# Plato Course Professional Photography, Semester A

## Course Overview

This one-semester course is intended as a practical, hands-on guide to help you understand the skills required to achieve success in photography careers. This course has 14 lessons organized into four units, plus four Unit Activities. Each lesson contains one or more Lesson Activities.

This course will cover various topics in photography, such as history of photography, types of photography, types of camera, camera support equipment, types of camera lenses, exposure, lighting setups, rules of composition, color photography, storing and manipulating images, copyright laws and fair use, and printing photos.

You will submit the Unit Activity documents to your teacher, and you will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing them with given sample responses. The Unit Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are the major components of this course. There are other assessment components, namely the mastery test questions that feature along with the lesson; the pre- and post-test questions that come at the beginning and end of the unit, respectively; and an end-of-semester test. All of these tests are a combination of simple multiple-choice questions and technology enhanced (TE) questions.

## Course Goals

This course will help you meet the following goals:

- Describe the evolution of photography.
- Explore different types of photography and careers in photography.
- Operate various parts of a digital camera and produce photographs using various modes and settings available in a digital camera.
- Use camera support equipment.
- Produce photos using different types of lenses.
- Produce photographs of specific subjects, including still lives, portraits, and architectural subjects.
- Produce quality photographs with appropriate lighting.
- Apply the elements and principles of art and the rules of composition while taking photographs.

- Produce both black and white and color photographs.
- Organize and store images.
- Manipulate images using photo-editing software.
- Discuss and apply laws and ethics related to photography.
- Print photographs using a digital printer.

## Prerequisite Skills

Plato Course Professional Photography, Semester A has the following prerequisites:

- basic math knowledge
- ability to visualize and apply creativity and innovation
- familiarity with the writing process and following guidelines
- Principles of Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications Course

## General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Perform basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

*For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.*

## Credit Value

Plato Course Professional Photography, Semester A is a 0.5-credit course.

## Course Materials

- Notebook
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- DSLR Camera

## Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

## Unit 1: Types of Photography and Careers

**Summary**
In this unit, you will learn about the major developments in photography. You will learn about the mechanics of early photographic systems. You will also learn about the types of photography such as photojournalism, event, portrait, fashion, sports, nature, and architecture. Additionally, in this unit, you will explore careers in photography and create a resume.

| Day | Activity/*Objective* | Type |
|---|---|---|
| 1 day: 1 | **Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation** *Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.* | Course Orientation |
| 4 days: 2–5 | **History of Photography** *Describe the evolution of photography and compare photography with other visual art forms.* | Lesson |
| 4 days: 6–9 | **Types of Photography** *Explore different types of photography such as photojournalism, event, portrait, fashion, sports, nature, architecture, still life, action, magazine, and product.* | Lesson |
| 4 days: 10–13 | **Careers in Photography** *Explore careers in photography and create a career portfolio.* | Lesson |
| 1 day: 14 | **Para Jumble** | Game |
| 6 days: 15–20 | **Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 1** | Unit Activity |
| 1 day: 21 | **Posttest—Unit 1** | Assessment |

## Unit 2: Using Digital Cameras

**Summary**

In this unit, you will learn how to operate various parts of a digital camera. You will also learn how to use various modes and settings available in a digital camera. You will learn how to use camera support equipment such as tripods, grips, and holds. You will learn how to produce a photograph with good exposure. Additionally, you will learn how to produce still life, portrait, and architectural photographs.

| Day | Activity/*Objective* | Type |
|---|---|---|
| 4 days: 22–25 | **Digital Cameras** *Operate various parts of a digital camera and produce photographs using various modes and setting available in a digital camera.* | Lesson |
| 4 days: 26–29 | **Camera Support equipment** *Use camera support equipment.* | Lesson |
| 4 days: 30–33 | **Digital Camera Lenses** *Produce photos that benefit from different lenses and different photo settings.* | Lesson |
| 4 days: 34–37 | **Basic Photography** *Produce photographs of specific subjects, including still lives, portraits, and architectural subjects.* | Lesson |
| 1 day: 38 | **Space Jumble** | Game |
| 6 days: 39–44 | **Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 2** | Unit Activity |
| 1 day: 45 | **Posttest—Unit 2** | Assessment |

# Unit 3: Photographic Lighting and Composition

**Summary**
In this unit, you will familiarize yourself with the different types of photography lighting. You will learn about light modifiers, filters, and light meters. You will learn how to produce photographs using light modifiers and filters. You will also learn how to produce photographs by applying the elements and principles of art, and rules of composition. In addition, you will learn about color theory and produce black and white and color photographs.

| Day | Activity/*Objective* | Type |
|---|---|---|
| 4 days: 46–49 | **White Balance and Lighting** <br> *Produce quality photographs with appropriate lighting.* | Lesson |
| 4 days: 50–53 | **Photographic Composition** <br> *Apply the elements and principles of art and the rules of composition while taking photographs.* | Lesson |
| 4 days: 54–57 | **Color Photography** <br> *Describe the basic color theory and the use of color in photography.* | Lesson |
| 1 day: 58 | **Para Jumble** | Game |
| 5 days: 59–63 | **Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 3** | Unit Activity |
| 1 day: 64 | **Posttest—Unit 3** | Assessment |

# Unit 4: Basic Manipulation and Printing of Images

**Summary**
In this unit, you will organize and store images with the appropriate format. You will learn how to apply image-manipulation techniques, such as cropping, resizing, flipping, and rotating images. You will also learn about copyright laws, licensing, and fair use. Finally, you will learn how to print images and how to mount, mat, and frame the photographs.

| Day | Activity/*Objective* | Type |
|---|---|---|
| 4 days: 65–68 | **Storing Images** *Describe how to organize and store images.* | Lesson |
| 4 days: 69–72 | **Manipulating Images** *Manipulate images using photo-editing software.* | Lesson |
| 4 days: 73–76 | **Copyright Laws and Fair Use** *Analyze, discuss, and apply laws and ethics related to photography.* | Lesson |
| 4 days: 77–80 | **Printing Photos** *Print photographs using a digital printer.* | Lesson |
| 1 day: 81 | **Thwack-A-Mole** | Game |
| 6 days: 82–87 | **Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 4** | Unit Activity |
| 1 day: 88 | **Posttest—Unit 4** | Assessment |
| 1 day: 89 | **Semester Review** | |
| 1 day: 90 | **End-of-Semester Test** | Assessment |