COURSE PURPOSE
Basic Digital Photography is an introductory class in photography that includes correct operation of a digital SLR in manual mode as well as precision editing techniques through Adobe Photoshop and other photo editing suites. Class discussions will concentrate on creative vision, composition, equipment, and camera handling. Weekly in-class critiques will provide feedback on students’ work. Since we have a lot of ground to cover and a short time to cover it, student attendance and participation in all classes is imperative and will be considered in the final grade. All weekly assignments are to be edited on your own time outside of class – you will be given 24/7 access to Bunnell 128. Expect to spend 8-10 hours outside of class on shooting, editing and revising your assignments weekly. If you feel that you may not be able to meet attendance or assignment requirements fully, please consider AUDITING this class immediately.

EQUIPMENT AND EXPENSES
If you do not have your own dSLR, you will be loaned a Canon Digital SLR camera with a 16-35 or 17-40mm lens and will be required to only use it on manual (“manual setting” means that you can set the shutter speed and the aperture yourself). “Point and shoot” cameras, which set themselves and cannot be controlled by the photographer are NOT ACCEPTABLE for this course. Although you are able to use your own dSLR for this class, you are required to read your camera’s manual and be comfortable with its operation. Given that there will be several different models of cameras in class, we won’t have the time to discuss every button on each camera – pick up that manual and ask questions if they arise. If you have questions about using your own camera and its abilities, ask.

The lab fee ($75) covers the cost, maintenance and upgrades to the computer lab, camera as well as any additional equipment you may use throughout the extent of the course. You will need to provide your own means of archiving your files – from writable CD/DVD’s to keychain/thumbdrives to external hard drives – these are all viable options. Expect to spend $50-$100 on these options.

RULES OF CLASS
NO FOOD, DRINK, SMOKING, GUESTS or CHILDREN IN THE DARKROOMS AT ALL.
NO CELL PHONES IN CLASS.
Attendance in all classes is required and will be considered in the final grade. Assignments are due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS on the dates listed. Late assignments WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED unless PRIOR arrangements have been made with the instructor. Students missing more than 6 classes will automatically be dropped from the class – medical absences, prearranged, are allowed – but only to a point. Do not see this policy as 6 “free” absences and then “allowed” absences can accumulate afterwards – without proper attendance and communication between student and instructor, you risk failing the class. Note that “prior notice” and “approved absence” are not the same thing.

Absences are expected to be addressed in the following method: Prior to the absence, the student is expected to notify the instructor & arrange for a fellow student to take notes and relay them ASAP (prior to the next class) to the absent student. The ONLY excused absences are medical or family emergency – medical absences must be followed by a note from your doctor. Without a note, no extensions on any missed assignments will be given. Absences totaling more than 6 classes (3 weeks of class) throughout our 12-week class will result in an automatic failure. To avoid ruining your GPA, AUDIT THIS COURSE.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Students are expected to have intermediate knowledge of computers – preferably of the Macintosh operating system (or at least the ability to translate PC experience to Macs). This class is not intended as an introduction to computers but is expected to be an in-depth discussion of camera use and function, basic and advanced editing techniques, negative scanning and digital printing. If you are questioning your current level of understanding of computers, please do not hesitate to discuss this with the instructor.

Weekly assignments also require weekly use of the Journalism Department computer lab to complete assignments. Although most of the work can potentially be done on your home computer, much of it requires specific programs and equipment you may not have at home. You will be given 24/7 access to the computer lab to facilitate your individual needs.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** After completion, students will have learned to control a high-end DSLR with fully manual settings while having a through understanding of a variety of compositional tools, photographic techniques, proper exposure, use of effective lighting and a wide variety of editing processes. Students will be introduced to a variety of career potentials with their newfound skills throughout course assignments and discussions.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students will understand the delicate relationship between exposure control and quality of final image through the use of manual aperture, shutter speed and ISO settings to control both the exposure and quality of an image. Students will learn compositional tools like negative space, active and passive framing, abstraction and perspectives to add unique qualities to their personal work. Students will be introduced to photographic techniques like Depth of Field, various types of Motion, Night Photography and Triptych construction to provide variety in their produced work. Students will be introduced to Adobe editing software, primarily Photoshop, and leave the class with a through understanding of how to edit both destructively (for quick edits) and non-destructively.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** Subject to change and revision.

**May 28th** - Welcome to Basic Digital Photography, equipment and supply needs and expenses, expectations of class, journal, basic digital workflow example, and how independent work in the labs will function. Basic Camera Operation – learn how to use your camera on manual settings.

**May 30th:** Explain transferring files, necessity of digital archiving. Save and save often! Basics of shooting techniques.

**ASSIGNMENT #1:** DUE 6/6
- Carry your camera around everywhere you go this week, when you see a picture take it. Remember to challenge yourself with new subjects, different perspectives and unfamiliar settings. Fill the frame with your subject. Finish a whole roll of “film” (at least 36 exposures). Try to restrain becoming a “shutterbug”; don’t overshoot.

**June 4th** - Basic Digital Editing Technique – demo of Photoshop techniques to make your photos just a bit better. Discuss minimal reliance on editing – take the photo right the first time! Demo and Class Project: Digital workflow and example of expected weekly uploading routine and critique. Lesson: Depth of Field.

**ASSIGNMENT #2:** DUE 6/13
- Depth of Field. Make at least five sets of two shots that show the exact same subject but very different depth of field. One will have almost everything sharply in focus and the other will have almost everything out of focus. Use a “normal” lens and remember that both distance from your subject and the aperture affect the depth of field.

**June 6th** – Review of current topic, further discussion of current technique & group critique. Assignment Due.

**June 11th** - Critique of depth of field. Discuss shutter speed, motion blur, stop action, and panning. Use of a tripod necessary for this assignment – make sure you check one out from Journalism or the Library!

