

Digital Photography  
Monday, 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
September 22 - December 1  
No Class on September 29

Cooper Union  
FALL 2008  
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## **Course Description**

This course provides a practical hands-on introduction to digital photography. The fundamental technical and aesthetic principals of digital photographic processes are addressed, including thorough instruction on DSLR camera operation, composition, and digital retouching and manipulation. Instruction also includes Adobe Photoshop software acquisition techniques and output technologies. Discussion also covers contemporary digital imaging and its application within commercial and fine arts.

This course is designed for those new to photography as well as those adding digital techniques to their existing photography experience. We will discuss traditional photographic topics such as camera operation, lighting and composition. We will also cover such digital age topics as pixels and resolution, image editing software and preparing images for email, websites and printing. Through slide shows and group critiques students will be exposed to different photographic styles. Because this class introduces techniques for capturing motion and controlling exposure, a camera that offers some manual control over f-stops and shutter speeds is highly recommended.

### **Recommended texts:**

Ben Long, *Complete Digital Photography, Fourth Edition*

**Please bring your camera and owner's manual to every class meeting.**

### **Recommended Software:**

Adobe Photoshop CS3 v10

Adobe Photoshop Elements v6

### **Optional Materials**

CD-R / DVD-R

External/Removable Drive (USB or Firewire).

Tripod

Electronic Flash

## **Weekly Schedule**

### **Session 1 – September 22**

What is photography? – a history in 20 minutes or less.

What are the common types of image files?

What should I look for when buying a digital camera?

From Text: Chapters 1, 2, & 5

For Next Class: Join Flickr @ [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com).

**A Yahoo! Mail account is required before joining Flickr.**

### **Session 2 – October 6**

What is the relationship pixels, resolution and image size?  
What are f-stops, ISO, aperture, shutter speed, and depth-of-field?  
How do I shoot at different ISOs?  
From Text: Chapter 3

### **Session 3 – October 13**

What are the common program modes and how do I use them?  
What are aperture, priority mode, shutter priority mode?  
How can I use my camera's controls to selectively focus and control motion?  
What is white balance?  
How does my camera's light meter work?  
How do I use a handheld light meter?  
Shooting Assignment #1 Walking in NY

### **Session 4 – October 20**

Lenses and optics  
Focal length  
Focus options  
What are focus lock, exposure lock, and exposure compensation?  
What is pixel noise?  
Shooting assignment #2 – Home

### **Session 5 – October 27**

How do I shut off my flash?  
How can I use available light creatively?  
How can I fool my camera's light meter into taking the picture I want?  
How to make strong images using the built-in flash?  
Composition and lighting  
Review "Home" images posted on Flickr.  
Assignment #2 – The Photo Book

### **Session 6 – Saturday, November 1, 9 AM – Noon (Class Meets @ Foundation Building, Room 215)**

An introduction to Photoshop and other image editing programs.  
How do I get the images onto my computer?  
How do I process images for use in email, on the web, and printing?  
How do I manage my workflow?  
How do I organize and archive my images?  
Work on Photo book pictures in class  
Photo Book proposals due (5 new images)

### **Session 7 – November 10**

Bring printed samples to class.  
What kind of prints can I get at a lab?  
How do I print my photos at home?  
Scanning: From paper to pixels.  
Printing technology and media.  
Photo Book Layout and Publishing

**Session 8 – November 15, 10 AM – 1 PM**  
**(Class Meets @ Foundation Building, Room 215)**

Advanced image editing tips: Including Curves, Adjustment Layers, and the Histogram.  
Assignment #4 – Before and after image editing  
Work on Photo Book images

**Session 9 – November 24**

Tripods  
Lighting Demo  
Panoramic photographs  
Shooting in special conditions.  
Shooting in the field: Times Square at Night.

**Session 10 – December 1**

Review Photo Books  
What's the next step?  
Individual meetings.