

Introduction to Photography: Spring 2014

"I've said about a million times that the best thing a young photographer can do is to stay close to home. Start with your friends and family, the people who will put up with you. Discover what it means to be close to your work, to be intimate with a subject. Measure the difference between that and working with someone you don't know as much about. Of course there are many good photographs that have nothing to do with staying close to home, and I guess what I'm really saying is that you should take pictures of something that has meaning for you..."

– Annie Leibovitz –

Course information:

Required text: Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age, Robert Hirsch

Location/Time: Section: 602

Class number: 30264

Meeting time: TuTh 3:10PM - 4:40PM

Location: DPAUL C106B at Loop Campus

Instructor contact: cdebose@depaul.edu

Description:

This course is an introduction to the history and aesthetics of still photography and to the concept of photography as a descriptive and interpretive artistic medium. Students studying photographs in this context will discover relationships between individual photographers' choices and their own understanding of meaning. Discussions of the photos' cultural contexts and meanings will deepen their understanding of the role of still photography as a conduit for cultural values. Students will learn the fundamental concepts necessary to shoot, edit, manipulate, and print digital still photographs. Also, students will acquire the knowledge needed to analyze and critique existing work. Students will be required to use their own digital still cameras for this course. This course has an additional fee.

Equipment, camera settings and metadata:

All work handed in for the projects must have been made since the beginning of the Quarter. And for this class alone. All work handed in for a project that is evidently made before the quarter will result in a fail for that project. You are required to have a working digital camera throughout the entire session, beginning now. *Please use the same camera all quarter if possible.*

- Two data cards for your camera.
- USB thumb drives - at least 2GB (they fail, have a back up.)
- External Hard Drive
- Card reader / USB cord
- Access to light to mid-weight tripod

Please make sure the camera is in working order. Take stock of the inventory & accessories that come with it, or are missing. **No cellphone cameras allowed.** We will employ DSLRs for this course. No Photoshop or photo editing until we've reached the Photoshop portion of the course.

MOST IMPORTANTLY: Date/Time must always be correct in camera (metadata).

Week 1 (description & objective): Week 1 is an introduction to the art of photography as well as a discussion of the broader cultural implications of this practice. Our goals will be to familiarize ourselves with the work of various photographers as well as understand photography's place in society.

Read: Chapter One (Hirsch)

Tuesday Lecture: "Photography, History, and impact."

Thursday: Gallery 125

Assignment: Short paper, "explore" photo, "make one like this" photo

Date due: Tuesday of Week 2

Week 2 (description & objective): In week 2 we will begin to discuss visual language. Our goals will be to begin "reading" images as well as focusing in on how certain images were made.

Read: Chapter Two (Hirsch)

Tuesday Lecture: "Connotative, Denotative, and understanding the Exposure Triangle."

Thursday: Film screening- GC

Assignment: Short paper, portrait, "make one like this."

Date due: Tuesday of Week 3

Week 3 (description & objective): Week three will focus on symbolism and the self. Our goals will include exploration through photographing meaningful objects.

Read: Chapter Three (Hirsch)

Tuesday Lecture: "Photography, Symbols, and the Self."

Thursday: Gallery 125- critique

Assignment: Short paper, Still life, "make one like this."

Date due: Tuesday of Week 4

Week 4 (description & objective): In week 4 we will discuss light, shadow, and how these elements work in creating meaning. We'll also discuss filters (camera and digital) and how they impact meaning.

Read: Chapter Four (Hirsch)

Tuesday Lecture: "Texture, Light, and Filters."

Thursday: Film screening

Assignment: Short paper, Long exposure- Self Portrait, "Make one like this."

Date due: Tuesday of Week 5

Week 5 (description & objective): In week 5 we will begin to incorporate Photoshop as a tool that can be used to enhance your work, or manipulate the work in an effort to change its meaning (e.g. Surrealism).

Read: Chapter Five (Hirsch)

Tuesday Lecture: Introduction to Photoshop

Thursday: Photoshop in-class work

Assignment: Short paper, Dawn & Dusk, "make one like this."

Date due: Tuesday of Week 6

Week 6 (description & objective): In week 6 we will review our first five weeks and complete the midterm exam.

Read: Chapter Six (Hirsch)

Tuesday Lecture: Midterm exam in class

Thursday: Gallery 125 critique

Assignment: Short paper, Portrait, "make one like this."

Date due: Tuesday of week 7

Week 7 (description & objective): In week 7 we will focus on lenses and the ways in which they impact the images we can create. How do they limit? How do they expand?

Read: Chapter Seven (Hirsch)

Tuesday Lecture: "Lenses, Macro, and other worlds."

Thursday: Photoshop in class work

Assignment: Short paper, Composite, "make one like this."

Date due: Tuesday of Week 8

Week 8 (description & objective): In week 8 we'll focus on color and how the choices we make impact the symbolic power of our images.

