

ART/COJO 041 – Understanding your Digital Camera

Instructor: J. Jason Lazarus, Term Instructor

Class lecture/lab 1-6p May 9-10, 2020, 319 Bunnell

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COURSE PURPOSE & DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to gently introduce aspiring photographers to their digital cameras and the myriad of options, settings and creative capabilities their cameras contain. Whether your camera is a consumer-grade “point-n-shoot” or a high-end, professional dSLR, these cameras can often confuse new or novice users. This course aims to not only demystify many of the capabilities of your camera but it also intends to introduce you to many photographic basics. Through a rudimentary discussion of photographic tools like depth of field, perspective, motion capture and composition, you’ll not only learn how to take pictures with your digital camera – but also start taking them better. Coupled with these discussions will be one-on-one discussion periods, times to share successes and failures (as well as inspiring photographers) and active shooting – both indoors and outdoors.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES:

By the end of this weekend-focus course, the student should be able to:

- Use their digital camera with a greater level of confidence
- Understand what specific functions of the camera mean and how to utilize many of them.
- Distinguish photographic basics from one another – such as exposure, light capture, shutter speed, aperture and ISO.
- Understand the rudimentary basics of composition, depth of field, motion and lighting.
- Have a greater understanding of how different cameras work and what technical differences exist between different styles of cameras

COURSE SCHEDULE:

May 9th:

1p-2p: Class Introductions, Camera Survey and Class Discussion: What do you want out of this class?

2p-3p: Photography Basics: Exposure, Light Capture, Shutter Speed, Aperture and ISO.

3-3:20: 20-minute break

3:20-4: Feature breakdown of popular cameras – what can (and can’t) your camera do? Where are those settings you’ve always been looking for? How do you use them?

Schedule continued:

4p-5p: Composition Basics: Perspective, looking for Formal Elements and seeking out good light!

5p-6p: Q&A period, Weather Permitting: Open shooting around campus, one-on-one discussion, sharing photos, aspiring photographers, etc.

May 10th:

1p-2p: Review. Questions and Answer time – review of “Homework” – did you shoot anything impressive? What are you most looking forward to?

2p-3p: Open shooting around quad, one-on-one discussion, sharing photos, aspiring photographers, etc.

3p-4p: Discussion over Depth of Field, Motion and Lighting. These are somewhat advanced topics, but introduced at a very basic level.

4-4:20: 20-minute break

4:20-5: Feature breakdown continued. Purchasing a camera: what’s important? What’s the difference between PnS, Micro 4/3rds, Mirrorless Cameras, consumer and professional-grade dSLRs?

5p-6p: Open class time – Q&A, etc.

COST

This course is completely supported by the \$135 fee for the 2-day workshop – there are no additional fees.

GRADING

This course is non-graded.

MISCELLANEOUS

If you have any additional needs for this class, please do not hesitate to talk with me. I urge all students with hidden health / personal concerns to discuss any matters at all that may impact their performance in class with me within the first week of class. Students with additional need for learning tools may also see me as a resource – I want to make sure we all learn this exciting topic and have all the tools necessary to do so! All discussions between faculty and students are considered confidential.

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- 1) You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043*
- 2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-7599*
- 3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721*

From Disability Services:

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