



# ARTS 2356.021 – Photography I (fine art emphasis) - Hybrid

Course Syllabus: Fall 2025

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*“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”*

**Instructor: Debbie Strong**

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| Office Hours | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Online   |
|--------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|              |        | 130-250 |           |          |        | MS Teams |

***This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.***

*Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.*

**Course Description:** 3 Credit Hours/4 Contact Hours (32 lecture hours & 32 lab hours)

A studio art course that introduces the technical and conceptual basics of photography as a creative medium. Manual digital camera required.

**Prerequisite(s):** None.

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of manual camera operation, including shutter speed, aperture, and ISO. (hands-on evaluation)
2. Demonstrate the techniques of wet and/or dry photographic processes. (photo assignments)
3. Apply the elements of art and principles of design to photographic works. (photo assignments)
4. Analyze and critique printed photographic works verbally and/or in writing. (oral or written critiques)
5. Employ discipline-specific vocabulary in the evaluation of traditional and contemporary photography. (oral or written critiques)
6. Relate photographs to historical and contemporary developments in the field. (oral/and or in writing presentation supported with Power Point slides)
7. Demonstrate an appropriate level of professional practice, including safety, craft, and presentation. (Digital Portfolio)

**Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

Photoshoots = 10 %

Personal Project = 10%

Discussions = 5%

Skill Building Photoshoots/*Homework* = 5%

Portfolio = 20%

Quizzes = 15%

Creative Projects = 15%

Terminology Exam = 15%

Critiques = 5%

Final Grade = 100%

**A (90%-100%)   B (80%-89%)   C (70%-79%)   D (60%-69%)   F (59% & Below)**

**Grades will be returned to the student as follows:**

All grades will be posted to the student gradebook on Blackboard within one week of the due date. Please review the tentative course outline for course due dates. A due date schedule is also posted in the Start Here folder.

**Required Instructional Materials:** Photography (12th Edition)

By Barbara London, John Upton and Jim Stone

*You have exclusive access to the e-book which was included in your tuition and fees. You will register inside the course once it begins. There is no need to purchase a textbook for this course unless you prefer a paperback copy. If you decide to drop the course before the 12th class day, you can click on the e-book code link in the course and select opt out to get a refund for the e-book. THIS DOES NOT DROP YOU FROM THE COURSE OR REFUND YOU FOR THE COURSE.*

**Publisher:** Pearson Education

**ISBN Number:** 978-0-13-448202-6

**Optional Instructional Materials:** None.

**Minimum Technology Requirements:**

1. Digital/DSLR Camera of your choice with manual settings for Aperture, Shutter Speed and ISO. *Digital point and shoot cameras and cell phone cameras will not work for this course. If you have questions about a camera, please contact the instructor. The Start Here folder in Blackboard has additional help and links on Digital/DSLR cameras. Phone cameras will not work for this course.*

2. The art department has a limited inventory of DSLR cameras and related equipment for student checkout if there is difficulty obtaining personal materials.

**3. You must have a DSLR camera no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of class.**

4. Students must have own personal laptop/desktop with Adobe software. Campus labs and classroom computers are available as well. Note that kiosk computers for checkout do not have Adobe software.

5. Daily high-speed internet access. (You can use classroom computers for any editing during class)

6. Portable storage device such as a USB drive/thumb drive

**NOTE:** *You can purchase a camera bundle from the College Bookstore using your financial aid. Please visit with a sales representative as you may need to preorder the bundle. Use your course schedule as proof of enrollment in ARTS 2356.021. You can also check out cameras from the library.*

**Other Requirements:**

Sketchbook or Spiral Notebook for notes

Camera Tripod (Optional)

**Required Computer Literacy Skills:** DSLR photography, word processing, Blackboard, email

**Course Structure and Overview:** This is a hybrid class which means class meets once a week and all other instruction is done online via the learning management system Blackboard. We will meet in class once a week for 1 hour and 20 minutes and the rest of the work will be online. You must have reliable internet access to complete the online portion of this class. In class meetings will be reserved for lecture, presentation activities, hands-on learning activities and critiques. Students are expected to complete all the photoshoot assignments as well as online discussions and quizzes. Completion of a critique and terminology exam is also required. You should expect to spend a minimum of 4-6 hours a week on this course. Late work will be penalized per the late work policy. A due date assignment schedule is listed at the end of the syllabus and in the Start Here folder in Blackboard for the entire semester, please check it weekly so that you know what is due. As part of the art curriculum, students are expected to participate in the Student Art Show during the spring semester. Students are encouraged to participate and enter their work to galleries and competitions as well. Submission of quality work(s) and attendance to art events at NTCC are required for this course. Artwork submissions to *Lagniappe*, the NTCC literary and art magazine, are also required. Presentations/Critiques for this class will include the photo essay assignment and photoshoot assignments.

