constitute criminal activity.

Cecil College is committed to supporting students who have been the victim of gender based harassment or sexual misconduct on the Cecil College campus. An individual who has questions or wishes to report a concern or complaint relating to violations of the sexual misconduct policy may do so by contacting the College's Title IX Deputy Coordinators for students: Cheryl Davis-Robinson, Director of Student Life, cadavis@cecil.edu, Building D, 443-674-1988, or the Title IX Coordinator: Kimberly Joyce, Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management, kjoyce@cecil.edu, Building A, 410-287-1022.

Statement on Student Code of Conduct

Students enrolled at Cecil College are expected to demonstrate honesty, responsibility, civility, and respect at all times. These values are essential to the learning environment and are expected to be exhibited in conduct in all areas of the College grounds, including classrooms and labs and College sponsored events. All students are subject to disciplinary sanctions, up to and including expulsion from the College, as detailed in the Student Code of Conduct: <https://www.cecil.edu/campus-life/student-codes-standard>s. Questions about the Student Code of Conduct should be directed to Cheryl Davis-Robinson, Director of Student Life, in the Student Life Office (TC 114C) or via email at cadavis@cecil.edu.

Etc.

Additional college information and policies are posted in the College Resources area of our Blackboard site. As a Cecil College student, you should also familiarize yourself with the information that is posted there.

Topical Outline

Visual literacy

- Principles of photography and elements of design
- Effectively critiquing photographs
- Contemporary and historical processes in photography

Imaging technology

- Exposure triangle: Shutter, Aperture, ISO
 - Shooting modes and custom settings
 - Metering light, exposure compensation
 - Qualities of light
- Optics; focus, focal length, depth of field, and filters
- Cinematography; video production, frame rates, and editing

Digital image processing

- Workflow and editing processes
- File Formats and storage
- Printing, paper profiles, and monitor calibration

Reflection and engagement

- Presentation, promotion, and working with clients
- Written documentation; project feedback and artist statements
- Installing and exhibiting work

Course Book & Resources

- [The Art and Craft of Digital Photography: A Hands-On Introduction in Ten Projects, by Kristi Eisenberg](#)

Weekly Schedule Rationale

The first five projects introduce fundamental photography issues—understanding and using light, concept development, composition, camera operation, and digital editing and output.

One of the first projects is photographing people with emphasis on light, image exposure, and sharpness. The second project is communication and composition. The third is light as the main event—the primary

element in the image. The fourth is design as the main event. The fifth is portraits that interpret character.

These projects are done in black-and-white to focus on basic goals and simplify editing. The plan is to produce high quality images *quickly* and establish a standard of excellence on which to build.

Projects six through ten add the complexities of color, moving subjects, multiple images working together; and the challenge of exploring individual themes and style. Six is color as the main event with an emphasis on color design; seven is color portraits with an emphasis on achieving optimal color balance; eight is capturing action; nine is a photo essay; ten is a personal project.

Three of the ten projects involve photographing people. This is a subject some aspiring photographers will be inclined to avoid, understandably preferring the solitude of quiet surroundings and inanimate objects to practice new skills. However, you will be able to make particularly reliable judgments about photographs of people with regard to exposure, sharpness, and color balance.

Course Expectations

Complete

- 10-15 photography assignments
- 3-5 quizzes
- A mid-semester portfolio of 10 strong photographs
- A final portfolio of 20 strong photographs

Grading Breakdown

Check Blackboard for your grades. If you see a discrepancy, please email me!

	Present Complete On time	Absent Incomplete Late	beginning	developing	accomplished	exemplary	On time
attendance	1	0					
assignment	x	0	1	2	3	4	
timeliness	1	0					
Quizzes							

All project grades are based on the following criteria:

- Technical Execution (use of medium, technique, and professional presentation.)
- Aesthetic Value (composition and design choices.)
- Creativity & Concept (idea, communication of content, continuity of theme.)

Beginning

Meets minimum requirements. Design techniques sparingly applied. Technical issues

present. Unoriginal or commonplace innovation results.

Developing

Some visual issues were solved but lacks innovative results. Design techniques require significant development. Some technical issues still present.

Accomplished

All areas of design are targeted and clearly defined. Work is intriguing with few redundant elements. Common techniques employed with few aesthetic errors. Work analyzed for weakness to be improved upon.

Exemplary

Strong use of unconventional processes that reflect interesting and appealing design choices that sets work apart from others. Technique is aligned with subject matter, concept and aesthetic elements.