

**PHOTOGRAPHY –
DIGITAL
PROCESSING
1**

COM1275

In order to meet the requirements for this module, you must demonstrate a basic knowledge of digital camera operation and theory. Go to the website listed below and read Chapter 1.

<http://www.shortcourses.com/use/index.html>

Read the following information before going to take pictures with the digital camera.

Composition Information

1) Emphasis

In photography you are capturing or freezing a moment in time. You want that moment to have an identifiable element (or group of elements) that says something about the moment. Ensure that your composition has a centre of emphasis. This centre of emphasis is also called the focal point. Your focal point shows the viewer what you thought was important, what you wanted her/him to see and what you want to communicate.

2) Balance

When you use emphasis in a considered way, your most immediate response might be to compose your picture so that the focal point is in the centre of your frame. However, this usually leads to a static and dull image. Since we want people to look at our pictures, it is important to build in a sense of tension and excitement. How you compose your image depends on your purpose and emphasis. To draw attention to your focal point you can frame your image according to visual weight.

Study the different types of balance shown on this page and try them out in your own photographs. When you begin to feel comfortable with visual balance you will start to compose pictures by “feel.”

Symmetrical balance highlights similarities or mirrored elements along a horizontal or vertical line.

Asymmetrical balance relies on an understanding of the visual weight of elements in the frame.

3) The Rule of Thirds

This is a handy ‘rule of thumb’ for creating any composition. All picture planes can be divided into nine sectors. Elements that are placed on or near one of the four intersecting lines gain immediate interest and emphasis by dynamic placement. Alternately, elements placed on three intersections form an interesting triangular arrangement. Objects placed along one of the segments gain an off-centre appeal by virtue of their one-third to two-thirds ratio.

4) Simplicity

Keeping your photographs simple, with one or two key subjects, is the best place for beginning photographers to start learning about composition. While it may sound easy, achieving a sense of simplicity is difficult. Try to choose subjects that are isolated or alone in the field of vision, then zoom in so that the subject fills the frame.

5) Camera Angles

You should practice using different camera angles for interesting effects. A low angle is called a “worm’s eye view” and a high angle is called a “bird’s eye view.” By varying the camera position you can achieve different senses of scale and proportion and give a different feel to your pictures. A low angle will emphasize the sky (or whatever is above the horizon line) while a high angle will emphasize the ground. Try to avoid mug shots (photos of peoples’ faces taken straight-on without any variety). A good general rule is to keep the horizon at one of the two imaginary lines in the rule of thirds.

6) Mood & Meaning

Capturing the mood of a situation is critical to telling the story and communicating meaning. You need to understand the light and the way it will capture the image to tell your story well. Whether you are freezing a moment in time or telling the story of a vast landscape, photographic images are always about the quality of light. When you can think and talk about light, the elements and how to best compose pictures, you will begin to take better pictures and tell your story in an interesting way.

7) Leading Lines

An effective way to draw a viewer's eye to the focal point is by using leading lines. A leading line can be almost anything: a road, path, sidewalk, fence, river, hedge, tree line or shadow. Lines in a picture should lead into, not out of, the picture, and they should lead your eye toward the main subject.

8) Framing

Framing is a very simple trick that will make your photos look more professional. Usually a foreground element is used to create the frame by surrounding the subject. Examples are an overhanging tree branch, a window frame, a door, arches, a fence, rows of trees, etc.

Assignment 1 – Taking Pictures that Demonstrate Composition

Take a variety of pictures with the digital camera. Referring to the composition principles outlined above, take at least **2 pictures** which demonstrate each of the **8 principles**. Take pictures that are interesting and properly composed (Not just snapshots). Use different camera angles instead of taking the picture straight at the subject all the time.

[Download the Pictures](#)

You must save all of your work for this module on the Media Server (Comm Tech MS drive). DO NOT SAVE YOUR WORK IN YOUR USER NAME.

Go to the **Comm Tech drive**, open your **Grade folder**, and make a folder with your name. Inside this folder make a folder titled Photography – Digital Processing 1 and then another folder titled Original Images. Sign out a card reader from your teacher. Remove the card from the camera and place it in the card reader and plug the reader into a USB port on the computer turn the camera on and transfer your pictures into the Original Images folder you made on the Media Server. Delete your photos from the card after transferring them.

