PRELIMINARY COURSE SYLLABUS
Quarter: Winter 2017

Course Title: Digital Photography Basics: Getting to Know Your Digital Camera
Course Code: WSP 177
Instructor: Joel Simon

Grade Options and Requirements:

• No Grade Requested (NGR): This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.

• Credit/No Credit (CR/NC): Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Tentative Course Outline:

Saturday
• Introductions and goals for the workshop.
• Starting at the start - no question too simple:
  How to turn on your camera
  How to charge and change batteries
  How to insert and remove memory cards

How pictures tell stories

The fundamentals of composition
  Rule of thirds and how to turn display grids on and off
  Golden Mean and other display grids
  How and when to use the panorama function on your camera

Lunch

• Further elements of composition
  How to use your camera to portray three dimensions
  How choice of focal length of lens impacts interpretation of space
  What is macro mode and how to control this feature on your camera

• Introduction to Exposure
  How your camera’s light meter works
Exposure Triangle

• Introduction of the four basic shooting modes and how to control them with your camera

• Using the camera to interpret time and space
  - Interpreting motion through shutter speed and how to control your shutter speed
  - An exploration of shutter speeds, cable releases, bulb mode, and neutral density filters for long daytime exposures
  - Interpreting “space” through aperture and how to control your aperture
  - A mention of focus stacking and how to digitally expand your depth of field
  - A mention of digital techniques to minimize your depth of field

• What is program mode, what is total automatic mode, and what is manual mode

• What is exposure compensation and how to control this feature on your camera

Sunday

• Continuing with elements of exposure and the exposure triangle including:
  - What is ISO and how to control ISO on your camera
  - What is white balance and how to control white balance on your camera
  - What are scene modes and why and when they can be useful

• Learning about autofocus and light meter specific controls including:
  - What are autofocus modes and how to control them on your camera
  - What are drive modes and how to control them on your camera
  - What are meter modes and how to control them on your camera

Lunch

• Introduction to Light including:
  - How to evaluate type and contrast of light, including:
    - What is specular light, what is diffuse light, and, more important,
    - How to balance light in a composition using your camera’s flash
    - What is Flash exposure compensation
    - What is “off-camera” flash and how to use external flash units
    - What is bounce flash and how to use this feature

• How to take low light pictures with your camera including evening and night photography

• Introduction to video features of your digital camera including:
  - How to record video with your camera
  - What are frame rates and how to adjust them on your camera
  - Explore your camera’s options for slow motion and time lapse video
• How to download digital content from your camera to your computer including:
  Options for organizing and backing up digital content on your computer
  How to share images with family, friends, or groups via email or online platforms

• Review and Wrap-up