

Pacific New Media
Creativity & Technology

2690 Pamoia Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96822
tel 808.988.8620 www.creativeguide.com
e-mail: pacimage@maui.net

Introduction to Adobe Photoshop

David Ulrich
Syllabus

Definitions:

Selections: Methods of isolating parts of an image, allowing you to perform an action selectively or to copy and paste selection to another file.

Layers: An image in PS is comprised of one or more layers, like acetate sheets superimposed on one another. Layers may be acted on individually, changing size, perspective, color balance, tonality and contrast, addition of gradients or filters, etc.

Mode: Method of forming color and tonal relationships. Use of additive primary colors = RGB. Use of subtractive primary colors = CMYK. Or gray scale = B&W.

Composite: Making selections from one or more images and combining into new image, collage, or illustration.

Resolution: Number of pixels per inch, or lines per inch. Resolution, size in inches, and file size in megabytes are interrelated.

Color correction: Manipulation of additive primaries, red - green - blue, or subtractive primaries, cyan - magenta - yellow - black, to change color balance or correct color cast of image.

Tonal and contrast correction: Changing either the density or contrast of a B&W or color image. Maximizing shadow and highlight detail.

Path: Editable selection using the pen tool or magnetic pen tool.

History: Multiple levels of undo. PS creates a "history" of each action performed.

1. Selection tools and layers

- Photoshop Tool box; potentials of the program
- Selection tools explained and demonstrated: marquee tool, lasso, magic wand tool, pen tool plus
- Introduction to layers feature. How to use. Demonstration of layers and paths.
- Introduction to history palette.
- Introduction to text capabilities and limitations.
- Simple composite exercise using basic selection tools and layer hierarchy with the addition of editable text.

Goals: Introduce participants to hands-on use of selection tools, layers and text capabilities. Composite image of elements from three sources.

2. Color and tonal correction

- Introduction to powerful tonal and color correction tools: Levels, curves, information palette, color balance corrections, variation display, and use of histograms. Setting the black point and white point.

- When to use levels, curves, and color correction software and in what sequence. Mode changes. RGB to CMYK.
- Basic densitometry for photographers and image-workers. Fundamental information on the behavior of photographic materials and the PS interface. Similarities and differences of standard photographic densitometry with PS.
- Demonstration of color and tonal corrections in a composite image. Explanation of subtractive vs. additive color.
- Exercise in color and tonal correction

Goals: To familiarize participants with contrast control, basic color correction and maximizing detail in highlights and shadows. Learning to set the black and white point.

3. Image correction and compositing

- Layer effects. Scaling, skewing, rotating and perspective control.
- Use of pen tool and paths in making selections.
- Use of gradient tool.
- Use of commonly used filters.
- Composite artistry.
- Use of adjustment layers
- Exploration and use of PS filters.
- Methods of combining and compositing.

Goals: To assist participants in conceptualizing and producing a manipulated image making use of elements from several photographs and illustrations.