Adobe Photoshop CS
Course Syllabus

In this online course, students learn the advanced features of Photoshop CS. Topics include creating complex documents involving layers, layer masks, clipping groups, paths, alpha channels, color correction and manipulation, compositing, and special effects using filters and photo retouching. Students will also learn about third-party filter effects available for Photoshop.

This class is appropriate for students who already have some knowledge of Photoshop. It is not a level 1 class, but if you have had some experience with the software, you should be comfortable in this class. It would be a good idea to have some knowledge of layers, and basic selection techniques.

Schedule
New classes will start on the second Monday of each month. Each Monday and Thursday students will receive an e-mail from me reminding them to access the notes for the class. With a password, they will be able to view and print the online notes. Notes for each class will be posted on the day of the class. The total duration of the class will be 4 weeks, and students will have access to the class notes for that time only. All final projects will need to be sent to me by the Monday following the last Thursday class.

Requirements
You must have experience with either a Mac or PC and the ability to open, copy, save files and view Web sites through a browser. You must also have access to a Mac or Windows computer with an internet connection and a Web browser. Also, students should be able to use file compression utilities such as zipit, winzip or stuffit in order to reduce upload and download times. Please contact me for help if necessary. A good Web site from which to obtain freeware versions of these utilities is http://www.cnet.com.

Software
Photoshop CS or Photoshop 7.01. Although this course is written for Photoshop CS, the assignments can be completed using Photoshop 7. Some lessons will refer to tools found only in Photoshop CS, however.

Textbook
Adobe Photoshop CS Visual Quickstart Guide. This book is optional, although I find it indespensible. It is published by Peachpit Press.

Homework
There will be a new project to do every week.

The assignments will be based on what you have learned from the lecture notes, and there will usually be an example for you to look at.

All homework can be e-mailed to me at c.elliot@cathart.net. It should be sent either in the Photoshop PDF format with layers, or the PSD format. This allows me to see how you have arrived at the final result. Photoshop PDF's can be saved with layer information so that when I open the file in Photoshop I can see all of your original

layers. This means that some uploads may take a long time, but there's no way around this except using file compression utilities, which won't help entirely. You should reduce the resolution of your files to 72 ppi., and limit the physical size to a maxiimum of 6 inches on any side. Be sure, however to keep a high resolution version for yourself, so that you can print it out, and use it for your portfolio.

I may ask you if it is okay to display images you have sent me. If you object, I won't show them, but I fi nd that students learn from seeing how other students have solved problems.

HERE IS THE SYLLABUS:

WEEK 1A (MONDAY): New features in Photoshop CS: We will review some of the real basics, since there are many new features in this version. This Monday we will take a look at the new, and easier to manage color features. Also, improvements to palettes, especially the File Browser palette, will be covered in this class.

WEEK 1B (THURSDAY): This Thursday we will really get into channels, and the difference between channels and layers. We will look at Quick Mask, and editing channels to use them as selections.

WEEK 2A (MONDAY): Type and Shape layers: Photoshop CS uses real vector type, and shapes. You don't need to go into Illustrator anymore to use vector objects either. We will look at how to use the shape tools, and also how to create and save files with vector information, right in Photoshop. We will also take a look at the Type Warping feature, and the new type on a path feature.

WEEK 2B (THURSDAY): Retouching is what image editing is all about. This Thursday we will look at correcting bad images with the cloning tool, the pattern tool, and the healing brush. We will also create our own brushes, and use them to retouch images.

WEEK 3A (MONDAY): Compositing images: Use layer masks to combine different images with each other. We will also use clipping groups to restrict the appearance of pixels on layers.

WEEK 3B (THURSDAY): We will talk about the web aspects of Photoshop this week. Although this is not a web class, there are tools in Photoshop that you will want to use to create your web content. In addition, we will talk about Color correction, and Adjustment Layers.

WEEK 4A (MONDAY): This Monday we will look at Blending modes, and the different ways you can use them. We will also use spot colors, and save our images for output to print. We will also discuss the final project,which will be a composite image depicting life as you see it in the Twenty-First century.

WEEK 4B (THURSDAY): This Thursday we will learn how to use actions to simplify repetitive tasks. Any problems you are having with the final project will be addressed. You will see how there are many ways to get to the same place in Photoshop.

I will also talk about some third party plug ins.