

City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Academic Works

Open Educational Resources

Queens College

2022

PHOTO 165, PHOTO 225, PHOTO 235: Digital Photography

Steven P. Harris

CUNY Queens College, steven.harris92@login.cuny.edu

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

More information about this work at: https://academicworks.cuny.edu/qc_oers/50

Discover additional works at: <https://academicworks.cuny.edu>

This work is made publicly available by the City University of New York (CUNY).

Contact: AcademicWorks@cuny.edu

Digital Photography: The Experimental Narrative
Professor Steven P. Harris



NYC Skyline seen from a boat off the Rockaways.

Queens College

Digital Photography I 2022

Location: Online/Hybrid

Professor Steven P. Harris

3hr. 50mins: 3 credits

Time: Synchronous/ Asynchronous Monday to Thursday TBA

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM or by appointment

E-Mail: Steven.Harris@qc.cuny.edu

Response

Digital Photography Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

To further develop shooting and editing skills using a DSLR or mirrorless digital camera and to experiment with a range of digital techniques in [Photoshop CC](#) to create lens based fine art photographic images. In addition, you will learn to write an artist statement, review important photographers work and present a final portfolio. Creating original imagery that make up a series, or to develop a visual narrative of images that tell a story will be an important aspect of this course. The class will also review important moments in the history of photography, visit galleries and or museum exhibitions, write about the work you are producing as well as critique and discuss the images you are making together. Participation will be an important element in these discussions and additional constructive input will also be provided by the instructor.

This course will concentrate on completing assignments that will encourage a personal style and to develop conceptual experimentation, create portraits, learn new lighting techniques and ways to use multiple exposures with digital image making. Each student will be expected to have a basic understanding of a digital camera and beginner level working knowledge of [Adobe Photoshop CC/Lightroom CC](#). Through a concerted daily effort to shoot and edit images, each student will create a final portfolio with a unique and individual style. Please be sure to log in and setup your account on [Blackboard](#). In addition, you will be using Photoshop and or Lightroom in class and on your computer at home, working with discussion boards and writing about the work you have created in MS Office365.

Two asynchronous group critiques will be scheduled plus a final asynchronous critique for a total of 3 online critiques. **Each student will produce an artist statement and create a body of images that will be edited into a final portfolio of 16 final images.** All students will present this work via a PowerPoint presentation in class at the end of the course. In addition, students will visit a [photographic exhibition](#) in NYC and write a 2-page review on one of these exhibitions. Writings from curators and artists will be given as reading assignments to assist you in forming your ideas. To help you focus on conceptual concerns in your work, your artist statement should include ideas on individual self-expression and subject matter that connects to personal interests. Advanced II and III students will be required to create a checklist, Bio,

Digital Photography

and a promo card in addition to the portfolio and personal artist statement. **All final portfolio projects will be due at the conclusion of this term on...(date TBA)**

Synchronous Classroom lectures and critiques

You will be required to attend and bring cameras and any assigned work to all synchronous classes and working critiques prior to completing your project including the final critique. It is very important that you show new work in progress as we go along— (see the percentage devoted to this in the “evaluation” section below). You must be self-motivated to do your editing work in class and outside of class time hours in order to complete the assignments. Work continuously each week, it is important that you have new images for each scheduled critique—The presentation of new work will ensure that you receive feedback from others and get the most out of class. **All students must attend and participate in all critique classes no exceptions!**

Assignments and Projects

The semester goes by fast, so you will need to begin producing images right away. Follow the assignments and work on developing ideas that are achievable in 4 weeks. As stated above, you will be expected to bring new work to each working critique. We will discuss your ideas and assignments during class to guide you in experimenting with digital imagery to produce high quality photographs. You will be given 3-4 assignments that deal with methods for composing strong graphic images, use of experimental approaches, creating sequences and series, portraits and lighting techniques and the use of grids. Compositional elements and photographic techniques will be covered such as, framing, emphasis with subjects using a focal point, angle of view, balance, rule of thirds, the close-up and detail shot, tone, sharpness, light and shadow, blur, perspective just to name a few important aspects that this course will cover.

Evaluation

Merely completing the requirements stated above will not necessarily ensure a high grade for this course. Assuming a certain level of technical expertise, I will be more concerned with the ideas behind your project, depth of exploration, experimentation and risk taking as you explore a creative digital approach in photography.

