About this class

My vision of this class is: students advancing their image manipulation skills through projects geared towards portfolio production, always with a clear connection to the core Elements & Principles of Design. The course will have three main assignments, focusing on specific topics in the realm of image manipulation. The overall concept is to practice and refine your vision and technique to produce more professional layering, blending, illusions and composition—for use in your design projects—as well as learning to alter and tune your imagery. Also, you will be using a combination of photos you shoot yourself, as well as stock imagery.

> *A perspective:* students enter this class with various degrees of skill as image manipulators, and most of you are eager to learn more advanced techniques—to move your Photoshop skills to a higher level of inventiveness and professionalism. As a class we will definitely focus on improving your skill as an image manipulator, both in terms of photography 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:

- Refining your precision and skills as a photo manipulator
- Composition and design within the image layout
- Matching photos from varied sources: resolution and lighting
- Increased awareness of layering and blending methods
- Creating color palettes for specific themes
- Printing images with a variety of color and duotone specs
- Seamless blending of multiple images in a panorama

CLASS PROJECTS:

1. **Color project** (analogous, complementary, duotone schemes) — *Exploring color as a design theme. Building color palettes as a basis for image composition. Printing in color, plus duotone versions.*

2. **Pixels & Vectors** (body photos, surreal imagery, vector tools) — *Matching studio photos of yourself with stock imagery and vectors to create a surreal composite.*

3. **Polar Panorama** (360° photomerge sequence, mini-planet) — *Stitching together multiple photos to create a seamless panorama. Creating a 'mini-planet' by warping your panorama into a sphere.*

* Students are expected to create and maintain a Process Book for each project—documenting your inspirations, methods, design challenges and solutions.