

# DC 125-403 DIGITAL STILL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR NON-MAJORS

Fall Quarter 2015-16 | Tuesday/Thursday 1:30pm - 3:00pm | 14 E. Jackson, Room 513

Instructor: Josh Wolff

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Office Hours: Thursday 3:15pm - 4:45pm at CDM Room 434 or by appointment

***\*\* 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.***

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## Course 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.

COURSE PREREQUISITE(S): NONE

## Course Objectives

- As a student, you will learn the fundamental concepts necessary to shoot, edit, & manipulate photographs and critically evaluate the images.
- You will work on defining your individual aesthetic utilizing established composition and design elements.
- You will be introduced to best practices in the finishing workflow and visual data management through the use of Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop.
- Photoshop will be used as a creative tool for nuanced editing, compositing, and collage.
- The majority of this course will focus on the practice and process of taking pictures.
- Every assignment will utilize a new skill towards a cumulative knowledge of professional standards in imaging.
- You will be challenged to think conceptually about your own visual development and expression while acquiring technical skills.

## Learning Domain Description

DC 125 Digital Still Photography is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Arts and Literature domain. Courses in the Arts and Literature domain ask students to extend their knowledge and experience of the arts by developing their critical and reflective abilities. In these courses, students interpret and analyze particular creative works, investigate the relations of form and meaning and through critical and/or creative activity to come to experience art with greater openness, insight, and enjoyment. These courses focus on works of literature, art, theatre, or music as such, though the process of analysis may also include social and cultural issues. Students who take course in this domain choose three courses from such choices as literature, the visual arts, media arts, music, and theater. No more than two courses can be chosen from one department or program.

## Course Management

DEPAUL D2L <https://d2l.depaul.edu>

CDM Computer Labs are available for software use outside of class -

<http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Labs.aspx>

We are currently using PhotoshopCC - if you plan on obtaining your own copy the version currently available is Photoshop Creative Cloud, available by monthly subscription.

TUTORS are available in the Loop Campus on the 9th floor of the CDM building by the Equipment Center.

Supplemental instruction is available at LYNDA.COM. [DePaul has a subscription for all students and faculty.](#)

## Required Text

-“Light and Lens: Photography in Digital Age” by Robert Hirsch

ISBN: 978-0-240-81827-6

-Your personal Camera Manual, find it online if you no longer have it.

## Other Requirements

- Digital Camera: **this should be a DSLR**. You must make exposure adjustments and use a lens. Please use the same camera all quarter. Plan to bring your camera to every class unless instructed otherwise. The only way to become a better photographer is through taking lots of pictures. We will be outside and shooting as much as possible; Dress accordingly. If

you don't own a camera, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to have a camera for class and assignments. Come talk to me.

- USB thumb drives or External Hard Drive. Bring this to every class so that you can quickly open your photos or your presentations.
- Memory Card reader or USB cord for camera

## **Course Policies**

Work for this course will be produced by you, during the quarter you are enrolled. Unless otherwise instructed, please use the most manual settings in your camera possible, with the flash off.

### **Late Work:**

The only accepted excuses for late work or missed exams are documented medical emergencies or requests from an academic dean. No exceptions. All others receive a full letter-grade deduction for every 24 hours (or portion thereof) an assignment is late.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. An absence is defined as not showing up for class, or arriving more than 15 minutes late or missing any 15 minute period during class time. Attendance will be taken every class. 3 absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

### **Class Discussion**

Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, 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. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

### **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.

## **Assignments and Grading**

Attendance & Participation = 15%

Weekly Photo Assignments = 25%

Quiz = 10%

Midterm Project = 20%

Final Project = 30%

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-88, B = 87-83, B- = 82-80, C+ = 79-78, C = 77-73, C- = 72-70,  
D+ = 69-68, D = 67-63, D- = 62-60, F = 59-0

## **D2L**

You will be using D2L extensively in this course. You will find links to the syllabus, course outline, video lectures, discussion forums, weekly assignments, etc. Each assignment will be completed and posted on D2L.

## **Writing**

Each Photo Assignment will include a 250 word minimum reflection essay in which you will discuss the process and outcome of your work using the vocabulary, terms and concepts discussed in class. The Midterm Project will partially consist of a 500 word minimum research paper on a famous photographer. The Final Project will include a 250 word minimum Artist Statement.

## **Course Outline:**

### **WEEK 1 (September 10 / September 15)**

INTRODUCTION TO COURSE AND REQUIREMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY OVERVIEW

Hirsch - Ch. 1 & 11

### **WEEK 2 (September 17 / September 22)**

COMPOSITION

Hirsch - Ch. 2

### **WEEK 3 (September 24 / September 29)**

CAMERA AND LENSES

Hirsch - Ch. 3

\*Midterm Project: as assigned

### **WEEK 4 (October 1 / October 6)**

EXPOSURE

Hirsch - Ch. 4

**WEEK 5 (October 8 / October 13)**

LIGHT

QUIZ

Hirsch - Ch. 5

\*Midterm Project Due

**WEEK 6 (October 15 / October 20)**

**Midterm Projects Presented**

INTRO TO LIGHTROOM

Hirsch - Ch. 6

**WEEK 7 (October 22 / October 27)**

COLOR

PHOTOGRAPHIC AESTHETIC

Hirsch - Ch. 10

\*Final Project: as assigned

**WEEK 8 (October 29 / November 3)**

INTRO TO PHOTOSHOP/DIGITAL COMPOSITING

Hirsch - Ch. 7 & 8

**WEEK 9 (November 5 / November 10)**

DEVELOPING YOUR POV

Hirsch - Ch. 12

**WEEK 10 (November 12 / November 17)**

\*LYNSEY ADDARIO FIELD TRIP/PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

**FINAL EXAM 11/19 11:30 - 1:45pm**

**FINAL PROJECTS PRESENTATED**

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Online Course Evaluations**

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks.

Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

DePaul University is a learning community that fosters the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas within a context that emphasizes a sense of responsibility for oneself, for others and for society at large. Violations of academic integrity, in any of their forms, are, therefore, detrimental to the values of DePaul, to the students' own development as responsible members of society, and to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Violations include but are not limited to the following categories: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication; falsification or sabotage of research data; destruction or misuse of the university's academic resources; alteration or falsification of academic records; and academic misconduct. Please refer to your Student Handbook or visit Academic Integrity at DePaul University (<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>) for further details. This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

### **Academic Policies**

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the [University Academic Calendar](#). Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

### **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 only) are rare. If a student believes he/she has an extenuating circumstance that warrants consideration of an exception, such an appeal 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: The end of the second week 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 exceptional 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: [csd@depaul.edu](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

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