Below is a breakdown of the percentages for each assignment are as follows:

10% Assignment 1

10% Assignment 2

10% Assignment 3

20% Midterm Critique, Class Participation and Written Review of Exhibitions

50% Final Project Work with Presentation (Includes a Final Artist Statement) Advanced students will be required to have additional materials including a checklist, bio, and promo card image with text.

Attendance

Attendance is **absolutely mandatory for all classes in this course which meets online or in-person 4 days a week for 1 month!** This means it is about class discussions, technical instruction and participation. This course is not designed to include a final exam that grades you on a specific text or information. Your participation in critiques is a major aspect of the success of this course for you and the group. **Attendance will be taken, and 2 absences will result in a ½ grade reduction.**

In-Class Participation

Good participation means one actively and candidly contributes to a constructive conversation during online critiques, while also being supportive of your peers. It means one **arrives to the classroom on time**, is prepared with images or prints, and shows by means of facial expression and body language that one is respectfully following what is going on. It means, quite simply, that one contributes to a positive class atmosphere. **No texting, tweeting, FB surfing with a computer or use of Smartphones will be allowed during discussions!** Along those lines, one important note about critiques: we criticize the work, not the person making the work. You need to focus on the classroom experience and manage your technology during class. **Students may not use handheld devices or computers during discussions.** Breaks will be scheduled to allow students a chance to check online interfaces. **Please eat before class and during breaks only.**

Digital Photography

PLEASE NOTE: turn off phones, do not email, FB, Text, or Twitter during structured class time or critiques.

Critiques

Another duty you will have will be to attend and participate in all critiques. Prior to this, we will discuss some techniques for an active critique. You should make every attempt to engage with other students both during and after each discussion we have concerning the work shown. This means you should be ready to present and show your own work; give a brief overview and offer any constructive comments you feel are important to the discussion to others regarding their work as well. Guidelines will be provided for the technical and creative approaches you will need to use to discuss and self-evaluate your work and that of others in the class.

Artist Statement

You will be expected to work on writing an artist statement and (additional assignments for advanced student will include a bio, checklist, and promo card with an image) that includes your own ideas, concepts and interests concerning the reason you are producing this body of images for your final project. Details on artist statements will be discussed during the lecture about how to write a statement. You will be expected to write several drafts that are updated as the work evolves. Additional writing and promotional requirements will be added for the advanced students.

Saving Your Digital Work

Your cameras will need to have at least 1 [16Gb SD cards](#) or equivalent memory card for your camera, which you will backup to other interfaces like USB flash drives or hard drives. The iMac computers stations at Queens College will save your work on that particular computer while you are working and logged in. But you will need to save all of your work in at least two places as you go along. The best place to save your work is a flash drive, a portable hard drive and in the cloud. **Please regularly backup your work!!**

Required online tools and accounts:

- **An active Queens College email account ([what & how](#))**
- **Blackboard account ([what & how](#))**
- **MS Office 365 including a QC email account and full access to MS Word and PowerPoint.**
- **Google account for your personal work and to increase storage space**

Equipment

A [DSLR camera or mirrorless](#) high-quality digital camera with a removable lens like a Fujifilm XT30, Canon T7, Nikon d3500, (other DSLR or mirrorless cameras may also be used. Check with your instructor). Cameras should have manual control functions for exposure (aperture and shutter speed). A computer with access to Photoshop, Bridge, Lightroom, Flash drives, hard drives and a tripod will also be important to have for this course. You will also be expected to have a box or portfolio case for your prints (if prints are assigned) to store them for presentation and to preserve the work.

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should register with the Special Services Office by emailing QC.SPSV@qc.cuny.edu. For more information about services available to Queens College students, visit the Office of Special Services website: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/studentlife/services/specialserv/Pages/default.aspx>

CUNY Guidelines, Policies and Syllabus Changes

This syllabus may be changed during the semester and or updated and you will be notified via email or through the Queens College announcements board if any adjustments or due dates have been revised.

