

Communication 325/425 - Digital Photography I & II

Fall 2026
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 18	Class overview, composition, distribution of cameras, basic operation	
20		
25	Shooting exercise - auto	
27	Review images, discussion.	
September 1	Manual Exposure	
3	Shooting exercise - manual	14-42mm
8	Review images, exposure, manual controls	
10	Shooting exercise - manual (repeat)	14-42mm
15	Review images, exposure, manual controls	
17	Shooting exercise - manual	40-150mm
22	Review images, camera insights	
24	Shooting exercise- manual	25mm prime
29	Review images. Depth of Field	
Oct 1	Shooting exercise - DoF	
6	Review images. Motion blur	
8	Shooting exercise - motion blur	
PART II: IMAGE COMPOSITION & EDITING		

13	NO CLASS	Wellness Week
15	NO CLASS	Wellness Week
20	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
22	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
November 27	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
29	Bridge, ACR, Photoshop	
November 3	Genres of Photography	
5	History of Photography	
PART III: PORTFOLIO		
10		
12		
17		
19		
24		
26	THANKSGIVING	
December 1		
3		
December 7-10	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.

Marianist Values

An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles. Reflect on how this course relates to one or more:

1. Education for formation in faith.
2. Provide an integral, quality education.
3. Educate in family spirit.
4. Educate for service, justice and peace, and integrity of creation.
5. Educate for adaptation and change.

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is central to both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture — both seek transformative, value-centered learning that serves the marginalized. This is reflected in the 'Ōlelo No'eau (Hawaiian proverbs) below:

1. **Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana):** E ola au i ke akua ('Ōlelo No'eau 364) — May I live by God.
2. **Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao):** Lawe i ka ma'alea a kū'ono'ono ('Ōlelo No'eau 1957) — Acquire skill and make it deep.
3. **Educate in Family Spirit ('Ohana):** 'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai ('Ōlelo No'eau 1200) — Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped.
4. **Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha):** Ka lama kū o ka no'eau ('Ōlelo No'eau 1430) — Education is the standing torch of wisdom.
5. **Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina):** 'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi ('Ōlelo No'eau 203) — All knowledge is not taught in the same school.

In-Class Participation Expectations

Active, respectful engagement is essential. Students are expected to come prepared and contribute meaningfully to discussions, activities, and collaborative work.

Students are expected to:

- Come prepared — complete readings and activities before each session.
- Participate actively in discussions and group work, demonstrating critical thinking.
- Engage respectfully and honor diverse perspectives.
- Use personal devices for course purposes only unless otherwise directed.
- Submit work by established deadlines to support course pacing.

Important Information

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, plagiarism, **and unauthorized and/or undisclosed AI usage**, in addition to more obvious dishonesty. See catalog section *Student Use of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Work* for further information.

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

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Statement

Chaminade University recognizes the increasing role of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in academic and professional environments. AI encompasses, but is not limited to, generative AI platforms, automated writing or content generation software, coding assistants, and similar tools. Students must ensure all submitted work genuinely reflects their knowledge and effort. Using AI to produce or significantly complete graded assignments, exams or other academic tasks – defined as use that substitutes for or substantially replaces a student’s own analysis, reasoning or written expression – without explicit instructor approval is considered academic misconduct and will be dealt with according to the University’s Academic Honesty Policy.

If an instructor has reasonable grounds to question whether submitted work genuinely reflects a student’s own knowledge, authorship, or mastery of course material — or whether it meets the course’s expectations for AI use — the instructor may require the student to provide additional or alternative evidence of authorship and content mastery. Such evidence may include drafts, notes, revision history, source materials, process explanations, oral discussion, in class work, or completion of an alternative assessment. A student’s refusal or inability to provide such evidence may be considered, along with other available information, in evaluating whether the work meets course requirements and stated learning outcomes. Instructors will not rely solely on AI detection software or other automated tools in making grading or academic integrity determinations. Such determinations will be based on the totality of the available information and handled in accordance with applicable University policies and procedures. See the catalog section *Student Use of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Work* for further information.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination

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. For pregnant and parenting students, I am

also obligated to provide you with similar resources for support and protections available to you. My goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

Contact information and reporting options: chaminade.edu/titleix/nondiscrimination/. File a report via the [Campus Incident Report Form](#).

Nondiscrimination Policy and Notice of Nondiscrimination

The university is committed to comply with all State and Federal statutes, rules, and regulations which prohibit discrimination. The university is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin (including shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics), ancestry, citizenship, disability, genetic information, marital status, breastfeeding, arrest and court record (except as permissible under State law), sexual orientation, or status as a covered veteran. Inquiries about Title IX or general Civil Rights concerns 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 [HERE](#). *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](#).

Student with Disabilities Statement- Kōkua 'Ike

Accessibility Services recognizes disability as a valued aspect of diversity and ensures equal access to the educational environment in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended; and the principles and professional standards of the Association on Higher Education and Disability. Access is supported through reasonable accommodations and referrals to campus and community resources.

Appointments with the Accessibility Services Coordinator are available through Stellic at <https://chaminade.stellic.com> and may be held virtually or in person. Drop-in appointments are also welcome.

Students seeking support must meet with the Accessibility Services Coordinator as early as possible, even if they are unsure whether they have appropriate documentation of their disability or its impacts. The Accessibility Services Coordinator prioritizes listening to students's experiences and will discuss any documentation needs during the initial intake meeting. Students may seek support at any time.

Learn more at <https://chaminade.edu/ada-accommodations>

Assessment of Student Work

Chaminade University may use student work anonymously to assess achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes as part of ongoing quality improvement efforts.

Campus Resources & Support Services

The following resources are available to all Chaminade students. Reach out early — these services exist to support your success.

Resource	Description	Contact / Website
Accessibility Services (Kōkua 'Ike)	Accommodations under Section 504 and ADA. Contact early — appointments via Stellic, virtual or in person.	ada@chaminade.edu chaminade.edu/ada-accommodations
Tutoring & Academic Coaching (Kōkua 'Ike)	Tutoring and Academic Coaching Services support students' progression toward their academic, personal, and professional goals with clarity and intention. Services include individualized support in English, math, nursing, sciences, and social sciences, as well as guidance in developing goals and study strategies.	chaminade.edu/tutoring-academic-coaching-services
Career Services	Career Services supports students throughout their career journeys. Services include individualized job search strategy coaching, resume reviews, job interview coaching, and access to career-related resources and opportunities.	chaminade.edu/career-services
Basic Needs Resources	Support for food insecurity, housing instability, and other basic needs.	chaminade.edu/basic-needs/
Title IX / Nondiscrimination	Reporting and support for sex discrimination and gender-based violence. Campus Incident Report Form available online.	chaminade.edu/titleix/resources-and-support/
Hazing Prevention	Confidential support, crisis intervention, and reporting for any type of abuse including hazing.	hazingpreventionnetwork.org/athlete-helpline/
Campus Safety / SafeSwords	Security escort service for anyone who feels unsafe walking alone on campus at any time of day. Call security and a professional will escort you to your destination.	chaminade.edu/student-life/security/campus-safeswords-program/
CUH Alert Emergency Notification	Emergency text system. Register your cell number via the Chaminade portal and confirm the text to complete enrollment.	chaminade.edu