

Introduction to Photography: Winter 2014-15

“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-

Required Text:

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

Other readings will be distributed by faculty member.

Instructor Information

	C. S. DeBose
	M/W Loop-CDM 428, 11-2pm
	cdebose@cdm.depaul.edu

Type of Instruction (Classroom/Lab/Lecture/Discussion)

Course management system: <https://d21.depaul.edu/d21>

- Here you will find assignment details.
- You will also find assignment, quiz and exam grades here.
- Supplemental reading handouts and other reading materials will be posted in the Documents section.

- Updates to the course will be by email and by the Announcements section of D2L

***Hardware/ Other Requirements:**

You are required to have a working digital camera throughout the entire session, beginning now. Phone cameras are not sufficient. To complete all assignments you'll need a DSLR camera. There are DSLR cameras available for borrow for short periods.

Please use the same camera all quarter (when possible).

- Two data cards for your camera.
- USB thumb drives - at least 2GB (they fail, have a back up!)
- Card reader / USB cord
- 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. -Shoot in basic, auto mode until told otherwise; No Photoshop or photo editing until instructed.

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

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 or COLWeb and sent via email.

Course Objective

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.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will learn the fundamental concepts necessary to shoot, edit, manipulate, and print digital still photographs

Students will acquire the knowledge needed to analyze and interpret existing works of photography in terms of composition, depth, and semiotic meaning.

Students will understand how to use their own digital still cameras, as well as the software Adobe Photoshop needed in the course.

Students, by reviewing external and internal work, will review and evaluate these creative works, translating that knowledge into written criticism of the work.

Grading	
Scale: 93-100: A 90-92: A- 87-89: B+ 83-86: B 80- 82: B- 77-79: C + 73-76: C 70-72: C - 67-69: D + 60-66: D	
Weighted Breakdown Short papers and Photoshop exercises 25% Photo Assignments 30% Class participation/Critique attendance 20% Midterm and Final 25%	
Proctored Exams if applicable	

- No late assignments will be accepted. - Assignments may only be made up in cases of emergency.
- Two unexcused absences allowed, deadlines missed due to unexcused absence are not accepted late.
- Any further absences will deduct 10% from your total score.

Assignments:

Assignment sheets and lectures are posted on D2L

All work handed in for the projects must have been made since the beginning of the quarter and for this class alone.

ANY work handed in for a project that is evidently made before the quarter will result in a fail for that project.

D2L-You must post your work here.

Check the date as well as the time due. The cut off time for online D2L submissions is computerized and will cut off at exactly the time posted (this may be different for different assignments). It is your responsibility to check for each assignment to be sure your work is submitted on time.

The assignments are designed to simultaneously exercise technical skills such as file management, best practices, and Photoshop postproduction skills, while expanding the critical understanding of photography, and honing a personal system of visual expression.

Again, the lessons in the class are cumulative, and skills discussed in reference to a previous assignment will be used again and again without special instruction.

Critiques are designed to expose a student to a variety of perspectives and opinions, to gather constructive criticism.

Students will complete a final portfolio using the skills developed in throughout the course. This is an individually directed final project of sufficient scope to demonstrate competency in technical skills and conceptual development.

Assignments are never to be turned in via email.

Week by Week:

Week 1 -Photography, History, and Impact

Read ch 1

Other readings if applicable

In class exercise. Camera needed.

Thurs./Studio work. Portraits (due 1/15)

Week 2 -"Reading" images. Connotative, Denotative, and understanding the Exposure Triangle.

Assignment - Short paper (due 1/20)

Read Hirsch ch 2

Other readings if applicable

Portraits due Thurs./Discussion and critique

Week 3 -Photography, Symbols, and the Self

Assignment -Still life/Architecture

Read Hirsch 3

Other readings if applicable

Thurs./Studio work. (Images due 1/29)

Week 4 -Texture, Light, and Filters

Assignment: Short paper (due 2/3)

Read Hirsch 4&5
Other readings if applicable
Studio and discuss self-portraiture (due 2/12)

Week 5
Review & Midterm exam

Week 6 –The Self
Lecture/discussion of self in images
Screen Crewdson film
Thurs. Discussion/Critique of self-portraits.

Week 7 –Lenses, Macro, and other worlds
Photoshop in class work, Discussion of surrealism
Assignment: Short paper (due 2/24)
Read Hirsch 7
Other readings if applicable

Week 8 –Color, Harmony, Monochrome and meaning
Assignments: Photoshop in class work
Read Hirsch 10
Other readings if applicable

Week 9: Back to connotative, denotative, and symbol in images
Photoshop work in class
Portfolio preparation and discussion
Read Hirsch 11
Other readings if applicable

Week 10: Final projects presented in class (Slide presentation. 10 images + artists statement)

Course Policies

Attendance:

Even though this is a lab-based course, there are lectures scheduled at random points throughout. Not every day is a lecture, nor is every class work-alone time. Often, it's a blend. You must be here and stay here for all of it. Class attendance is mandatory. If you miss one session, you have missed a week of the quarter, or 10% of the total quarter.

We meet twenty times. Five misses, and you have failed the course.

Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. 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: 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 or assignments. 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 for 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 secondary (and less desirable) 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. I am available three days a week for office hours. I am also available before class to assist you. I prefer assisting students in person. Most issues can be resolved more efficiently in person during office hours.

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 within 1 business day. If you don't get a response, kindly email again. Please use reason when considering the timestamp on your email. Messages sent in the middle of the night may not get a response.

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

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.

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.
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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