

I have been asked to submit a proposal for a printmaking class to a local four year Liberal Arts college. Here's the proposal in its final revision.

Introduction to Digital Printmaking

Learning Objectives. This class will help students build the following skills:

1) Technical Skills

Students will obtain a beginning through intermediate understanding of Photoshop. This includes a familiarity with the tools, and a basic grasp of layers, filters and styles. We will also study the manipulation of images generated by scanning and digital photography.

2) Visual and Artistic Skills

Students will learn the fundamentals of digital printmaking including the use of color, composition, texture, collage, and digital painting. Students will also learn the basic techniques of adjusting, manipulating, retouching and repairing photos, digital or otherwise; and layout and the use of text in the composition of posters, album covers and other media.

3) Printing Skills

Students will be taught to prepare their work for printing with pigmented inks on cotton rag paper.

The final project will be to make a postcard-sized print in these media at the cost of five dollars.

Grading

Students will be graded on attendance, participation, and the earnest effort to make art. Successful students will take the course seriously and have lots of fun doing so. In this class, effort and imagination are more important than either technique or technological proficiency. The first half of a class session will be devoted to instruction and discussion of techniques. In the second half of the class, students will apply techniques and ideas presented in the first half as in-class improvisation and composition, while I offer individualized instruction. Students will then offer supportive discussion and critique of each other's work. There will be midterm and final projects in which students create images using at least five different Photoshop techniques.

Extra credit will be assigned for student class presentations on art, art history, printmaking (digital or otherwise) technology, innovative Photoshop techniques, and other topics of interest to the class.

Required Course Materials

Text: *Photoshop for Windows and Macintosh: Visual QuickStart Guide* by Elaine Weinmann and Peter Lourekas. Peachpit Press. The most recent edition (CS3) is preferable and is available on Amazon.com for \$20.

Storage Media: While CDs and DVDs are acceptable media, a flash drive, portable hard drive, or similar storage device is preferable. 1 gigabyte flash drives can be purchased for \$10 to \$20.