

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS
COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2025

AR2003 (A2): Introduction to Digital Photography – 5 (2.5-0-2.5) 75 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:

David McGregor

OFFICE:

C202

OFFICE HOURS:

PHONE: 780 539-2718

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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to the technical and conceptual aspects of digital photography. Utilizing lectures, technical exercises, and creative projects, students will gain technical skills in the operation of a digital camera, RAW capture and conversion, file management, lighting, image manipulation with Adobe Photoshop, to process ideas and generate professional digital outputs.

PREREQUISITE(S): DD1104 2D Digital Design Studio (Digital Design I)

COREQUISITE(S):

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- USB Thumb Drive
- If you have a good digital camera (not a phone camera) and a laptop with Adobe Photoshop, you can utilize them. If not, you will be able to sign one out



from The Learning Commons. Computers with Photoshop will be accessible in A303.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture and Lab

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Develop a basic understanding of digital cameras and how to use them, including exposure, focus, and white balance.
- Further develop Photoshop skills, especially those pertinent to digital photography.
- Demonstrate and discuss their knowledge of the basic elements and principles of art and design as they pertain to two-dimensional art, including balance, rhythm, repetition, dominance, contrast, and variety, and to develop a more advanced understanding of compositional strategies.
- Acquire a basic understanding of the history, theory, and contemporary practice of photography.
- Develop their vocabulary by using appropriate terminology in discussions and critiques.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

Project	Value
Major Series 1	15%
Major Series 2	15%
Major Series 3	25%
In-Class Exercises	20%
Reading Response	10%
Attendance/Participation	15%

GRADING CRITERIA :

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE: September 3 – December 11. Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 – 10:50

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Students are expected to be on time and remain for the duration of each class. Leaving early or consistently taking long breaks will affect your participation grade.
- There will be sessions where we will be taking photographs around campus during class time. It is expected that students will use this time for Photography and no other course work.
- Students are responsible for checking their email as well as adhering to specified due dates of assignments.
- Cameras and tripods are available to students for this course. They can be signed out from the learning commons. If equipment is damaged or lost, students will have the fees charged to their student accounts. If students want to use their own equipment, this is encouraged but the suitability of personal equipment must be cleared with the instructor.
- The collaborative nature of the studio environment requires a high level of respect for fellow students and their work. Frequent use of cellphones or talking while others are speaking will affect your participation grade and may

result in students being asked to leave if their behavior is negatively affecting the studio environment.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page