

# JO305 BASIC DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

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Media lab. Thurs. 12-2

## Course Description

JO305 Basic Digital Photography – is a basic photo course that covers camera operation, image processing, tagging and publishing. Most assignments will be shot in black and white – with an introduction to shooting color toward the end of the class.

There are 17 assignments due throughout the course. We will cover: stop action, depth-of-field, use a hot-shoe flash, night photography, filters, panning, photographing a famous person and shooting a self portrait. Students will also shoot a five-picture photo essay for a final project.

This section of JO305 also covers the basics of Photoshop and Aperture. We will cover digital hygiene, non-destructive editing, creating a filing system, color correction, converting images to black and white, sharpening, tagging, writing captions and adjusting resolution.

Photoshop tools may not be used in this class to alter the meaning of an image. Cropping is not allowed. Students will upload assignments to an online class gallery and may re-do assignments 1&2, 3&4, maintaining the better grade.

Students must provide their own digital SLR camera with storage card (minimum two gig) and a 50mm lens or a zoom lens that can be set to 50mm, and a 500 gig hard drive. Students will also need to supply their own hot-shoe flash. A camera will not be needed until the second class to give everyone a chance to make purchases.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

Students will learn the fundamentals of documentary photography and digital workflow production. Students will be guided by industry ethics and standards in both their shooting and editing. Students will produce a photo essay for the final project.

## **SUPPORT:**

There are handouts available for all assignments at <http://people.bu.edu/pasmith/>

An open Media Lab will be available on Thursday from 12 – 2pm in B29 if you have questions about completing class projects.

## **REQUIRED READING:**

The New York Times (30 – 60 minutes daily)  
The New York Times Lens Blog (keep current)

## **COURSE OUTLINE:**

### **First Lecture: September 7**

INTRODUCTION: Review syllabus and basic photo concepts of aperture (f-stop), shutter speed, ISO, lens speed; view [slide presentation of past student work](#).

### **Second Lecture: September 14**

We will cover camera operation, menu settings and exposure, filing system, color management and digital hygiene.

**Portraits: [Shooting Assignments 1&2](#)** – Face of an individual (a) in bright sunlight, (b) on a cloudy day. Bring CF card and camera to class to review camera settings and making exposure decisions using camera's light meter.

### **Third Lecture: September 21**

Bring CF card to class with assignments 1&2 to download files to Aperture. We will discuss tagging, converting files to black and white and exporting to hi-res jpegs. We'll review Aperture browser and functions.

#### **Fourth Lecture: September 28**

We'll cover: editing images in Photoshop, toning with curves, setting size and resolution, uploading images to class gallery.

Bring files from assignments 1&2 to class.

#### **Fifth Lecture: October 5**

Images from assignments 1&2 are DUE and must be uploaded by the end of class.

**Depth of field:** (Bring camera to class) [Shooting assignments 3&4](#): Choose a general scene with infinite distance apparent in background with a person 8 feet from the camera. Shoot at (a) 1/1000 with wide aperture, also shoot at (b) f/16 with slower shutter speed. Use your camera's meter for correct exposure.

#### **Sixth Lecture: October 12**

Images from assignments 3&4 are DUE this week.

**Creative shutter:** Stop Action and Panning

**Assignments 5&6:** Use fast and slow shutter to photograph (a) car on Storow Drive (b) someone walking down steps (c) a bicycle in motion.

#### **Seventh Lecture: October 19**

Images from assignments 5&6 are DUE this week.

**Night Photography:** (tripod needed) [shooting assignments 7&8](#): shoot night scenes of (a) incident light and (b) reflected light.

#### **Eighth Lecture: October 26**

Images from assignments 7&8 are DUE this week.

**Flash Test and Silhouette:** [Assignments 9&10](#). Bring flash to class. Photograph subject at 10' with direct flash set on manual. For silhouette – photograph a backlit subject exposing meter for the bright background.

#### **Ninth Lecture: November 2**

Images from assignments 9&10 are DUE this week.

**Creative Flash Photography:** [shooting assignments 11, 12, &13](#): Turn in 3 of 5 examples of flash technique.

- (a) two heads using direct flash, (b) fill-flash with direct flash, (c) bounce flash portrait, (d) open flash – direct and unsynchronized, and (e) a group of ten people.

### **Tenth Lecture: November 9**

Images from assignments 11, 12, &13 are DUE this week.

**[Intro to Color and Toning B+W Images With Filters](#)**

**[Shooting assignment 14&15](#)**. Shoot a color photograph with strong color and process that image three ways. Second, using a daylight setting for your white balance shoot a photo with heavy overcast for blue lighting or shoot with very warm light from sunset. Try to make the mood of the photo work with the tone of the color.

### **Eleventh Lecture: November 16**

Images from assignment 14 are DUE this week.

**[Self Portrait and Famous Person: shooting assignments 15&16](#)**.

Shoot (a) a famous person who does not work for BU and (b) a self-portrait (taken inside without a flash). DUE next class.

### **Thanksgiving Break: November 23**

Happy Turkey Day!

### **Twelfth Lecture: November 30**

Images from assignments 15 & 16 are DUE this week.

**[The Photo Essay: shooting assignment 17](#)**. Shoot a five-picture photo essay. Grad students are required to shoot a ten-picture photo essay that is ready for publication.

The images should be uploaded to Mobile Me and presented in the form of a layout, which should also be uploaded to Mobile Me.

### **Thirteenth Lecture: December 7**

Printing workshop.

Final shooting assignment due: The Photo Essay

### **Class policies:**

Students are required to be on time, no excused absents without a doctor's note. Students may not be online, checking e-mail, social media or text messaging during lectures or they may lose a full grade for the course. Students must be familiar with college handbook and have a full understanding of expected code and conduct. The academic code of conduct is fully explained at: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/academic-conduct-code/>

### **Recording of Classes**

Please note that classroom proceedings for this course might be recorded for purposes including, but not limited to, student illness, religious holidays, disability accommodations, or student course review. Note also that recording devices are prohibited in the classroom except with the instructor's permission."

### **Grading:**

There are a total of 17 projects due during the semester and the first 15 are equally rated at 4.5% of the total grade. The Famous Person assignment is worth 9%. The final is worth 19%. Grades are not rounded up.

Grades are based on quality, content and punctuality of work submitted. Late assignments lose one grade point (A to B) for each week they are late. Assignments not turned in receive an F. The final grade is an average of all grades received during the semester. Assignments (1&2) and (3&4) may be redone if uploaded by the following class lecture after you receive your grade. Assignments are DUE at the end of class.

### **Grades Quality Points**

A	3.87
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D	1.00

### **Primary learning outcomes**

After shooting 17 assignments students will be able to:

Shoot portraits, freeze action, create motion through panning technique, photograph incident and reflective light at night with a tripod and use a flash.

Produce well-toned, tagged images and publish them online.

Communicate with strong black and white photographs and be capable of producing a color image that is color corrected and has thoughtful use of color.

Understand the broader concepts of photojournalism.

Gain photographic visual literacy, with the ability to deconstruct an image and to better understand a photograph's manipulations, biases and message.

Develop a strong visual awareness and observational skills.