

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS
COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

AR2003 (A3): 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: L220
OFFICE HOURS:

PHONE: (780) 539-2718
E-MAIL: DMcGregor@nwpolytech.ca

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)/COREQUISITE: DD 1104 2D Digital Design Studio

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE 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 Visual Arts Department. Computers with Photoshop will be accessible in the Computer Lab (L207B).

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 to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** 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: Detailed guidelines for each project with mark breakdowns and evaluation criteria will be reviewed during class.

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 universities 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: Instructor specific.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- All camera equipment and tripods are signed out from the learning commons with the expectation that students are financially responsible for any lost or damaged items.
- Students are expected to invest a minimum of 3 hours outside of class time on assignments.
- Students are required to attend all classes. This course includes ongoing in-class activities,
- lectures, and tutorials. Information covered in class will not be reviewed except for in special circumstances.
- Absences of up to 2 classes may be excused in circumstances such as illness or emergencies—please speak with the instructor as soon as possible in these instances. Please note that for each day of absence beyond the permissible limit, a deduction of 2% from the total grade may be applied. It is essential to prioritize consistent attendance to maximize your learning and achieve the best possible results in your academic endeavors.

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

at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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