

DC125-303 DIGITAL STILL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR NON-MAJORS

Spring Quarter 2016/2017
MON/WED 2:40PM - 4:10PM
LPC – Student Center Room 331

Instructor: Alexander Sherman
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00PM – 2:30PM
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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 the images' 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 Objectives - The course is designed as a practical look at the art of photography for common every day uses. By the end of the course students should understand photographic language, the optics of a lens and be able to incorporate composition, techniques and style into their own personal creative work. Additionally, you will receive a working knowledge of the mechanics and menus for any Digital SLR camera, Adobe Bridge and Adobe Photoshop.

Required Text

Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age (2nd Edition) by Robert Hirsch.
Supplemental readings will be provided and shared on D2L.

Students will be required to use a DSLR Camera throughout the quarter. DePaul's Digital Cinema Equipment Center offers free pre-scheduled rentals, see the DePaul Website for the rental policies. Online students are also required to use a DSLR (either the school's or their own). You are also expected to have a 2GB (or more) Flash Drive with which you will transfer your photographs to the instructor and/or other students.

Basis for Evaluation

Weekly Assignment	50%
Midterm Quiz	15%
Final Project	25%
Attendance & Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

A = 100 – 94, A- = 93 – 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE & COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1	M 3/27	Introduction, Syllabus, and Understanding Photography
	W 3/29	Linear Perspective and the History of Photography Read: Ch. 1 & 2
WEEK 2	M 4/3	The Frame & Visual Design
	W 4/5	Lens and Body Read: Ch. 3
WEEK 3	M 4/10	Exposure Triangle
	W 4/12	DSLR In-Class Exercise Read: Ch. 4
WEEK 4	M 4/17	Screening: <i>Gregory Crewdson: Brief Encounters</i> (2012)
	W 4/19	Exposure Triangle Read: Ch. 5
WEEK 5	M 4/24	Intro to Photoshop
	W 4/26	Midterm Quiz Read: Ch. 7
WEEK 6	M 5/1	Exterior Shooting Read: Ch. 8
	W 5/3	Interior Shooting Read: Ch. 9
WEEK 7	M 5/8	Advanced Photoshop Read: Ch. 6
	W 5/10	DSLR Workshop Read: Ch. 10
WEEK 8	M 5/15	Visual Literacy
	W 5/17	Post-Production Workshop
WEEK 9	M 5/22	Theory Read: Ch. 11
	W 5/24	Theory Continued
WEEK 10	M 5/29	You're Photographers Now Read: Ch. 12

W 5/31 Final Post-Production Workshop
Homework: Final Project

WEEK 11 M 6/5 Final Project Presentations

Weekly Photo Assignments Every week you will be responsible for 10 photographs. A prompt listing the week's requirements and due date will be posted to D2L every week. You must adhere to the specified guideline unless instructed otherwise. You may not submit photographs that you did not take yourself (THAT IS PLAGIARISM), and you may not submit photographs you have taken prior to this class. New work only. Photographs must be submitted at JPEG files.

Weekly Discussion Posts (ONLINE CLASS ONLY) Every week you will be expected to contribute to the D2L Discussion Thread for your attendance & participation credit. Every week there will be a new prompt that you must respond to. One post and one response to another student's post for full credit.

Recorded Lectures (ONLINE CLASS ONLY) You are responsible for watching the bi-weekly recorded lectures posted on D2L. This constitutes a bulk of the instruction. Additional material will be provided outside of the required text and assignments. You are expected to stay current with all material and course changes as discussed in the recorded lectures.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to explain, in well-written prose, what a work of art is about and/or how it was produced (i.e. they should be able to articulate and explain the "content" of that work and/or its methodology of production).
2. Students will be able to comment on the relationship between form and content in a work. How does the 14-line sonnet both enable and inhibit its practitioner, for example? What are the generic expectations of a particular form? How does an artist complicate, enrich, or subvert such expectations?
3. Students will be able to assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words, using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.
4. Students will be able to contextualize a work of art. They will be able to do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre. They will also be able to contextualize a work of art in terms of contemporaneous aesthetic, social, or political concerns, discussing how these might shape the work's reception and how that reception might differ amongst various peoples and historical periods.

Writing Expectations: A minimum of 5-7 pages of writing for courses in the Arts and Literature domain (including studio courses) is required.

Content & Schedule Changes The syllabus is subject to change depending on class progress, time constraints, or material availability. The overall workload, however, will not change. Make sure you pace yourself accordingly. You will be notified of any changes in the syllabus in a timely fashion.

Grading Grades and/or written feedback will be given for each assignment. In order to be accepted for grading, assignments must be turned in on time (all deadlines will be posted on D2L). Late work will receive zero points for grading. An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade. Failure to turn in even one assignment has a significant impact on your grade.

Course Policies In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies apply to this course:

Attendance You are allowed 2 unexcused absences. After that, a one letter deduction for each absence will be taken from your final course grade. If you miss a class, you will be responsible for seeking the information you missed. Watch the lecture under the tab "RECORDINGS" on D2L. You may also visit my office hours to ask questions. Excused absences require that you please provide some sort of documentation and notice prior to the class you miss. Communication is the key to staying on top of your work.

Illness If you are sick, please contact me by email prior to missing a class due to illness and continue to keep me posted until you return. As long as I am aware of your situation and you take an active role in catching up, absences may be excused and extensions may be granted. Every situation will be handled according to individual circumstance at the instructor's discretion.

Deadlines Media production requires strict adherence to deadlines, therefore late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructor's discretion. You will not be eligible for an 'A' in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time.

Reading Assignments Reading assignments are *mandatory* and should be completed by the date they are assigned in the syllabus. The textbook (and other) readings supplement and inform the lectures and discussions and will be crucial in understanding photography as well as writing your weekly responses. Lectures may introduce additional material not available in the readings, and the readings may explore concepts not mentioned in class.

D2L & COLTUBE The course materials for this course, such as syllabus, announcements, course documents, and assignments will be available to you through D2L site at <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>. Please make sure you have access to D2L.

Computer/Smart Phone Use This course involves a mixture of lecture and discussion and as such, requires your full attention. There will be no phones or computers allowed during class. Exceptions will be made on an individual basis.

Academic Integrity Plagiarism is dishonest behavior and therefore violates collegiality as well as University policy. You should familiarize yourself with behavior that constitutes plagiarism by reviewing the University's policy regarding academic dishonesty at: <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/Resources/Students/index.html>. Any cases of plagiarism will automatically receive a zero and be reported to departmental and University officials for disciplinary action.

Special Needs Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, instructors must make reasonable accommodations for students with physical, mental, or learning disabilities. Let me know at the beginning of the term if you require some modification of seating, testing, or other class adjustments so that appropriate arrangements may be made.