**Communications:** All teacher/student communication is to be conducted by NTCC email. I respond to emails within 24 hours. You can access student email through the myEagle Portal. Make sure that you check your student email on a daily or regular basis to access course announcements.

**Institutional/Course Policy:** The last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" is November 18, 2025.

**Plagiarism:** Avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit.

All work/creative projects must be completed within the semester you are enrolled for this course. No previous work will be accepted.

If plagiarism is discovered students will receive a grade zero for that assignment. Students may also be subject to the NTCC Academic Ethics policy. If you need to use images from online or other sources, use only copyright-free images. Give credit to the artist of work you use in your layouts. Document where you find your images by pasting the URL/Website location in the Text Submission or Comments toolbar in the Blackboard assignment window.

A few examples of violations you should avoid

1. Turning in work as your own that was created in some part by someone else.
2. Turning in work that violates copyright law.
3. Using AI.

**Late Work:** No late work is accepted.

Hard-drive crashes and file glitches do happen but are not an excuse for late assignments. Computer issues or problems with Blackboard are not a reason for not participating in discussions or submitting projects. Plan ahead and submit your work early in the academic week.

**Attendance, Participation, Cellphones:** If you miss 25% (4 classes) or more of the scheduled class meetings, you may be subject to being dropped from the course and will receive a lower grade. You must actively participate in class discussions and peer-to-peer critiques. No cell phone conversations in the classroom. Please take/make any calls outside of the classroom/building.

**Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements**

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

**Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:**

Absent a clear statement from a course instructor, use of or consultation with generative AI shall be treated analogously to assistance from another person (collusion). Generative AI is a subset of AI that utilizes machine learning models to create new, original content, such as images, text, or music, based on patterns and structures learned from existing data (Cornell, Center for Teaching Innovation).

Unauthorized use of generative AI tools to complete an assignment or exam is not permitted. Students should acknowledge the use of generative AI and default to disclosing such assistance when in doubt. Individual course instructors may set their own policies regulating the use of generative AI tools in their courses, including allowing or disallowing some or all uses of such tools. Students who are unsure of policies regarding generative AI tools are encouraged to ask their instructors for clarification. **(Adapted from the Stanford University Office of Community Standards-- accessed August 31, 2023)**

**NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:**

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

**ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

# Portfolio Requirements

This is how you will present your work to the class at the end of the semester.

Your portfolio must include the following:

3 pages: Home, About Me, My Work (with various subpages or galleries)

The home page should include a photo of yourself and tell us what your site is about. Invite us to look at your work.

The About Me page is simply more info about yourself as an artist. What is it that you do? Photography, graphic design...etc. What are your skills, professional experience etc. This doesn't need to be extremely detailed, in fact it should be brief, but you should mention key facts about yourself.

The Work page is your space to showcase your talent. Only show completed and quality work that is yours. Do not overload this page with everything you have ever done. Work examples should be in their finished form and detail oriented. For this course you should include a minimum of 12 works.

Diptych/Triptych (counts as 1 work)

Tonal Contrast

POV-Extreme Angle

Personal Project Gallery (counts as 1 work)

Reflection

Dealer's Choice (7 High Quality Images)

You are expected to apply what you have learned about design and digital media to your digital portfolio. Think about typography, color design (web colors), and other design elements/principles as they apply to visual design such as hierarchy, balance, organization etc.

