

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** PHT 164

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Introduction to Digital Photography

**Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)**

Teaches the fundamentals of photography including camera function, and image production as they apply to digital imagery. Shooting assignments develop technical and visual skills with the camera, including composition and the use of light. Basic skills required for making black and white and color inkjet prints are taught in a digital lab using Adobe Photoshop. Lecture 1 hours. Laboratory 4 hours. Total 5 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

Instruction in basic principles of photography using digital tools.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites** (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

Computer literacy at a modest level. This means feeling comfortable working at a computer as well as familiarity with negotiating program menus and knowing how files are saved and stored. A camera with manually adjustable aperture and shutter is required.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the photographic process—how an image is formed digitally and on film
2. Name the key components of single lens reflex (SLR) cameras
3. Control exposure in camera with good results
4. Use shutter speed to control motion
5. Use depth of field for compositional effect
6. Use lens focal length for compositional effect.
7. Use light, shadow and texture as elements of composition
8. Use adjustment layers (curves, levels, etc.) to control tone and color balance
9. Discuss basic resolution and color quality terms & concepts
10. Apply resolution and color quality concepts for image acquisition and reproduction
11. Resize images and convert file formats
12. Use various selection tools effectively
13. Use *Unsharp* filtering appropriately
14. Mount prints suitably for display
15. Discuss ethical and property rights issues involved with manipulation of images

**Major Topics to be Included**

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| 1. Single lens reflex (SLR) camera operation | 5. Movement control                            |
| 2. Image acquisition: digital capture & film | 6. Lens perspective effects and focal length   |
| 3. Exposure                                  | 7. Composition                                 |
| 4. Depth-of-field                            | 8. Lighting                                    |
|  | 9. Inkjet printing: contrast and color balance |
|  | 10. Print presentation and critique            |

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year):** May 14, 2008