Dear Students,

Welcome to Photography 150, Introduction to Cameras and Composition!

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Miyo Hernandez. I am a practicing fine artist and college photography instructor and I teach in multiple locations. I have been teaching at College of the Canyons for about 14 years now. I have an MFA in photography from CalArts, and I live in the Los Angeles area.

I love my job!

Although Distance Learning allows students to take classes on their own time schedule, sometimes it can be quite isolating. As an instructor, the best part of my job is learning about all the interesting people that make up our college community. This can happen online too- we just need to make an effort to connect with one another. Online classes may be convenient but are a lot of work, often more so than on-ground classes. Everything that we would normally say in discussion we must type in online. Prepare yourself for this. It is your responsibility to stay on top of the work required for each lesson. Please be prepared to put your best effort forward toward connecting with your fellow students. Fortunately, photography is a visual subject. This makes connecting easier, and through it we will get to see each student’s own interpretation of the world around them.

**THESE ARE SEVERAL THINGS YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF BEFORE WE BEGIN:**

1. There are NO face-to-face meetings for this course – it is completely online. It is **ESSENTIAL** that you read through ALL course materials located on the course website (Blackboard). The course website will be available beginning the first day of class. Think of it as our virtual classroom.

2. To protect student privacy and insure that we are communicating electronically with the correct person COC uses a school wide student email. Information about this email is available at [http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Admissions/StudentEmail.asp](http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Admissions/StudentEmail.asp). Students must email instructor from their my.canyons.edu email address **ONLY**. I can’t reply to emails that aren’t from my.canyons.edu addresses.

3. **Course Website:** [http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Pages/Blackboard.aspx](http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Pages/Blackboard.aspx)
   
   **Login:** Your 7-digit COC student ID number
   
   **Password:** student

   **THE BLACKBOARD AND FLICKR WEBSITES WILL BE THE PRIMARY SOURCE FOR ALL CLASS WORK.**

   For assistance with the Blackboard site: [http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Distance_Learning/](http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Distance_Learning/) or call 661-362-3344 or direct your question via e-mail to bbsupport@canyons.edu

4. The first step after your login to Blackboard should include resetting your password and entering your email address. Both of these steps can be completed under the “Tools” menu and then click “Personal Information”. If you do not do this you will not receive important information via email. Blackboard and “My Canyons” are not linked.

5. Students will also be required to open a [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com) account to upload photographs for grading. You may use existing Flickr accounts if you have one. Through your COC (my.canyons.edu) email I will send you an invitation to the class private Flickr group.

6. You should be computer literate, with at least basic knowledge of Internet navigation and email procedures. The college can only provide minimal technological support.
7. The course will require a minimum 10 hours of time per week and your daily presence on class discussion boards, wikis, or blogs is required.

8. This is a short-term fast-paced course - 6 weeks. Generally, WEEKLY you can expect to complete the following coursework:

   • Reading- Barbara London and Jim Stone, A Short Course in Digital Photography (2nd edition 2012), Published by Prentice-Hall, Inc., which can be purchased at the COC bookstore or an online book reseller.
   • View four videos, websites, or PowerPoint lectures online.
   • Complete four to five photography projects (expect to photograph daily)
   • Participate in online discussions daily
   • There will be two quizzes and two writing assignments during the 6 week period

The Blackboard site will become active on 6/16/14. If you have any questions before then please email me.

Sincerely,
Miyo Hernandez