Points breakdown \_\_\_ /100

Home Page = 10

About Me Page = 10

My Work Page + 12 works = 60

Overall Design = 20

**ARTS 2356.021 PHOTOGRAPHY RUBRIC**
**PS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Violation of Copyright (use of non-original images or graphic elements) will result in failure for the project. All photography and image processing must be your work.*

| Area of Focus   | Excellent<br>High Achieving 20 points each   | Average<br>Moderate Achieving 16 points each  | Below Average<br>Poor 13 points each  | Score<br>*** |
|---|--|---|---|--------------|
| <b>Assignment Specifications/ Requirements</b><br>(Subject matter, number of images, resolution, etc.)        | Strong choice of subject matter. Images are edited, enhanced to achieve the most striking <u>photograph/image</u> .<br>* Proper sizing, resolution, etc. Photos/Project fully meets or exceeds requirements. | Images meet the minimum level of quality and subject matter to satisfy the assignment. Subject matter could be improved; some images seem to be filler material. Shows evidence of some requirements. | Subject matter does not satisfy assignment. Images are missing. Shows minimal to no evidence of requirements or incomplete work submitted.**  |              |
| <b>Composition</b><br>(Rule of thirds, leading lines, Point of View, Use of Elements/Principles etc.)         | Strong composition because of layout and placement of camera to subject as well as effective use of compositional techniques. Demonstrates exceptional visual interest.                                      | Image composition has potential, but other angles, positioning of subject and use of compositional techniques will improve your image. Demonstrates some visual interest.                             | Little to no consideration of basic photographic composition techniques. Backgrounds may be busy or distract from the focal point. Does not demonstrate visual interest.  |              |
| <b>Concept/Content/Theme</b><br>(Clearly representation through use of ideas, symbolism and creative freedom) | Strong and effective concept. Idea is communicated well. Images thoroughly address the theme/topic or subject. Thorough evidence of imagination, creativity and thoughtfulness.                              | Ideas are not fully communicated. Images somewhat address the theme/topic. Some evidence of thoughtfulness.   | Weak connection to the theme/topic. Unclear - photos seem random. Little to no evidence of thought, creativity. Further brainstorming ideas is recommended.   |              |
| <b>Image Quality</b><br>(Exposure, focus, color, depth of field)  | Correct exposure for the setting. Use of color (and/or grayscale) coincides with the subject and the mood of the image. Focus and depth of field effectively contribute to a powerful image.                 | Photo taken at appropriate exposure. Use of color (and/or grayscale) adequate. Focus and depth of field somewhat adequate.  | Some or most images are too dark or too light distracting form the subject or mood of the photo. Use <u>Photoshop</u> exposure tools to correct this.*<br>Focus and depth of field do not follow project guidelines, image out of focus, poor depth of field. |              |
| <b>Creativity/Originality</b><br>(Stopping power, uniqueness...it must be more than just a recorded event)    | Amazing photograph/project. Well organized, unified meaning. Interesting, different, effective, unique approach to assignment. Excellent photo editing, enhancement.   | Good approach showing some creativity but could have been planned, executed and enhanced to achieve a more powerful image.  | Photo shows little to no creativity. Dull, lacks impact.  |              |

\*Applies to Multiple Me/Levitaton & Studio Assignments Only  
 Comments:

\*\*Work not submitted=0 points

\*\*\*Score is averaged for multiple photographs

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Due Date****F2F****On Your Own****Reading Notes**

PS # - Photoshoot Assignments (an \* notes homework/skill building exercise)

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| <b>Week 1</b><br>Introduction to photography, learning the frameworks<br><br><i>Due by Sep 2</i> | Intro to photography<br>The parts of a camera<br>Introductions, Blackboard, Q&A<br>POD/EOD   | Read the syllabus<br>Start Here Folder<br>Complete Disc. 1<br>Module videos                       | Ch. 1-2<br>Attn. To pg. 9-13                          |
| <b>Week 2</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><i>Due by Sep 9</i>                                     | What is subject matter?<br>Why do we take photos?<br>Intro. to light & the exposure triangle, 3 pillars of photography, scope of an image & the choices we make as photographers | Module videos   | Cont. Ch. 1-2   |
| <b>Week 3</b><br>Working with light & the exposure triangle<br><br><i>Due by Sep 16</i>          | More on the exposure triangle, managing exposure, white balance  | Module videos<br><br><b>*PS #1</b><br>Learning controls – SS, ISO, f. stops, WB, B&W              | Ch. 3-4   |
| <b>Week 4</b><br><br><br><i>Due by Sep 23</i>  | Hands-on demo, managing shutter speed, ISO and aperture,   | Module videos<br><br><b>*PS #2</b><br>Focus and Exposure  | Cont. Ch 3-4<br>Read pg 306-322 before next F2F class |
| <b>Week 5</b><br>Seeing composition & visual organization<br><br><i>Due by Sep 30</i>            | Rule of thirds, visual weight, organization & emphasis<br>Group Disc. On compositions (pg. 306)  | Module videos<br>Quiz #1<br><br><b>*PS #3</b><br>Texture – bring an item from home (fruit/veggie) | Ch. 5 & 15  |
| <b>Week 6</b><br><br><br><i>Due by Oct 7</i>   | Let's talk about framing & the importance of focal points in photography   | Module videos<br><br><b>*PS #4</b><br>Mixing bowl exercise  | Cont. Ch. 15<br>Attn to pg. 317-321                   |



