GS 1181-F17: Using Your Smartphone Camera
Instructor: Mr. Scott
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Office Hours:  
M/W  2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
T/T  11 am to 11:30 am & 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
and by Appointment

Course Description: In order to come to a better understanding of how photography impacts our culture and society, it is necessary to look at the innovation that is the digital camera. The ability to take high quality photographs was once limited to a small and usually elite segment of our society; whereas now, nearly every individual you meet has a high resolution camera on his or her person. This mass ability to capture images at a moment notice has had a tremendous impact in shaping how we see our world. In this course we will explore how smartphone cameras impact our society, our culture, and our ideas about what makes a good picture. We will also explore the general fundamentals of photography.

This course will also focus on the use of digital photographs in academic and workplace environment. Subjects include basic lighting techniques, exposure, and camera functions (digital cameras & smartphone cameras). Digital image manipulation will also addressed and incorporating digital images in academic discourses (documents, presentations, websites, etc.), as well as, workplace basics, image editing, file sharing, organization, and storage. Because digital images are widely shared through a variety of media, including social media, this course will also address the ethics involved with digital manipulation at the university, workplace, in social media, and marketing.

Core Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion, students will be able to
• Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication
• Locate campus resources to solve problems/answer questions
• Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to digital photography
Course Objectives: In an effort to help you achieve the learning outcomes above, I have prepared lessons, readings, and class assignments that will help you

- 8. Developing skills in expression oneself orally or in writing
- 9. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems
- 11. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

Methods of Assessing Learning Outcomes: Core student learning outcomes will be assessed through course assignments.

Course Participation Requirements:
- Two article summaries
- Information Literacy
- Participation in a university or college-wide event
- Access to ASU email on a regular bases (at least once every other day)
- Access to Bb (at least every other day)
- Access to a digital camera (a digital camera or a smartphone camera will do)
- Access to a computer (if you do not own a computer, computers are available in the Henderson Library or in computer labs located across campus)

Required Texts and Resources: There is no text book for this course; however, there will be materials available in Bb that must be read. Please look in the “Textbook and Material” section in Bb for more information.

Student Responsibilities: Active participation is required in all university courses.

- Be prepared for class by reading the material, viewing posted videos, and participating in class discussions
- Complete the homework assignments on time
- Attend class each day and take notes
- Seek help when necessary
Course Grade:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes and In-class Exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary One</td>
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<td>Summary Two</td>
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<td>Campus Portfolio 1</td>
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<td>Campus Portfolio 2</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Blackboard (Bb): In an effort to make sure you have access to course materials at all times, all course materials will be posted in Blackboard. Course materials posted in Blackboard will include: course syllabus, reading assignments, videos, and quizzes. From time to time, course announcements will be delivered through Blackboard and distributed by email to all students enrolled in the class. Students are responsible for updates distributed via emails. As a result, students should check their emails on a regular basis. All student enrolled in the course are automatically enrolled in Blackboard.

Attendance: Because this is a student-oriented class, regular attendance is required. Each student will be allowed three (3) absences. When the allowed number of absences has been exceeded, the student automatically fails the course. Classes begin promptly at the designated time, and role will be called at the beginning of class. Once role is taken, the door to the classroom will be closed and locked. No one will be admitted after that time.

Attendance is more than simply occupying a chair. Students who fail to have required homework or are unprepared for class (lacking note taking materials, hand-ins, workshop drafts, or other required materials) can be marked as absence. Participation in classroom activities is also required. If in my opinion a student is not participating, I reserve the right to count that student absence (this includes laying heads on desk, sleeping, messing with a cell phone or other electronic device, or carrying on conversations unrelated to classroom activities).

Attendance Exceptions: There may be at times special circumstances that might require additional consideration on my part (such as medical emergencies). In order to be given additional consideration on my part, a student you missing a week of classes should notify the Student Life Office and/or the dean. I will only give additional consideration when satisfactory evidence is presented that indicate a catastrophic event has occurred that warrants additional consideration.
Students who participate in sanctioned university events are excused absence. However, the excused absence does not mean that the student is not responsible for work scheduled. Such absences should be reported to me before the student misses class so that arrangements can be made to keep up with academic work loads.

