

# JO305 BASIC DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

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## 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 of a hot-shoe flash, night photography, filters, panning, color, 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, nondestructive 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 the class [Flickr](#) account and deliver all images via the class drop box. Students may redo assignments 1&2, 3&4, maintaining the better grade.

Students must provide their own digital SLR camera with storage card (minimum two gig) a 50 mm lens or a zoom lens that can be set to 50 mm 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. If you have not bought the required equipment by the end of the second class you will need to drop the course.

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

## **REQUIRED READING**

The New York Times (30 – 60 minutes daily)

The New York Times Lens Blog (keep current)

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **First Lecture: January 19**

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: January 26**

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: February 2**

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 hi-res jpegs. We'll review Aperture browser and functions.

### **Fourth Lecture: February 9**

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

Bring files from assignments 1&2 to class.

### **Fifth Lecture: February 16**

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: February 23**

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: March 1**

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: March 8**

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.

### **Spring Break: March 15**

Enjoy your break!

### **Ninth Lecture: March 22**

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 not synchronized, and (e) a group of ten people.

### **Tenth Lecture: March 29**

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

**Intro to Color and Toning B+W Images With Filters**

Shoot a color photograph with strong color and process that image three ways. Second, using a daylight setting for your white balance and shoot a photo with heavy overcast for blue light and shoot with very warm light from sunset. Use color to enhance mood.

### **Eleventh Lecture: April 5**

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.

### **Open Lab: April 12**

This is a good opportunity to catch up with lab work and get clarification on any concepts you don't understand.

### **Twelfth Lecture: April 19**

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 Flickr and to the class drop-box and also presented in the form of a layout, which should also be uploaded to Flickr and to the class drop-box.

### **Thirteenth Lecture: April 26**

Printing workshop.

Final shooting assignment due: The Photo Essay

### **Class policies:**

Students are required to be on time, no excused absences without a doctor's note. Students may not be online, checking email, social media or text messaging during lectures or they will lose a full grade for the course. Students may not use Photoshop or any other program to alter the meaning of a photograph. All captions must be truthful and accurate.

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 – BU Policy**

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.

Produce well-framed, strongly composed images that are properly exposed with good use of lighting and all done to industry standards.

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 how an image was created and to better understand a photograph's manipulations, biases and message.

Develop a strong visual awareness and strong observational skills.