

Communication 325/425 - Digital Photography I & II

Fall 2025
Tom Galli

Tues/Thurs 4:00 - 5:20pm
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General

Welcome to Comm 325/425, Digital Photography I & II! The course explores the fundamentals of digital photography. You'll learn theoretical and practical elements of composition, camera operation, and editing. We'll examine the role of photography within culture and society and how photography can be employed as an instrument of social change and a means of discovering and exploring one's unique identity. The course surveys the various ways photography can be used in making a difference in the fabric of one's community.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the B.A. undergraduate program in Communication, students will be able to:

- Communicate effectively, persuasively and ethically using oral, written, and technological platforms in interpersonal, small group, public, intercultural, and technological settings.
- Apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press, including the right to monitor and criticize power, in order to promote service, justice and peace.
- Actualize professional ethical principles in the pursuit of truth, accuracy, and diversity.
- Locate, evaluate, incorporate, and properly cite multiple resources in visual and oral performances, papers, and communication campaigns.

After completion of this class, you should be able to:

- Understand fundamentals of photography including camera operation and creative controls.
- Gain a basic hands-on understanding of post-processing techniques in ACR/Photoshop for tonal and color correction, sharpening, and creative controls.
- Understand the basic visual language and principles of making effective photographic images.
- Develop a critical vocabulary for evaluating images based on the principles of photographic visual expression and examine cultural conditions through images.
- Discover and cultivate the seeds of your own personal, unique vision.
- Explore the use of photography as a means of making a difference in your environment, community, or society.
- Gain a deeper appreciation and engagement with the world around you through the photographic medium.

Attendance, daily grades, and due dates

Due to the hands-on nature of the subject matter and the need to learn all aspects of class content, all class time is significant to your understanding of the learning objectives. Each unexcused absence beyond two will result in a 5% reduction of your cumulative grade. Showing up for class is essential for a good grade. If you are not present within 10 minutes of the start of class, you will be considered absent.

Likewise all assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise specified. Late assignments are subject to a 25% penalty.

Grading

Each assignment carries a point value. Your grade for the semester will be the percentage of points earned out of points possible.

- A - 90% - 100%
- B - 80% - 89%
- C - 70% - 79%
- D - 60% - 69%
- F - below 60%

425 Responsibilities

In addition to the other class requirements, 425 students will be called on to mentor beginning students and perform the more complex roles with greater frequency.

Equipment

You will be issued a camera for the duration of the class. If you already have access to a suitable camera, talk to the instructor. If it is suitable, you may choose to use it instead. Bring your camera to class every day. Cameras are due back before the official end of the semester. Academic and financial holds will be placed if this deadline is missed.

Tentative schedule

Date	Content	Notes
PART I: LEARNING THE CAMERA		
August 26	Class overview, composition, distribution of cameras, basic operation	
28	Shooting exercise - auto	
September 2	Review images, discussion. Manual Exposure	
4	Shooting exercise - manual	14-42mm
9	Review images, exposure, manual controls	
11	Shooting exercise - manual	40-150mm
16	Review images, camera insights	
18	Shooting exercise- manual	25mm prime
23	Review images. Depth of Field	
25	Shooting exercise - DoF	
30	Review images. Motion blur	
October 2	Shooting exercise - motion blur	
PART II: IMAGE COMPOSITION & EDITING		
7	Introduction to file structure & Adobe products	
9	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
14	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
16	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	

21	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
23	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
28	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
30	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
November 4	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
6	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
11	VETERANS DAY	
13	History of Photography	
PART III: PORTFOLIO		
18		
20		
25		
27	THANKSGIVING	
December 2		
4		
December 11	Final Thurs, 11am-1pm	Gallery opening! Portfolios due (50 pts)

Credit Hour Policy

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement. This equates to one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester, 10 week term, or equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. Direct instructor engagement and out-of-class work result in total student engagement time of 45 hours for one credit.

The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, collaborative group work, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers, presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies.

How This Course Meets the Credit Hour Policy

There are three components to the amount of time students will spend in this course:

1. Seat time (this is the amount of time students are physically in the classroom)
2. Time spent on key assessments (e.g., projects, essays, mid-terms, finals)
3. Additional time each week (e.g., reading, studying, homework)

Seat time

The class is scheduled for 3 hours per week. Over a 15 week semester, this is 45 hours.

Key assignments

There are three categories of key assignments: Shooting assignments, editing assignments, and portfolio development.

Shooting assignments or editing assignments will be given weekly and are expected to require an average of 5 hours each. There will be at least 10 such assignments required, totalling an expected 50 hours.

Portfolio development is expected to take 10 hours.

Additional time

Reading, studying, homework unrelated to key assignments, and self-guided study is expected to equal seat time, totalling 45 hours.

Total

150 hours of engagement

University Boilerplate

Catalog Course Description

Study the basics of digital photography technology, the elements of good composition and visual storytelling. Students will apply their learned skills to "business for good" or social change themes and work in groups to teach and learn with others. Service-Learning.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an "F" grade for the work in question, an "F" grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

Chaminade University of Honolulu does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at the [Chaminade University Title IX Office Contact Information and](#)

[Confidential Resources website](#). On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at [CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES](#).

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at:

<https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the [Campus Incident Report form](#). Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Student with Disabilities Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kokua Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2–3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kokua Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring & Learning Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check [Kōkua 'Ike's](#) website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.