

Course Syllabus



School of Humanities, Arts, and Public Engagement

ART2026 | PHOTOGRAPHY: DIGITAL

3 Units

Spring 2025

DAYS + TIMES: Tuesday / Thursday, 9:00–11:20 am

LOCATION: Keller 107

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday Dec, 16th, 10:30-1:00

INSTRUCTOR: [Lael Corbin, MFA](#)

CONTACT: lcorbin@pointloma.edu / phone: 619.849.2239

OFFICE: Keller 104 (*by appointment*)

HASHTAGS #plnuart2026 #plnuartanddesign #plnuphotography

PLNU MISSION

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Art 2026 Digital Photography is an introductory level course in photography. This course focuses on using digital technologies for the application of contemporary image making. The coursework addresses the visual language used to create, evaluate, and respond to photograph. We will explore the various technology associated with digital photography such as the digital camera, using the computer as darkroom, studio lighting, and digital print making . In addition we will be examining the effective use of color in image making, exploring photography as a story telling medium and discussing the ethical issues surrounding image manipulation.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and knowledge through the completion of assignments and artworks created in this class.

- Idea Objective: Learning to Apply and Develop Creative Capacities
- Activities and Assignments: Weekly Shooting Assignments, Printed Images Sets, Lab work

Acquire technical skills such as the manual operation of camera, the

ability to determine correct exposure settings, the ability to process RAW images using Adobe Bridge and Adobe Photoshop and create color prints.

- Idea Objective: Developing specific skills, competencies, & points of view needed by professionals in this field
- Activities and Assignments: Weekly Shooting Assignments, Printed Images Sets, Lab work

Demonstrate basic rules of picture composition and evaluate photographs in terms of their technical control and visual content.

- Idea Objective: Develop Creative Capacities
- Activities and Assignments: Weekly Shooting Assignments, Printed Images Sets, Lab work

Evaluate personal motivations and conceptual intent about the artworks produced.

- Idea Objective: Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing
- Activities and Assignments: Critiques and Artists Statements

Respond to, and critique the artworks of peers and professional examples.

- Idea Objective: Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas
- Activities and Assignments: Critiques and Artists Statements

REQUIRED TOOLS AND MATERIALS

Required Equipment

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- Digital SLR or Mirrorless Camera, with lens (capable of shooting manually and Raw format)
- A Laptop Computer with access to the Adobe Photography Suite ([Photoshop, Bridge, Lightroom - \\$9.99/month](#))
- A method for storing your images (computer, cloud, external, etc,)

Recommended Equipment

- - External Hard Drive
 - An inexpensive tripod ([\\$15 on Amazon](#))

Recommended Reading (if you need more time with in class concepts)

- - **Digital Photography Book, Part 1 by Scott Kelby**
 - **Photoshop CC book for Digital Photographers Scott Kelby**
 - Lightroom CC book for Digital Photographers Scott Kelby

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the

course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

SEMESTER GRADES

Final semester grades are based on a percentage of points accumulated in weighted categories throughout the semester. If class sessions must be canceled due to events out of the instructor's control such as illness, natural disaster, etc., the point total may be reduced, but the percentage assigned to each category will remain the same.

FINAL POINT DISTRIBUTION

30%: **Weekly Shooting** (300 pts.)

30%: **Unit Image Sets** (300 pts.)

10%: **Participation** (120 pts.)

10%: **Witten Work + Homework** (aprox. 100 pts.)

10%: **Quiz** (50 pts.)

GRADE SCALE

A = 93 – 100% of possible points

A- = 90 – 92% of possible points

B+ = 87 – 89% of possible points

B = 83 – 86% of possible points

B- = 80 – 82% of possible points

C+ = 77 – 79% of possible points

C = 73 – 76% of possible points

C- = 70 – 72% of possible points
D+ = 67 – 69% of possible points
D = 63 – 66% of possible points
D- = 60 – 62% of possible points
F = 0 – 59% of possible points

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT GRADES

While grading works of art is subjective, I try to approach each student's work as fairly and objectively as possible, taking into account each of the student's circumstances and abilities. Projects turned in late will receive an automatic 20 pt. deduction. You will then have one week from the due date to turn it in. After one week you will receive an F for that project. On-time means that it is uploaded to Canvas by the due date before the assignment closes. All homework assignments must be turned in through Canvas to receive credit, and will not be accepted late.

Individual work will be graded using the following 5 categories. Rubrics will be provided for each major assignment.

- - Meets Project Objectives
 - Craftsmanship/Technical
 - Composition/Visual
 - Conceptual/Creative
 - Individual Effort

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day,

you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

ASSIGNMENT CATEGORIES

WEEKLY SHOOTING ASSIGNMENTS & CONTACT SHEETS

There will be a shooting assignment presented each week in class. These assignments are intended to advance the students technical and conceptual abilities, as well as promote an active and diverse studio practice. Each week you will be responsible for shooting at least 24 images based on the assignment, and then for turning in at least one image, and one contact sheet. These will be submitted on Canvas by the beginning of class, and a brief class discussion/critique will follow.

PHOTO PRINT SETS

There will be three Photo Print Sets required this semester. These will be an opportunity to demonstrate technical and create abilities, and to expand upon the themes of the weekly shooting assignments. The requirements for each of these image sets will be presented in class, and students will have multiple lab sessions to complete each set before being presented to the class in a formal critique..

