

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

**Course Prefix and Number:** PHT 164

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Introduction to Digital Photography

**Course Description:** 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. Prerequisites: Students taking this course should be comfortable working at a computer, be familiar with negotiating program menus, and know how files are saved and stored. A camera with manually adjustable aperture and shutter is required. Lecture 1 hour. Laboratory 4 hours. Total 5 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** Instruction in basic principles of photography using digital tools.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

**Prerequisites:** 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:

- a. Explain the photographic process—how an image is formed digitally and on film.
- b. Name the key components of single lens reflex (SLR) cameras.
- c. Control exposure in camera with good results.
- d. Use shutter speed to control motion.
- e. Use depth of field for compositional effect.
- f. Use lens focal length for compositional effect.
- g. Use light, shadow, and texture as elements of composition.
- h. Use adjustment layers (curves, levels, etc.) to control tone and color balance.
- i. Discuss basic resolution and color quality terms and concepts.
- j. Apply resolution and color quality concepts for image acquisition and reproduction.
- k. Resize images and convert file formats.
- l. Use various selection tools effectively.
- m. Use *Unsharp* filtering appropriately.
- n. Mount prints suitably for display.
- o. Discuss ethical and property rights issues involved with manipulation of images.

**Major Topics to Be Included**

- a. Single lens reflex (SLR) camera operation
- b. Image acquisition: digital capture and film
- c. Exposure
- d. Depth-of-field
- e. Movement control
- f. Lens perspective effects and focal length
- g. Composition
- h. Lighting
- i. Inkjet printing: contrast and color balance
- j. Print presentation and critique

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** May 14, 2008