

## Syllabus, Spring 2003

CCOM – 263, Imaging with Computers  
Monday 10:00 – 1:20 (Section one)  
Monday 2:00 – 5:20 (Section two)

Professor Jonathan Lipkin  
[jlipkin@ramapo.edu](mailto:jlipkin@ramapo.edu), <http://www.jlipkin.com>  
Phone: 201.684.7056  
Office Hours (H-102): Monday 8:45 – 9:45 AM, and 5:30 – 6:30. Tuesday 2:00 – 3:00.  
Wednesdays by appointment.

Any student with a documented disability should contact me to discuss accommodations.

Plagiarism is a serious offence, and will be referred to the office of Academic Affairs. Penalties may include failure of the course, or expulsion from the college.

Lectures and examples of student work may be found on my website.

### Course Description

This course is an introduction to the use of the Macintosh computer to digitize and manipulate photographic imagery. It will introduce students to the history and practice of creating images on the computer; the technical and critical skills learned in this class provide the foundation for all other areas of multimedia production. Students will be given the technical skills to create as well as the critical framework in which to place computer imagery. Students will learn to develop and explore a personal vision.

Prerequisites: CCOM-237, CCOM 215 or CCOM 105. CART 102, or CCOM 105 and CTHE 217. Lab Fee.

### Course Texts

*Adobe Photoshop 7.0 Studio Techniques*, Ben Willmore. Available in the Bookstore  
*In the Realm of the Circuit*. Charles Traub and Jonathan Lipkin. Available in the bookstore or online. Check the website (<http://www.intherealmofthecircuit.com>) for places you can buy at a discount. The book is also available on reserve at the library, call number LIPKIN P-01.  
Additional readings will be placed on reserve in the library or be available on-line  
You will need to purchase a 100MB or 250MB Zip disk in either Mac or PC format. You may also want to purchase blank CD-R discs for backup and archiving files.

### Grades

Final grades are given on a scale of 0 - 100:

0 - 65	F	Failing. Does not meet minimum expectations
66 - 70	D	Barely acceptable work
70 - 79	C	Average work. Meets expectations
80 - 89	B	Above average. Exceeds expectations
90 - 96	A-	Very good to outstanding
97 - 100	A	Outstanding work. Very unusual.

The majority of student should expect to fall in the B- to C+ range in my courses. A's are not common.

Your final grade will be based on  
Attendance and class participation: 15%  
In-Class Exercises, Quizzes and Take-Home Exercises: 25%  
Creative Assignments: 45%  
Final Project: 15%

### **Assignments**

Assignments will be in one of three categories: in-class exercises, take-home exercises, and creative assignments. In-class exercises will be graded 0 or 1, based on a minimum amount of effort, proper naming, and proper delivery. Take-home exercises will be graded 1-5 based on technical criteria. Creative exercises (including the final project) will be graded 0-100; 40 points for technical competence, 60 points for creativity - the degree to which you have solved the problem given in a thoughtful, creative way, and have paid attention to the work of other artists shown in class. Homework assignments are due before class starts. In-class assignments are due the start of the following class. This means that you should show up early to allow yourself extra time to deliver the file. Late work will be marked down, even if it is only ten minutes late.

This class requires a significant amount of work on your part, and you should expect to spend three to four hours in the lab, and at least an hour reading, each week. Assignments, readings, lectures, and examples of student work may be found on my website.

Your creative assignments will be shown in class, unless you specifically ask that they not be shown. Furthermore, your work may be placed in a student gallery either on the Ramapo site or on my site, again unless you specifically ask that it not be. You will retain copyright to your work, and will be given appropriate credit. Creative assignments will need to be delivered to the server (I'll give you instructions in class) and printed out on the black and white laser printer (be sure to write your name on the print-out). Papers should be printed out and handed to me at the start of class. Please put at the top the first page: your name, the course ID, and the assignment.

### **Attendance**

Attendance and class participation are an essential element of this course. Each class gives unique and valuable information. As such, any missed class will affect your grade. If you miss three classes, for whatever reason, you will fail the course. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for handing in the assignment, and contacting me to find out what you missed in class. During each class, I expect you to contribute to the discussion in a meaningful way. I also expect you to pay attention: this means you may not check your email, chat online, read the newspaper and so on. Please turn off your pagers, cell phones, and any other electronic devices that vibrate, make noise and so forth. Please be prompt, and return from breaks after ten minutes.

### **Preparation**

You are expected to read and engage reading each week. You don't need to understand each and every word, but you should come to class having done the reading, and prepared to discuss it intelligently. If you have not done the reading, do not come to class.

### **Quizzes**

There will be a quiz on the reading each week at the start of class. Quizzes are due ten minutes after class starts. If you are five minutes late, you will have only five minutes to do the quiz.

### **Class Schedule**

10:00-10:10	Quiz
10:10-10:55	Lecture
10:55-11:45	Demonstration
11:45-11:55	Break

11:55-12:30 In-class technical assignment  
12:30-1:00 Critique  
1:00-1:20 Preview of next week

**Weekly Schedule** (subject to change)

Week 1: Intro to course  
Week 2: Selections, digital photography overview  
Week 3: Layers, the process of digital photography  
Week 4: Resolution, digital portraiture  
Week 5: Tone correction, the dataset  
Week 6: Color correction, rhythm and advertising  
Week 7: Collage and layer masks, style  
Week 8: Channels, love and amusement  
Week 9: Retouching, the landscape  
Week 10: Type and pen tool  
Week 11: Digital cameras, the boundaries of the self  
Week 12: Putting images online  
Week 13: Blending and tips  
Week 14: Advanced selections  
Week 15: Final presentations