Assignment 2 - Photo Retouching

The objective of this assignment is to allow the student to explore PhotoShop in order to make some basic changes to photographs. If you already know how to use PhotoShop then feel free to demonstrate the techniques without receiving instruction. If you are unsure how to do some of the things listed below you have the following options to learn how to use PhotoShop to make the changes:

1. View the video tutorials saved at www.youtube.ca/salphotoshop
2. Use the Help menu within PhotoShop to find the information you need.
3. Use the Internet to search for tutorials or information about how to use PhotoShop. A good site to use is <http://tv.adobe.com/show/learn-photoshop-cs5/>
4. As a **LAST RESORT** you may ask your teacher for assistance.

Using the pictures you took in Assignment 1, or pictures you find on the Internet, make the following corrections which **enhance** your photos. The goal is to make the photos look better, while still looking realistic!

1. Use the **clone stamp** to fix details.
2. Using **adjustment layers**
3. **Sharpening** the focus
4. **Cropping** the image
5. **Straightening** a crooked image
6. Correcting and **enhancing** the **colour**
7. Correcting **red eye**
8. Using **dodge** and **burn** to lighten and darken
9. Using the **healing brushes** to erase imperfections
10. Using the **patch tool**
11. Changing the picture to **black and white** and **colorizing** parts of the picture
12. **Filters** – using different filters on parts of the picture
13. Use of the **Edit Menu – Transform** command to distort parts of pictures
14. Use of the various **selection tools** with the **Copy and Paste** commands to move things around in the picture
15. Use of the **text** tool to add appropriate text to the picture

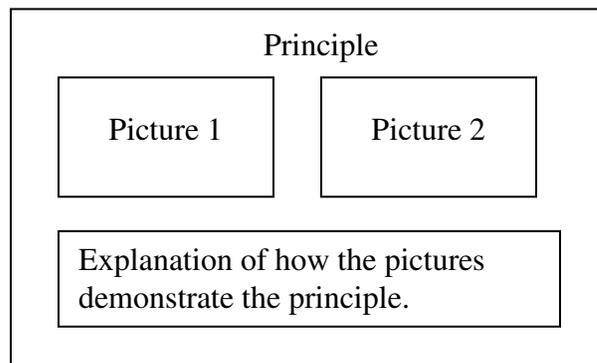
Each of the 15 techniques listed above must be demonstrated at least once on a separate photo. Keep track of what you have done to each photo as you will need to include a written explanation for each photo when you put them into your PowerPoint presentation. **Do not save the manipulated photo over top of the original because you will need to include the original pictures in your presentation.**

PowerPoint Presentation

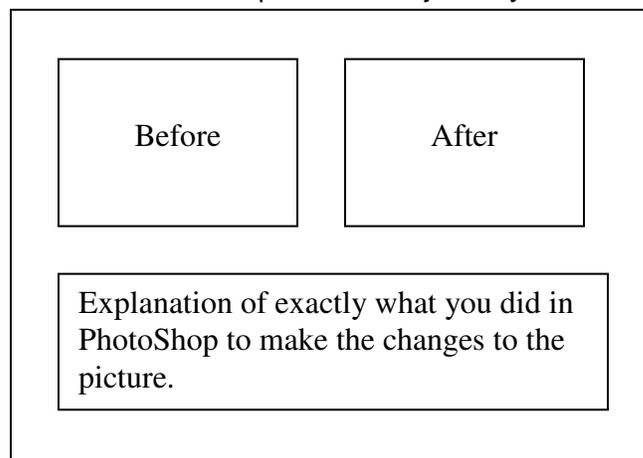
Create a PowerPoint presentation which contains all of the work that will be marked for this module.

Your presentation must contain the following:

1. **16** pictures you took with the digital camera demonstrating each of the **composition principles**. You must have **2 pictures** for each principle. For the title of the slide use the composition principle being demonstrated (eg. Rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, camera angles, etc.) Below the pictures explain how the pictures demonstrate the composition principle.



2. **15** enhanced photos. Each of the 15 enhancement techniques must be demonstrated at least once. Below each photo there must be a typed description of exactly what was done to enhance the photo. Make sure to describe the exact techniques and not just say "Used the healing brush".



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PowerPoint presentation which contains 2 examples of each of the 8 composition principles and an explanation of what it is about those photos that makes it a good example of that principle (a total of 16 photos)	
PowerPoint presentation which contains 1 example of each of the 15 photo manipulation techniques and an explanation of exactly what steps were taken to make the enhancements (a total of 15 photos)	
All presentations and pictures saved to Comm Tech Media Server in Digital Processing 1 folder labeled inside the student's name	
CTS Employability Attitudes Self Assessment completed	
Personal Inventory	