**ASSIGNMENT #3:** DUE 6/20
Motion. Two shots that show the variety of each type of motion: stop action, blur, and pan. **No photos of cars please!** Get creative – don’t just do “easy” or accessible subject like people jumping or random dorm room things moving – challenge yourself! Watch out for this assignment – It’s far too easy to take snapshots and poor compositions for this assignment! Edit 6 images, 2 of each type of motion, for this assignment.

**June 13th** – Review of current topic, further discussion of current technique & group critique. Assignment Due.

**June 18th QUIZ. Journal check.** Again have your journals in class with your clips to discuss. Critique of wacky point of view. Discussion on how color can add / detract from your composition – demo deleting color information from files and upload examples that are best/worst with and without color. Discuss composition, metering, bracketing, bending your knees, point of view. Discuss abstract photography and focus on utilizing perspectives. Macro Photography. Begin discussion on self-portraits, portraits, lighting, model releases.

ASSIGNMENT #4: DUE 6/27
Abstraction & Perspectives assignment. This is your chance to get wild. Put your camera on the ground or hold it high to get an unusual point of view. It is not unusual to shoot up at a building or down at a dog, these are examples of how we always look at things. Turn in 6 edited images that explore unique perspectives, attention to compositional detail, juxtaposition of size and scale, lines, patterns, etc. Think about Formal Elements.

**June 20th** – Review of current topic, further discussion of current technique & group critique. Assignment Due.


MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT: DUE 7/1
These are not snap shots. They should have great light and clean backgrounds and be well thought out. Be sure to get a model release for your friend – you’re expected to for this assignment – 10% of the grade relies on it! These shots should have narrative – we shouldn’t just see a mug shot of a person – tell us who they are, why the portrait matters and what it’s trying to tell the viewer!

Self-portrait (3 photos, different background, poses, settings)
Portrait of a friend. (3 photos, different people, backgrounds, poses, settings)

**June 27th** - Review of current topic, further discussion of current technique & group critique. Assignment Due.

**July 2nd** – Review of all current topics – catch up day. Special topics discussion. This is time set aside to catch up, to refocus your attention, get inspired and ask crazy questions.

**NO CLASS JULY 4th!**

**July 9th** pre-critique of midterm assignment. Discuss photojournalism, the 5 W’s, model releases, media law, privacy. Discuss photographing strangers and confidence behind the camera. Discuss negative space and its use in composition. Discuss shadows as a graphic element.

ASSIGNMENT #5: DUE 8/6
Photograph at least 3 newsworthy events involving strangers. Remember – candid shots, including the 5 W’s in each shot and that people = news! Challenge yourself with this assignment.

ASSIGNMENT #6: Due 7/18
Shoot at least 50 frames using Negative Space as a compositional tool.
July 11th – Review of current topic, further discussion of current technique & group critique. Assignment Due.

July 16th – QUIZ. Journal check. Discuss night photography, long exposures. Discuss flash. Demonstration of handheld flash units (Canon Speedlites) and entire studio strobe setup.

ASSIGNMENT #7: Due 7/25. Flash. Using a handheld flash that you check out of the office, or your own flash, shoot some direct/bounce/fill flash photographs and some using the techniques shown in class. As well, challenge yourself in the studio to photograph engaging portraits with the strobe light setups. Choose six to turn in – making sure that they showcase a variety of flash techniques.

July 18th – Review of current topic, further discussion of current technique & group critique. Assignment Due.

July 23rd – Discuss Final Assignment – start working on this now! Also discuss your final assignment – Night Photography and High ISO Photography.

ASSIGNMENT #8: Due August 1st. High ISO / Night Photography assignment – shoot at a high ISO in situations that demand faster handheld photography but only provide limited lighting. Think about photographing concert venues, night life, late night landscapes, starscapes, etc. Expect that you may have to be up late for this assignment!


July 30th – Approval of Final Project ideas, further discussion on dry mounting & matting.

August 1st – Critique of High ISO / Night Photography. DIGITAL PRINTING DEMO. Discussion of complete digital workflow, need for color calibration and costs associated with entire personal digital workflow. Further Discussion of Finals, approval of Final Ideas – start working on it! Schedule digital printing time for next week.

August 6th – Critique of Photojournalism Assignment. Workshop for Final Project.

August 8th – FINAL DUE. Finals due at the start of class. Group critique followed by hanging the show.

August 13th – DIGITAL PRINTING DAY. By this point you should have all of your material shot and edited for your final project. If you have not already printed your final project – this is the time to do so!

August 15th – FINALS Due by 5pm. Hang finals between 5-6pm, to be followed with ART SHOW.

GRADING: This is a hands-on course, grading is broken down as follows. You will be graded on an absolute point scale that is derived from the following breakdown. You will not be graded on a curve.

- 8 regular assignments, 15 points each. 120 points
- Midterm 30 points
- 2 quizzes, 15 points each 30 points
- Journal 10 points
- Class participation 30 points
- Final Project 50 points
- Total: 270 points

Note: I do not give an incomplete grade.
If you have any additional needs for this class, please do not hesitate to talk with me. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities – I will fully work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043).

In the field of print and electronic journalism, accuracy and clarity are essential. The ability to communicate information clearly and correctly is the cornerstone of effective communication. Every course in the Department of Journalism and Broadcasting emphasizes developing strong writing skills. Therefore a percentage of each course will be based on writing, with grading criteria determined for individual courses by individual instructors.

High ethical standards are essential for maintaining credibility. Every course taught in the UAF Department of Journalism and Broadcasting seeks to maintain these standards, starting with an emphasis on producing original and factual work.