WRITTEN WORK

Upon completion of each of the Photo Print Sets and in preparation for each critique, the student will be asked to create an artist statement reflecting on their work. An artist's statement is a short writing that offers insight into the images by describing your creative process, philosophy, vision, and motivation. Its goal is to enlighten, engage and provide insight about an

artwork.

In addition to the written artists statements, students will be asked to complete short written responses to assigned readings, and topics of discussion.

HOMEWORK TUTORIALS

Each week there will be several short video tutorials made available that will cover a wide range of technical and conceptual issues. While the completion of these tutorials will not be graded as an assignment, the expectation is that you make use of them to accomplish each week's photoshoot, homework and other goals. Due to the broad range of skills that students come into this course with, some find the tutorials to serve as a reminder for skills already learned, and others find them to be an essential component to getting through the course. Either way you will want to be sure to set aside time for their completion each week, so as to not get behind on skills that will build sequentially through the course.

CRITIQUES AND PARTICIPATION

The primary purpose of each of the two critiques is to provide a detailed analysis and evaluation of the artworks presented. It is also an opportunity to practice the language associated with photography. Each student is expected to contribute to the discussion. In fact, your participation grade is based in part on your willingness to join in during the critique. If you are absent from a critique your project will be marked late. (-20 pts) There will be no opportunity to make up the points lost for missing a critique. Students are given a grade for each critique. 50% of the grade is based upon participation during the critique, and 50% is based upon overall class participation up to that point.

ATTENDANCE

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

Exceptions to the attendance policy will only be made in the event of a family emergency, illness with a doctor's verification, or something of an unexpected, urgent nature which is out of your control. Family vacations, weddings, work schedules, and or travel/flight schedules are not valid excuses for missing a required class session or exam. Excessive absences may result in you being dropped from the course. If you miss 30 minutes or more of a required class session, you will be marked absent. 3 late arrivals or early departures equal an absence.

- - **1–2 unexcused absences:** *no effect*
 - **3–5 unexcused absences:** *–10 percentage points from participation grade, for each unexcused absence beyond 2*
 - **6+ unexcused absences:** *Withdrawal from course, or failure if after last day to drop*
 - **5+ minutes late:** *Tardy*
 - **30+ minutes late:** *Absent*
 - **3 Tardy:** *Absent*

PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

- - Students should remain focused and engaged during class.
 - Phones must be silenced and placed in a designated phone bin during class.
 - Headphones are not allowed during class.
 - Unauthorized use of electronic devices for non-course-related activity is prohibited.
 - Repeated violations of these policies may result in an absence.
 - If you have an emergency or special circumstance, arrangements must be worked out in advance with the professor.

1st Offense = Warning / 2nd Offense = 1 tardy / 3rd or more = absence for each offense

CLEAN UP POLICY

Art, by its nature, is a messy process. It is important that you clean up after yourself. This includes the classroom and anywhere else that you might work. These are areas that we all share and use, so be courteous and leave your work area as clean or cleaner than you found it. If you habitually neglect to clean up after yourself your final grade will be affected.

1st Offense = Warning / 2nd Offense = 1 tardy / 3rd or more = absence for each offense

MATERIALS AND SAFETY

Practicing studio safety is a combination of four factors: having knowledge of the materials you are handling, understanding the environment (space) in which you are working, being aware of emergency procedures, and practicing common sense in any given situation. Most of the materials that you will be using in this class have relatively low levels of toxicity unless

ingested. Eating and drinking are only permitted in designated areas. Pay special attention to the following:

- - **Aerosols, including spray fixatives and spray adhesives:** these contain fumes that are both toxic and flammable. They should only be used outside. Do not use them in a dormitory or apartment – not even in the hallway. When spraying outside be careful that you are nowhere near a ventilation intake source. Spraying near this will spread the fumes throughout the building. It is also important to know that spraying fixative around an infant or child has been known to cause serious injury or death because of their delicate respiratory system.
 - **X-Acto Blades, Mat Cutters, etc:** Use a cutting board or mat placed on a stable surface. Grip the handle of the knife securely. If possible, secure the material in a clamp before cutting. Otherwise, grip the material behind the cutting blade. Always cut away from your body, and be sure others are not in the path of the knife should you slip. When throwing a dull blade in the trash, wrap that sharp end of a used blade a few times in some masking tape so that the person dealing with the trash does not get cut. For your own safety, cover the blade with your kneaded eraser so that you won't get cut if it is stored unprotected in your art box.

ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY POLICES

CONTENT WARNING

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of

information. In Photography: Digital , all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include sexuality, violence, death, and other themes that reflect the whole human experience. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of Art + Design, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

TRIGGER WARNING

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. In Photography: Digital, we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include sexuality, violence, death, and other themes that reflect the whole human experience. Each time this topic appears in a reading or unit, it is marked on the syllabus. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning

on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of Art + Design, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow distance education outside California.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is

entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

Note: Point Loma Nazarene University supports academic integrity and the

thoughtful integration of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), in the learning process. Below are three sample statements reflecting varying levels of AI use permitted in this course. Faculty may select, adapt, or delete as appropriate.

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

[MLA Style Center: Citing Generative AI](#)

[APA Style: How to Cite ChatGPT](#)

[Chicago Manual of Style: Citing Content Developed or Generated by AI](#)

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so

clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

LANGUAGE AND BELONGING

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark

ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/Title-IX.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Note: Include this section if teaching an Online or Hybrid course.

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible nor allowable) to complete exams online.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

Quick Links to Resources

[Netiquette Guidelines](#) | [Help Resources & Technical Support](#) | [Technology & System Requirements](#) | [Canvas Guide](#)