Read: Chapter Ten (Hirsch)

Tuesday Lecture: "Color, Harmony, Monochrome, and meaning."

Thursday: Gallery 125 critique

Assignment: Short paper, Night, "make one like this." (slow shutter)

Date due: Tuesday of Week 9

Week 9 (description & objective): In week 9 we'll focus on how to write about and discuss images. We'll be deconstructing visual language in a meaningful way.

Read: Chapter Eleven (Hirsch)

Tuesday Lecture: "Back to connotative, denotative, and symbol in images."

Thursday: Photoshop work in class/portfolio preparation

Assignment: 1 portrait, 1 still life, 3 of choice--- Total of 5 images for week 10 critique

Date due: Tuesday of Week 10 (all images are due this day regardless of critique schedule)

Week 10 (description & objective): During our final week in class we will hold two critique sessions to hang, review, and discuss your final collection of images.

No reading this week

Tuesday Lecture: Gallery 125 critique (group 1)

Thursday: Gallery 125 critique (group 2)

Final: Short paper

You will have one final short paper due during finals week. You will discuss your final collection of images. 2-4 pages.

Date due: Finals week

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. Class participation is mandatory. Absences may be excused with documentation. For further clarification see below.

Grade scale:

Short papers:25%

Photo assignments:25%

Class participation/Critique attendance: 25%

Midterm and Final: 25%

Course Policies

Attendance:

Even though this is a lab-based course, there are lectures throughout. Not every day is a lecture, nor is every class work-alone time. You must be here for each class and stay for all of it. Class attendance is mandatory.

Arriving 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early may constitute an absence for the student without a legitimate excuse. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course

Class Discussion/Critiques: Students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion and offer meaningful critique.

Attitude: A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. **The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.**

Civil Discourse: DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be [Socially Responsible Leaders](#). It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in a non-disruptive manner. **Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.**

Email

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at external link <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

You may always feel free to use email to ask questions, and if I am able to answer them I will respond to your email you within 1 work day. If you don't get a response, kindly email again. Please use reason when considering the timestamp on your email – if you sent it late in the evening and we have class first thing in the morning, there's a chance I won't see it in time, so plan ahead.

Use Email Best Practices for this class and everyday communications:

- Please Do use a clear and concise subject. For example: DC125 (section ###) question about settings on camera
- Do Not reply to emails I send the entire class.
- Instead, make a new one, with a pertinent subject line.
- Please Do include links, and full explanation of what I can help with.
- Please Do include a screenshot or capture if you need to show me something (Mac: Command,Shift,4) draw a box around it and it will be on your desktop. (PC: Printscreen key)
- Do Not abuse email for submitting any other images, homework or assignments on time or late.

If your question cannot be effectively answered via email, I look forward to meeting during my office hours. My office hours are Thursday evening directly following class.

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

Online Course Evaluations

Instructor and course evaluations provide valuable feedback that can improve teaching and learning. The greater the level of participation, the more useful the results. As students, you are in the unique position to view the instructor over time. Your comments about what works and what doesn't can help faculty build on the elements of the course that are strong and improve those that are weak. Isolated comments from students and instructors' peers may also be helpful, but evaluation results based on high response rates may be statistically reliable (believable). As you experience this course and material, think about how your learning is impacted. Your honest opinions about your experience in and commitment to the course and your learning may help improve some components of the course for the next group of students. Positive comments also show the department chairs and college deans the commitment of instructors to the university and teaching evaluation results are one component used in annual performance reviews (including salary raises and promotion/tenure). The evaluation of the instructor and course provides you an opportunity to make your voice heard on an important issue – the quality of teaching at DePaul. Don't miss this opportunity to provide feedback.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

Withdrawal

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system (<http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>). Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

Retroactive Withdrawal

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval.

College office appeals for CDM students must be submitted online via MyCDM.

The deadlines for submitting appeals are as follows:

- Autumn Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent winter quarter
- Winter Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent spring quarter
- Spring Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter
- Summer Terms: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

Excused Absence

In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the Dean of Students office. The form can be accessed at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/forms.html>. Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to

offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

Incomplete

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. CDM policy requires the student to initiate the request for incomplete grade before the end of the term in which the course is taken. Prior to submitting the incomplete request, the student must discuss the circumstances with the instructor. Students may initiate the incomplete request process in [MyCDM](#).

All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval.

If approved, students are required to complete all remaining course requirement independently in consultation with the instructor by the deadline indicated on the incomplete request form.

By default, an incomplete grade will automatically change to a grade of F after two quarters have elapsed (excluding summer) unless another grade is recorded by the instructor.

An incomplete grade does NOT grant the student permission to attend the same course in a future quarter.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at:

Student Center, LPC, Suite #370

Phone number: (773)325.1677

Fax: (773)325.3720

TTY: (773)325.7296