



ARTS 2356.021 Hybrid - Photography 1 (Fine Arts Emphasis)

Course Syllabus: FALL 2026

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

Instructor: Joe Pat Davis

Office: HUM 108

Phone: 903-434-8255 (HUM Secretary)

Office Hours: TBA Online Hours: M-Th by appointment only

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The only way to directly contact instructor is via NTCC email.

Weekday	Meeting & Office Hours
Tuesday	Face to Face Class Meeting - 1:30-2:50 - BT 117
Monday-Thursday	Online By Appointment Only

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:

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

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	TOTAL AVAILABLE POINT VALUE	REQUIREMENT
25%	250 POINTS	TECHNICAL EXERCISES
25%	250 POINTS	PHOTO ASSIGNMENTS
20%	200 POINTS	FINAL PROJECT
20%	200 POINTS	QUIZZES/EXAMS
10%	100 POINTS	CRITIQUES/DISCUSSIONS/ PARTICIPATION
100%	1000 POINTS	TOTAL VALUES

Semester grades will be earned as follows:

Percentage	POINTS	Letter Grade
90% and above	900 - 1000	A
80 %-89%	800 - 899	B
70 %-79%	700 - 799	C
60%-69 %	600 - 699	D
59.9% and below	0 - 599	F

These two tables are meant to provide you with a general understanding of how your grade will be calculated for this course. A more detailed explanation of expectations/grading policy will be distributed to students on an assignment by assignment basis. In general please understand that each “requirement” category above contains multiple components. For example over the course of the semester you will receive 5 separate technical exercises (these are less involved shooting assignments that give you the opportunity to show me that you understand different technical topics that we will be covering over the course of the semester). Each of those exercises will be worth 50 points. Those points are combined to add up to as much as a 250 total points for the “Technical Exercises” Requirement- which in turn accounts for 25% of the total value of your Semester Grade. Please don’t hesitate to ask your instructor for clarification if you are having trouble understanding this policy.

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. I want to see you learn and succeed in this course- as such be reassured that I will communicate all due dates for all assignments and you will have adequate time for each.

LATE WORK POLICY: NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED (NO WORK SUBMITTED AFTER DUE DATE WILL BE ACCEPTED AND WILL RESULT IN 0 (ZERO) POINTS. ALWAYS CONTACT INSTRUCTOR ASAP TO DISCUSS EMERGENCY/EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Required Instructional Materials:

Photography (13th Edition) By Barbara London, 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 ISBN Number: 978-0-13-798867-9

Optional Instructional Materials:

None

Additional Materials:

DIGITAL/DSLR or Digital Mirrorless Camera and Lens with Batteries and Memory Card

Notebook/Sketchbook for taking notes

Memory Card Reader (optional/not required)

Camera Tripod (optional/not required)

Minimum Technology Requirements:

1. DIGITAL/DSLR or MIRRORLESS Camera and Lens of your choice with manual settings for Aperture, Shutter Speed, and ISO. You will also need batteries and memory cards for your specific camera to ensure proper camera functionality. Digital point and shoot cameras (those without a removable lens) and cell phone cameras will not work for this course. If you have questions about a camera, please contact the instructor ASAP. The Start Here folder in Blackboard has additional help and links on Digital/DSLR cameras. Phone cameras will not work for this course.
2. You must have a DSLR or Mirrorless camera no later than the 2nd week of class. (The art department/library have a very limited number of DSLR cameras available to check out if you have prohibitive difficulty obtaining personal equipment/materials.)
3. Students must have access to a personal laptop/desktop with Adobe software. Campus labs and classroom computers are available for student use. Note that kiosk computers for checkout do not have Adobe software. In this course we will be using a combination of Adobe Lightroom CC, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Bridge.
4. Daily high-speed internet access. (You can use classroom computers for editing during class)
5. Portable storage device such as an external USB drive for Photo File storage and Adobe Lightroom Catalog storage.

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.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

Email, Blackboard, Word Processing, DSLR Camera, Adobe Software

Course Structure and Overview:

This is a hybrid class which means class meets face-to-face once a week and all other instruction is done online via the learning management system Blackboard. We will meet in class face-to-face once a week for 1 hour and 20 minutes and you will be responsible for completing the rest of the course work online. You must have reliable internet access to complete the online portion of this class. In class face-to-face meetings will be reserved for lecture, monitored lab activities, presentation activities, hands-on learning activities and critiques. Regular and punctual attendance to all face-to-face meetings of this class are required and critical to your success in this class. Students are expected to complete all weekly Blackboard learning modules, reading and photoshoot assignments, as well as participate in online class discussions. In addition to our 1 hour and 20 minute weekly face-to-face meeting you should expect to spend a minimum of 4-6 hours a week outside of the classroom on this course. Late work will not be accepted in this course. If you have an emergency or extenuating circumstance it is your responsibility to

communicate with your instructor ASAP. Do not assume that late work will be accepted without the express permission of the instructor. A tentative due date schedule is listed at the end of the syllabus and in the Start Here folder in Blackboard for the entire semester, please check it regularly so that you know what is due and don't miss anything. I will reiterate that the schedule is tentative and reflects my best possible idea of how the semester will progress. I will make every effort to update any and all changes to the schedule to you in class as well as via email and on Blackboard. As part of the art curriculum students are expected to participate in the Student Art Show. Submission of quality work(s) and attendance to these events is required for this course. Artwork/Photography submissions to Lagniappe, the NTCC literary and art magazine, is also encouraged and may be required.