Please see this link for CUNY policies on academic integrity:

<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/StudentLife/services/studev/Documents/Academic%20Integrity%20Violation%20Form%20RV.pdf>

Services for students with disabilities see link here: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/StudentLife/services/specialserv/Pages/default.aspx>

Policies on harassment, misconduct, drug/ alcohol use and Title IX:

<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/about/administration/AffirmativeAction/Pages/TitleIX.aspx>

Digital Photography

Queens College, Summer Session, Steven P. Harris, Professor

Schedule for Digital Photography: Class meets Monday thru Thursday: Time TBA

Day 1	Introduction to all course requirements by instructor and individual student introductions. Equipment and software needed to shoot, edit, and submit will be discussed. Please login to your QC/ CUNY Blackboard account for this course!
Day 2	A detailed discussion on camera controls, lens operations, and basic photoshop instruction will take place for the first half of class, plus a review of the main assignments for your projects. Assignment 1 will be given and discussed in class.
Day 3	Students will work on shooting for their projects. Shooting and editing new images will be an essential part of the 1st week's schedule. The first Critique will take place on__ Login to Blackboard for more details on shooting assignments. A short presentation of historic images from several important photographers will be presented by instructor.
Day 4	Field Trip to visit galleries (TBA) in Manhattan. Please be sure to bring your camera, smartphone notepad and water as we will plan to meet in NYC to review gallery exhibitions. Afterwards we will walk around NYC to look for shooting opportunities.
Weekend Online Homework	Over each weekend: All students please continue with assignments and be sure to shoot and select images for the upcoming critiques! All students will need to bring in digital images to the next class that address the assignments and be ready to work on editing in Photoshop. All following weekends in this course will have additional assignments and students are expected to complete this work and continue shooting personal narratives and or final projects.
Day 5	Photoshop tutorial: A review of Adobe Bridge along with Photoshop and Lightroom programs will be given by instructor. We will cover how to upload, edit raw files, and adjust images for the upcoming critique on... This is a working day on the computers. Please bring all assigned work and digital image files, which we will be working with during this class. Assignment 2 will be given and discussed in class.
Day 6	Breakout sessions will take place to discuss projects, and next steps in portfolio development. Students will create a draft of their artist statements, and work on selecting images. Editing of selected image files will be the focus for the 2 nd half of class.
Day 7	1st Group Critique & Draft of Artist Statement: Students will present work in a group critique with participation by all. This will be an important review of the progress of work for assignment 1, final portfolio images and artist statements.
Day 8	Photoshop Layers, masks and Adjustment curves will be presented along with some contemporary artists that use digital tools to create their work. The 3 rd Assignment on creating a series or sequence will be discussed, and the class will work on editing and using layers, masks, and adjustment curves.
Day 9	"Faking It" A History of Photography lecture will be given by the instructor on some important photographers who were pioneers in image manipulation before Photoshop and computer retouching was developed to alter images. Advanced Photoshop techniques in color control will be discussed for 2 nd half of class.

Digital Photography

Day10	Advanced Photoshop editing techniques will be shown for multiple image creation, montage work and ways to use found objects and text in your images. Please submit your edited digital files to be ready for the 2 nd Critique.
Day 11	2nd Group Critique & 2nd Draft of Artist Statement: Students will present a PowerPoint presentation of their latest work in a group critique with student participation. This will be an important review of the progress for all final portfolios due on__. New drafts of artist statements must be part of this presentation.
Day 12	Lighting Techniques: Key professional lighting techniques will be demonstrated to students with a DSLR camera. Various way to set up and create a portrait/self-portrait will be reviewed. The written review of an exhibition is due at the start of class.
Day 13	Photoshop editing: We will concentrate on selecting, editing, and adjusting images for the upcoming final critique. This is a working day on the computers. Please bring all your image files you have created over the weekend.
Day 14	Photoshop workday: We will concentrate on editing and adjust images for the upcoming final critique. This is a working day on the computers. Please bring all your image files you have created over the last 3 weeks for a final edit.
Day 15	Final Portfolio work session and artist statement edits: In class editing and sequencing of prints with the instructor's input for the final selection of portfolio images. Please also have the latest version of your artist statement on hand. All final images must be uploaded to the LMS on__.
Day 16	Final Group Presentation: All Students will be expected to have a complete set of 16 images, and a printed draft of their final artist statements along with their PowerPoint file for this final class. All students must attend and present their work for this final presentation to receive a grade. Advanced students will also need to have a checklist, Bio and promo card image layout is required for all advanced students.

All attendance, portfolios, statements, checklists, and written assignments are mandatory and must be completed to receive a passing grade.