

About this class

In this course we'll be exploring many facets of pixel-based image manipulation, with Photoshop as our primary compositing and design tool. Projects will focus on gaining digital skills in cutting, layering, blending, and colorizing—manipulation skills that can be applied to many areas of design: photography, typography, illustration, web page layout, concept art, advertising & marketing displays, and architectural rendering—to name a few.

Students will gain imaging skills through projects geared towards portfolio production—always with a clear connection to the core Elements & Principles of Design: line, shape, value, color, texture, scale, composition, emphasis, perspective, balance, and rhythm.

Once the basic tools are introduced, the overall concept is to practice and refine your vision and technique in order to produce more professional layering, blending, realism and composition for use in your design projects—as well as learning to discuss your imagery and process in a cohesive way.

A perspective: students enter this class with various degrees of skill as Photoshop users and designers, and most of you are eager to move your image manipulation skills to a higher level of inventiveness and professionalism. As a class we will definitely focus on improving your skill with Photoshop, both in terms of concept choices and software techniques. Gaining skill and competence means devoting yourself to ongoing practice with your vision, your tools, your critique of self and others, and your spirit of participation to bring something to the group every week.

Basic areas of study will include:

- Learning basic image cutting and layering
- Compositing and layer blending
- Masking and working with transparency
- Creating a convincing photo manipulation
- Portrait retouching and alteration
- Colorizing and color correction
- Painting and vector-based selection tools
- Concept development and narrative
- Presentation skills: printing, mounting, speaking

CLASS PROJECTS:

Please refer to the weekly schedule in the course syllabus for information about proposed class projects.