Attendance:

Regular and punctual attendance to all face-to-face meetings of this class are not only required but also critical to your success in this class. As such, no student with more than 4 unexcused absences from face-to-face class meetings will be able to receive a final semester grade of higher than 70%. Students who exceed 4 unexcused absences from face-to-face class meetings may be asked to drop the course for reasons of non-attendance. Please refer to the student handbook for what constitutes an excused absence. Absence does not excuse you from assignment due dates and no late work will be accepted. Additionally it is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor about any information (instructional or general) that you might have missed during an absence.

Most importantly if you are experiencing problems and as a result are missing a significant portion of class meetings, whether excused or unexcused, I encourage you to communicate with me as soon as possible so I can work with you, and so that if necessary you may avail yourself of the resources available to you on campus. In other words- if you are struggling and need help I want to be able to help you, but communication is key.

Cell Phones:

Cell phone communication/usage with parties outside of the classroom during face-to-face meetings is disruptive and generally discouraged. Please refrain from texting, voice, or video chat during face-to-face class meetings. This includes usage of social media during face-to-face class time unless directed to do so by the instructor for instructional purposes. Also please refrain from recording/videoing any portion of any class meeting without the express permission of the instructor. Please set all alerts to silent during face-to-face meetings. If you have to take a phone call during class time please be courteous and thoughtful towards both your classmates and instructor and leave the classroom to take the call. If you are experiencing an emergency and need to leave a regularly scheduled class meeting early you may do so, but please make an effort to let the instructor know.

Communications:

All instructor/student communication is to be conducted via NTCC email. I will not receive/reply to any communications via personal non-college email addresses. I will make every effort to respond to emails in a timely manner. That means Monday-Thursday within 24 hours of receipt. Emails received on Friday/Saturday/Sunday or college wide holidays may not receive a reply until the following Monday/Regular Class Day. You can access student email through the myEagle Portal. Make sure that you check your student email on a regular/daily basis to access course announcements and other important college announcements.

Institutional/Course Policy:

The last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" is November 17, 2026.

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:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

ADDITIONAL Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology and Academic Integrity as it relates Specifically to this Course Arts 2356 - Photography 1:

USE PROHIBITED: In this course (Arts2356-Photography 1) students are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as but not limited to ChatGPT or Dall-e) for the completion of assignments in this course. Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

In addition to the above College wide Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology policy, specifically in this Photography course you are solely responsible for the production of all photographic and written assignments in this class during the course of this semester. In the simplest terms possible what that means is you are expected to submit complete original work for every assignment (written or photographic), without the use of AI, during the course of the semester which it is assigned to you. You may not submit any work from other classes or semesters or assignments or any work that is not your original work unless expressly asked to do so by your instructor.

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.

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 by you 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. You must include citations and/or give credit to the artist of the work you use in any presentations or assignments submitted for this course. Document the source of any images used 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 or whole by someone else including AI.
2. Turning in work that violates copyright law.
3. Turning in research oriented images or text without proper source citation.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation 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 accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. 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.

NTCC ACADEMIC CALENDAR FALL 2026:

Faculty/Staff In-Service	Monday, August 17 - Thursday, August 20
First Class Day (16-week, 1st 8-week sessions)	Monday, August 24
Late Registration Ends	Friday Noon, August 28
Fall Census (1st 8-week session)	Monday, August 31
Labor Day	Monday, September 7
Fall Census (16-week session)	Wednesday, September 9
Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of "W" (1st 8-week session)	Tuesday, October 6
Last Class Day (1st 8-week session)	Friday, October 16
First Class Day (2nd 8-week session)	Monday, October 19
Deadline for Fall Graduation Application	Thursday, October 22
Fall Census (2nd 8-week-session)	Monday, October 26
Final Day to Withdraw with a Grade of "W" (16-week session)	Tuesday, November 17
Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of "W" (2nd 8-week session).....	Tuesday, November 24
Thanksgiving Break	Wednesday - Friday, November 25 - 27
Last Class Day (16-week, 2nd 8-week sessions)	Thursday, December 3
Final Examinations	Friday, December 4 - Thursday, December 10
Fall Graduation	7:00 p.m., Friday, December 11
Offices Close at 12:00 p.m. for Holiday Break.....	Friday, December 18

This schedule is your guide to the online portion of this course. Each module corresponds to the same number week during the semester.

