Course Syllabus

Department: Environmental Conservation and Horticulture

Date: April 20, 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: CON 265

Course Name: Field Techniques for Naturalists and Photographers

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:

An introductory course emphasizing basic field techniques that are used in outdoor photography. Special emphasis will be placed on field techniques for photographing wildlife, plants, landscapes, outdoor recreation and environmental activities. The course will also place special emphasis on the use of natural light to produce quality photographs. A lesser emphasis will be placed on photographic equipment, film types and methods of utilizing photographs. Prerequisite: Restricted to majors in the Conservation & Horticulture department.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

   Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

1) Demonstrate basic working knowledge of both digital and 35mm film camera equipment, accessories and capture media suitable for nature and outdoor photography. (professional competency)

2) Demonstrate the basic field techniques used to photograph wildlife, plants, landscapes and outdoor activities. (professional competency)

3) Produce a portfolio of photographs representing each of the assigned categories of image types including plants, wildlife, landscapes and outdoor activities. (professional competency)

4) Present (visually and orally) a compilation of their photographs providing a description of the techniques used in capturing the photos. (oral communication)

5) Analyze and critique photographs, both their own and others, based on composition and technique (critical thinking).
Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

This course is an elective for AAS Natural Resources Conservation, AAS Natural Resources Conservation: Law Enforcement, and AS Environmental Studies students. This course may also be taken as a general elective as long as the pre-requisites have been met.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

- □ writing
- □ computer literacy
- X oral communications
- □ ethics/values
- □ reading
- □ citizenship
- □ mathematics
- □ global concerns
- □ critical thinking
- □ information resources

III. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Access to and use of a suitable digital camera or a 35 mm film camera will be required. (Digital cameras have been used nearly exclusively by recent classes.) Students should have a digital or film camera and at least one lens. It is desirable that the cameras used by students be moderately adjustable, allowing choices to be made regarding aperture, shutter speed and the speed of the photo sensor or film. The following films are recommended for those using film cameras:

- Fuji Velvia 50
- Fuji Provia 400F
- Ektachrome E 100VS

Additional memory cards Memory Cards are desirable for digital.

A textbook will also be required.

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):

Lectures and demonstrations will be the primary method of instruction. Guest speakers, hands-on activities and field trips will also be included.

IV. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):

Students will present orally and visually a compilation of their photos. Students will be asked to analyze and critique photos verbally in class, on quizzes and in written exams.
V. General Outline of Topics Covered:
I. Course Mechanics and Requirements
   - Introduction
   - Overview of course content and student responsibilities
II. Basic Principles of Outdoor Photography
III. Outdoor Photography Equipment, Accessories, Film
   - Definition of terms
   - Fundamentals of camera lenses and accessories
   - Basic principles of digital photography
   - Fundamentals of photographic film
IV. Exposure
   - Basic theory of exposure
   - Role of camera shutter and lens aperture in exposure
   - Depth of field
V. Photographic Composition - Graphic Design
   - Learning to see
   - Finding the best subject
   - Positioning the subject
   - Rule of thirds
   - Utilizing color, lines, shapes, patterns and texture
VI. Generating Digital Images
   - Downloading
   - Scanning
   - Printing
   - Editing
VII. Techniques for Photographing Wildlife
   - Best lenses - film - accessories
   - Best places to photograph wildlife
   - Use of photographic blinds
   - Baiting and capturing wildlife
   - Legalities
   - Techniques for photographing mammals, birds, fish, insects, reptiles, and amphibians
   - Problems and solutions
VIII. Techniques for Photographing Plants
   - Best lenses - film - accessories
   - Best places to photograph plants
   - Legalities
   - Techniques
   - Problems and solutions
IX. Techniques for Photographing Landscapes
   - Best lenses - film - accessories
   - Best places for landscape photography
   - Legalities
   - Utilizing natural light in landscape photography
   - Designing and composing landscape photographs
   - Problems and solutions
X. Techniques for Photographing Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Activities
   - Best lenses - accessories - film
   - Best places

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