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| <b>Week 7</b><br>Capturing and creating emotion<br><br><i>Due by Oct 14</i>                    | Improving composition with tonal contrast and color, B&W photography, why is emotion important to photography? | Module Videos<br><br><b>PS #5</b><br>Extreme Tonal Contrast   |   |
| <b>Week 8</b><br>Midterm<br><br><i>Due by Oct 21</i>   | Cont. On emotion, importance of evoking an audience reaction   | Module videos<br>Terminology exam<br>Quiz #2<br><br><b>PS #6</b><br>Diptych/Triptych  |   |
| <b>Week 9</b><br>The digital darkroom & other contemporary methods<br><br><i>Due by Oct 28</i> | Creative group project - Digital Photo Editing<br><br><i>Introduce personal project</i>                        | Module videos<br><br><b>PS #7</b><br>Reflection   | Ch. 8   |
| <b>Week 10</b><br><br><i>Due by Nov 4</i>  | Cont. Group work   | Module videos<br><br><b>PS #8</b><br>Open Form - TBA  | Ch. 9   |
| <b>Week 11</b><br>The art of storytelling<br><br><i>Due by Nov 11</i>                          | Types of photojournalism, Disc. On perspective; literal and implied, photographing what we see                 | Module videos<br>Disc. #2<br><br><b>PS #9</b><br>Perspective/POV<br>Uncommon or unexpected angles<br><br><b>PS #10</b><br><i>Turn in complete group project</i> | Attn. To pages 62-63, 320<br><br>Ch. 10       |
| <b>Week 12</b><br><br>The “plot,” layout & presentation  | The nature of documentary photography, responsibility, ethics & the power of                                   | Module videos<br>Disc. #3<br>Quiz #3  | Ch 16<br>Attn. To pages 204-205, 322, 337-347 |

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| <i>Due by Nov 18</i>   | images, building a photo essay   |   |                                     |
| <b>Week 13</b><br>Studio photography, the commercial world and showcasing your work<br><br>(4 weeks)<br>Portfolio emphasis<br><br><i>Due by Nov 25</i> | Studio Day 1 (pg. 99)<br>Intro. To lighting and backdrops, group disc. On modeling, posing & directing<br><br>Where will you showcase your work?<br>Wix...Adobe...WordPress etc. | Module videos<br><br>Begin writing portion of the photo essay | Ch. 12                              |
| <b>Week 14</b><br>Complete course evals<br><br><i>Due by Dec 2</i>   | Studio Day 2<br>3-point lighting   | Module videos   | Ch.11<br><br>Attn. To pages 179-182 |
| <b>Week 15</b><br><br><i>Due by Dec 2</i>  | Open week.<br>All assignments due.<br>Last F2F class Dec 2.  | Module videos   | Cont. Ch. 10-12                     |
| <b>Week 16</b><br>Finals<br><br><i>No class during finals week.</i>  | Portfolio presentations<br>Emphasis on quality work and photo essay/personal project   |   | <b><i>You did it!!!</i></b>         |

## **Photoshoot Assignments**

1. Learning controls – SS, ISO, f. stops, WB
2. Focus and Exposure
3. Texture – bring an item from home (fruit/veggie...experiment with different quantities)
4. Mixing bowl – draw from a list of elements/principles and create a photograph
5. Extreme tonal contrast - Portrait
6. Diptych/Triptych
7. Reflection
8. Open form - TBA
9. POV – Extreme Angles
10. Creative Group Project TBA
11. Personal Project/Photo Essay – Final
12. Studio 1
13. Studio 2