MODULE 1 = WEEK 1, MODULE 2 = WEEK 2, ETC. The DUE DATE is the date by which you need to have the entire MODULE COMPLETE.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be additional DUE DATES associated with SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS throughout the course of the semester. These will be given to you per each assignment and are not necessarily always the same as the Due Date for the Module in which they originate.

THIS SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION- STUDENTS WILL BE UPDATED TO ANY/ALL CHANGES.

Module	Topic	Content Focus	Required Work	Due Date
START HERE MODULE	Welcome and Course Overview	Meet your instructor, Course Overview, Course Syllabus, Schedule, Supply List, and Technology Requirements.	- Syllabus Quiz - Introductory Discussion	08/27/2026
MODULE 1	Introduction to Photography	What is Photography?	- All of Module 1 - Textbook Chapter 1	09/01/2026
MODULE 2	-The 3 Pillars of Photography -The Camera & Lens Part 1 -The Elements of Art -The Principles of Design	Introduction to 3 Pillars of Photography- LIGHT, COMPOSITION, and SUBJECT. Learn the parts of the Camera and Lens, Basic Camera Set-up and Basic Camera Operations, Learn how to make your first Exposures, Learn about the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design	- MUST HAVE CAMERA - All of Module 2 - Textbook Chapters 2 & 3	09/08/2026
MODULE 3	-The Camera & Lens Part 2 -Introduction to Exposure	Go more in depth with the Camera and Lens, Lens Focal Lengths, Learn about Exposure and The Exposure Triangle	- All of Module 3 - Textbook Chapter 3	09/15/2026
MODULE 4	-Exposure and Camera Controls Part 1: ISO Part 2: Shutter Speed Part 3: Aperture	Learn more about Exposure and The 3 parts of the Exposure Triangle: ISO, SHUTTER SPEED, and APERTURE, Learn what these control- ISO = Light Sensitivity, Shutter Speed = Duration of Light and Motion, Aperture = Volume of Light and Depth of Field	- All of Module 4 - Textbook Chapter 4	09/22/2026

Module	Topic	Content Focus	Required Work	Due Date
MODULE 5	-Exposure and Camera Controls -Quality of Light	Continue Learning about Exposure and Camera Controls, Learn about Different Qualities of Light and how it will effect the photographs you make	• All of Module 5 • Textbook Chapter 5	09/29/2026
MODULE 6	-Photographic Composition -How we Organize the Frame	How we compose our photographs effects their quality and visual impact.	• All of Module 6 • Textbook Chapter 15	10/06/2026
MODULE 7	-Photographic Composition -Point of View	Learn how Point of View effects a photographs composition and content.	• All of Module 7 • Textbook Chapter 15	10/13/2026
MODULE 8 MIDTERM	-Color and Black & White -Introduction of Final Project “The Photo Essay”	Learn how the choice of Color or Monochrome (Black & White) effects your photographs. Introduction to your final project - The Photo Essay	• All of Module 8 • Select Reading from Textbook Chapter 16	10/20/2026 MIDTERM
MODULE 9	-Photographic Genres -People: Portraits & Social Documentary	Learn about the first of several broad genres of creative Photography we will be exploring during the 2nd half of the semester. People: Portraits & Social Documentary	• All of Module 9 • Select Reading from Textbook Chapter 16	10/27/2026
MODULE 10	-Photographic Genres -Place: Landscape & Street Photography	Creative Photographic Genres continued- Place: Landscape & Street Photography	• All of Module 10 • Select Reading from Textbook Chapter 16	11/03/2026
MODULE 11	-Photographic Genres -Things: Detail & Abstraction	Creative Photographic Genres continued- Things: Still Life, Detail & Abstraction	• All of Module 11 • Select Reading from Textbook Chapter 16	11/10/2026
MODULE 12	-Photographic Genres -Ideas: Concepts & Identity	Creative Photographic Genres continued- Ideas: Concepts & Identity	• All of Module 12 • Select Reading from Textbook Chapter 16	11/17/2026
MODULE 13	-Photographic Genres -The Photo Essay -Photographic Presentation	Creative Photographic Genres continued- The Photo Essay & Putting it all together. Learn about different types of Photographic Presentation and explore ideas about how you might present your creative work to an audience.	• All of Module 13 • Select Reading from Textbook Chapter 16	11/24/2026
MODULE 14 THANKSGIVING	FINAL PROJECT THANKSGIVING BREAK	WORK ON FINAL PROJECT	• All of Module 14 • WORK ON FINAL PROJECT	12/03/2026
MODULE 15	FINAL PROJECT LAST CLASS DAY 12/03/2026	WORK ON FINAL PROJECT	• All of Module 15 • WORK ON FINAL PROJECT	12/03/2026
MODULE 16 FINALE	FINAL PROJECT	FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATION	FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATION	FINALS WEEK TBD

