

# **Intermediate Digital Photography**

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Presented by Paul Erdman  
for Chemeketa Community College**



# SESSION 1

## OBJECTIVES

### By the end of class tonight, you will:

- Review the basic principles of traditional photography
- Review the basic concepts of digital photography
- Review Basic PhotoShop Elements tools and usage
- Consider lighting, composition, and techniques to get the best possible pictures

## General Photography Basics

*Exposure = Aperture + Shutter speed*

### How it works:

fundamental principles

### Key Concepts:

- Exposure
- Shutter Speed
- Aperture (fstops, depth of field) *\*the bigger the aperture, the narrower the depth of field*

## Digital Photography Basics

*Analog and digital cameras are very much alike;  
the only significant difference is the storage media.*

### How it works:

fundamental principles

### Key Concepts:

- MegaPixels and Image Size  
*(width in pixels x height in pixels ÷ 1,000,000 = MegaPixels)*
- Image Quality (Fine, high, normal, low, etc.)
- Image file types (JPG, TIF, RAW)
- Optical vs. Digital zoom

## PhotoShop Elements Review

Basic review of Elements features

## ASSIGNMENT

### Before next class:

- Become familiar with the various modes your camera has to offer
- Come prepared to take some pictures using the advanced modes your camera has to offer

*\*Consider purchasing Adobe PhotoShop Elements for home use.*



## SESSION 2

### OBJECTIVES

#### By the end of class tonight, you will:

- Have experience using various modes and options on your camera
- Be able to apply principles of digital imaging as you edit your image in PhotoShop Elements
- Be able to print and save your work in an appropriate formats

### Digital Cameras: Open Photography Lab (60 Minutes)

#### Camera Setup:

- Choosing the correct image quality and size
- Automatic modes, Exposure Compensation, Bracketing, Continuous Advance
- Aperture Priority Mode
- Shutter Speed Priority Mode
- Manual shooting
- Timer
- Other custom camera features as needed.

### Fundamental Principles of Digital Imaging

*1. The resolution of an image is an indication of how its pixels are distributed.*

*2. Pixels are sacred — never throw them away, invent them from scratch, or spread them too thin without first carefully considering the consequences.*

#### Applying the principle:

- Images for **Screen (72 ppi)** vs. **Print (300 dpi)**: just because it looks huge on screen doesn't mean you need to make it smaller — especially if you will be printing it at large sizes!
- You can make it smaller, but you can't make it bigger — at least, not without inventing pixels or spreading them too thin.

### Quick Image Corrections

- Properly cropping, resizing (save the pixels!), and setting color mode
- Contrast, autofix, shadows/highlights, variations

### Saving Your Work

#### Beware of the lossy JPG!

*\*Always save your work in a format that will NOT throw away data*

Advantages (and disadvantages) of PSDs

Using Save for Web to make e-mail friendly JPGs

### Printing

### ASSIGNMENT

#### Before next week:

- Edit some images in PhotoShop Elements and bring examples of before/after images to share.
- Bring additional images to work with in our next class.



## SESSION 3

### OBJECTIVES:

#### By the end of class tonight, you will:

- Understand and be able to work with layers
- Add text to your photo
- Be able to use a variety of tools to select and work with pixels in your image
- Understand and be able to use non-destructive image editing when applicable
- Be able to use the majority of tools available in PhotoShop Elements

### Layers

- The “background” layer, standard content layers, adjustment layers, text layers
- Blending and Transparency
- Merging & Flattening
- Non-destructive image editing

### Selections

#### Introduction to Selection Tools

- Marquee tools
- Magic Wand
- Lasso

#### What to do once it’s selected

- inverting the selection
- copy, paste, and/or clear the selection

### Intermediate Image Editing

- Using brushes, paint bucket, gradient, and shapes.
- Red Eye Removal
- Cloning vs. Healing
- Removing backgrounds

### ASSIGNMENT

#### Before next week:

- Apply your new knowledge of PhotoShop to do some more advanced editing on several images. Bring the results with you next time.



## SESSION 4

### OBJECTIVES:

#### By the end of class tonight, you will:

- Be able to combine all your skills to create a composite image
- Be familiar with special effects available in PSE
- Review the entire process from start to finish and be prepared to apply it on your own.

### Putting it all together: building a composite image

- Selecting objects and erasing backgrounds
- Saving Selections
- Cloning from one layer to another
- Color correcting portions of an image separately

### Finishing Touches

**Effects & Filters:** a few samples

### REVIEW & OPEN LAB

- Camera operation
- Transferring images to computer
- Editing image in PhotoShop Elements
- Saving your work as a PSD file
- Making e-mail friendly versions
- Printing
- Submitting to an online photo printer
- Backing up your images