**Academic Honesty:** “Students must understand the principles of academic integrity and abide by them in all class and/or course work at the University. Academic Misconduct violations are outlined Part I, section B.1 of the *Code of Student Conduct*. If there are questions of interpretation of academic integrity policies or about what might constitute an academic integrity violation, students are responsible for seeking guidance from the faculty member teaching the course in question” (http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php).

**Special Accommodations:** Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, located in room 112 of the University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

- Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activates of the university, or be subjected to discriminating by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.
- Student Contact: The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process.

**Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days:** “A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention know in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.”
Course Schedule

**READINGS & VIDEO:** The content of each reading and/or video may or may not be discussed in class; however, each student is responsible for having an understanding of the assignments and be prepared to participate in class discussions. In-class visual presentation and other course materials will be made available through Blackboard. Students are also responsible for those materials.

**QUIZZES:** All quizzes will be posted in Blackboard (Bb) and must be completed by the posted deadline date. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

**SYLLABUS:** The syllabus is subject to change. Any student who misses a class is well advised to find out if there were changes made in assignment schedules. Regardless of any absence, students are required to be prepared to participate in each class.

**Week One**

**Monday 8/28**
- Discussion:
  - Introductions

**Wednesday 8/30**
- Discussion:
  - How is College Different than High School
  - Critical Reading
- Presentation:
  - Reading and Einstein’s Brain
  - Active vs. Passive Reading
- Homework:
  - Read “Critical Thinking: What It Is & Why It Counts” pgs. 1-3 (read up to Expert Opinion) (Bb)

**Week Two**

**Monday 9/4**
- Holiday

**Wednesday 9/6**
- Due: Quiz—TBA
- Discussions:
  - Writing Center
  - How digital photograph has impacted the world.
  - Critical Thinking
• Where did photography begin?

Presentations:
• Note Taking
• Introduction to Digital Photography
• Note-taking Systems

Homework:
• Begin Assignment—Summary of “Critical Thinking: What It Is & Why It Counts” pgs. 1-3 (read up to Expert Opinion) (Bb)

Week Three .................................................................
Monday 9/11 ................ Discussions:
• Writing Center
• How digital photograph has impacted the world.

Wednesday 9/13 ........ Discussions:
• What is the difference between a Smartphone Camera and a Digital Camera?
• What is a good photograph?

Homework:
• Begin Assignment Portfolio One—Student Life

Week Four .................................................................
Monday 9/18 ........ Due: Summary of “Critical Thinking”
Discussions:
• How are Smartphone Cameras & Digital Cameras the same?
• Incorporation images into a Document
• Environments & Lighting

Homework:
• Begin Assignment—Summary TBA

Wednesday 9/20 ........ Discussions:
• Environments & Lighting

Week Five .................................................................
Monday 9/25 ........ Due: Portfolio One—Student Life
Discussions:
• ISO and White Balance
Wednesday 9/27 ........... **Discussions:**
   • Composition
   • Exposure & Light
   • Histograms
**Homework:**
   • **Begin Assignment Portfolio Two**—Campus Event

**Week Six** .................................................................
Monday 10/2 ........... **Discussions:**
   • Landscapes & Portraits

Wednesday 10/4 ........... **Discussions:**
   • Special Techniques & Trick Photography

**Week Seven** .................................................................
Monday 10/9 ........... **Discussions:**
   • Photographic Software
**Homework:**
   • Critical Photography Analyzation Exercise

Wednesday 10/11 ........... **Due: Assignment Portfolio Two—Campus Event**
**Discussions:**
   • Evaluation of Smugmug Photographs
**Homework:**
   • Critical Photography Analyzation Exercise

**Week Eight** .................................................................
Monday 10/16 ........... **Discussions:**
   • Buying Camera Equipment
   • Wrapping it Up

Wednesday 10/18 ........... **Due: Final Exam**