

CE 1401: Photoshop Basics

Summer 2008

Instructor: Brian Butler

Summary of Course Content:

Course will explore techniques for digitally correcting, enhancing and altering scanned and file images using current version of Adobe Photoshop. Students will discover methods for working with various editing and painting tools and the options and palettes associated with them. Creative uses for layers, masks and type will also be explored.

Week 1:

Introduction to Essential Tools and Palettes

We'll start by preparing our working space and organizing Palettes efficiently. A tour of Photoshop's painting and editing tools will also be examined. In addition, learn how to navigate your documents and use screen modes to maximize viewing area. Common shortcut keys included!

Week 2:

Shapes and Layers

Now it's time to create shapes from scratch on a blank canvas using some of PS's selection tools. "Marching ant" borders will be stroked and interiors will be filled with color and placed on Layers. Further manipulation will be applied via Layer Styles' many and varied filter effects. Understanding Layers, how they interact and the Blending Modes which affect their appearance will be the centerpiece of this lesson. Experimentation with basic airbrush techniques will also be explored.

Week 3:

Putting Tools to Work

Various methods of adjusting and enhancing photographic images will be examined beginning with Levels adjustment techniques via the histogram. Hue Saturation, Color Balance, and other adjustment tools are added to the mix for a powerful blend of options at your disposal.

Week 4:

More Digital Darkroom

After review of last week, further experimentation with "digital darkroom" techniques will be explored. This will include Curves, the "Cadillac" of adjustment tools and the amazing Shadow/Highlight tool. Now that you are familiar with Layers and Adjustment tools, we'll learn how to add greater flexibility with the addition of Adjustment Layers. You'll never want to go back to adjustments via the menu bar again. Add to this Layer Masks (remember: black conceals, white reveals) and you're approaching Intermediate status!

In addition, image sharpening- the dos and don'ts.

Week 5:

Retouching and Restoring

Whether it's a damaged heirloom photograph or one that includes unwanted elements, Photoshop tools can drastically alter, improve and restore images. This exercise will include use of the Dust and Scratch filter, the Clone Stamp tool, and introduce the "time bending" History Brush.

Week 6:

Digital Hand-Coloring Effects

This exercise will examine tried and true methods of digital color tinting black and white images (and vice-versa) simulating traditional hand-coloring techniques. This will be achieved through the use of feathered lasso tools, and color fills modified by Blending Modes. Quick Mask mode used for modifying selections will round out the exercise. Added bonus: the amazing Healing Brush and Patch tool.

Week 7:

Grayscale Images

Whether you're a graphic designer, illustrator or photog, at some point you're going to be changing color images to grayscale. Learn the best ways to add dimension to your conversions with duotone and tri-tone effects while still retaining your original color image all in the same file!

Week 8:

Coloring Line Art

By setting up your Layers with a ground color and a three step process, you can achieve some amazing painterly results. Also useful for coloring all types of line art. In addition: secrets of line art and the Multiply blending mode!

Week 9:

Resolution Solutions

Cutting through the confusion of pixel dimensions, dpi, resolution and what you see on screen versus what comes out of your printer; avoiding degradation of image files, adjusting image size, transform techniques and cropping of images will be explained.

Week 10:

Assembling a Scene- Photo Montage

Learn cropping, alignment, cutting, pasting, sizing, scaling and other transformation techniques for assembling your masterpiece on a new document.

Please Note:

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*To have ACT 48 Activity Hours for this course reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) you must complete and return the **Request for Activity Hours Submission Form** to the UArts Continuing Studies Office and meet all requirements outlined by the PDE.*