

## Syllabus - Winter 2018

**Date and time:** Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. (in-class attendance is not required)

**Instructor:** Jeff Carrion

**Classroom:** Lincoln Park Campus, Student Center, Room 331

**Phone:** (312) 362-6296

**Office:** 55 East Jackson Building, 20th floor (Ext. 2-6296)

**Office Hours:** Mondays - 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and immediately after class, or by appointment

**Email:** jcarrio1@depaul.edu

### 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.

### Learning Domain Description

DC-125 Digital Photography for Non-Majors 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.

## **Learning Outcomes**

- Explain, in well-written prose, what a work of art is about and/or how it was produced. Articulate and explain the “content” of that work and/or its methodology of production.
- 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?
- Assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words, using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.
- Contextualize a work of art. Do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre. 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.

## **How Learning Outcomes Will Be Met**

- Photography from all different genres will be exemplified and student work will be shown followed by class discussion.
- Students will learn to analyze and critique a photographic image, its aesthetic qualities and technical characteristics.
- Through question and answer, critique sessions and other class discussion students will learn to develop a vocabulary to describe, contextualize and critique photography from their fellow students and professionals.

## **Writing Expectations**

Students will be expected to complete a minimum of 5-7 pages of writing for this course.

## **How Writing Expectations Will Be Met**

- Students will be expected to write descriptions of each of their photo assignments and their final assignment that describes their thought

process while shooting, the reasons why they chose their subject matter and the technical aspects and hurdles of the assignments.

## **Discussion Forums**

The discussion forums will be an important component of this class. The forums are where you will provide and glean constructive feedback from your instructor and your classmates in order to continually improve from week to week.

Constructive feedback on your work is vital to improvement and should be appreciated. It should not cause apprehension.

A Course Q & A discussion forum has also been established to manage necessary, ongoing social and administrative activities. This is where the management and administrative tasks of the course are conducted, and where you can ask 'process' questions and receive answers throughout the course. Please feel free to answer any question if you feel you know the answer; this sharing of information is valuable to other students.

## **Assessment Criteria for Online Discussion Participation**

Your discussion posts should comment in a kind and supportive manner on the photos, ideas, analysis and conclusions of your classmate's assignments. Your postings will be evaluated on how much they contribute constructive feedback to your classmates.

Discussions will be assessed pass/fail. The following rubric will be used to evaluate discussion posts, where 3 or 2 is pass, and 1 or 0 is fail.

3 = The postings to the discussion are elaborated with close attention to detail. Significant and specific description of what the student liked about the photos being evaluated and where they see room for improvement is included. Specific aspects of particular photos are cited. Suggestions for improvement on future assignments are provided. The posting adds several, specific new ideas to the discussion. Reasons for agreement or disagreement are provided.

2 = The postings to the discussion are elaborated with loose attention to detail. Marginally significant and non-specific description of what the student liked about the photos being evaluated and where they see room for improvement is included. Only general aspects of photos are cited. Suggestions for improvement on future assignments are non-specific or may not be provided. The posting adds few new ideas to the discussion or repeats existing ideas. Reasons for agreement or disagreement are provided but could be more extensive and/or specific.

1 = The postings to the discussion are elaborated without attention to detail. Description of what the student liked about the photos being evaluated and where they see room for improvement is very vague, and generally not helpful

and/or not included. Specific aspects of photos are not cited. Suggestions for improvement on future assignments are very non-specific or may not be provided. The posting does not add new ideas to the discussion or repeats existing ideas. Reasons for agreement or disagreement are provided but could be considerably more extensive and/or specific.

0 = The postings to the discussion are elaborated with little or no effort or is not provided. Description of what the student liked about the photos being evaluated and where they see room for improvement is not helpful and/or not included. Specific aspects of photos are not cited. Suggestions for improvement on future assignments are not provided. The posting does not add new ideas to the discussion. Reasons for agreement or disagreement are not provided.

### **Suggested Text (NOT Required)**

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

Publisher: Focal Press (September 14, 2007)

ISBN-10: 024080855X

ISBN-13: 978-0240808550

You will also need your camera manual. Please bring it to the first day of class. If you do not have your camera manual you can download one from your camera manufacturer's web site.

### **Required Equipment**

A digital still camera is required. Ideally a DSLR style camera. You must be able to make manual adjustments with your camera. DSLR cameras are available for rental from the CDM Equipment Center.

You must bring your camera to all class sessions

USB camera connection cable or compatible memory card reader (to connect your camera to the computers in our classroom)

Hard drive space on a personal computer or laptop or external bus powered USB hard drive for storage of your photo library (at least 50GB available)

### **Recommended Equipment**

Memory card reader and compatible USB cable

Second external hard drive for backups

## Software

You will be using an online photo sharing service to turn in photo assignments. The particular website and procedure will be demonstrated in class the first week. This website may be changed depending on availability of the web service throughout the class.

We will be using Photoshop in this course, however, you will not need to provide your own copy. There are labs located at the Lincoln Park Campus as well as the Loop Campus that have these programs available to you.

This is a Mac OSX based class. You will be expected to have a familiarity with the Mac OS operating system and understand its core functions such as: navigating it's file structure, opening and saving files, and launching and understanding the common core system functions of its applications.

## Course Management System

This course will use D2L for course management. All course related materials will be made available in D2L including: presentation slides, homework assignment descriptions, class session replays, quizzes and various exercise files.

You can access this class's D2L section with your Campus Connect at:

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

## Viewing Video Modules and Class Session Replays

Video modules for each week will be made available in D2L. Viewing the video modules in their entirety each week is mandatory. **Video modules are the primary way that you will be presented the materials and assignments for this class.** Without viewing each module you will not be able to gain a sufficient understanding of the material and assignments.

There will also be a video recording made of each in-class session. Class replays can be viewed within an hour or two after the conclusion of each week's session and will be available in D2L. When logged into D2L select this class, then navigate to the "Course Home" page, there you will be able to view class sessions under the "CDM Lectures" tab.

Viewing class session replays are not mandatory but can be helpful to provide additional material for each week. It is also helpful to hear in-class student's questions and answers.

## **Class Participation**

Participation on a consistent, weekly basis is mandatory. You are required to comment on others' photo assignments and respond to comments made about yours.

Email correspondence with the instructor will also be counted toward participation. Email is the preferred means of communication with the instructor.

## **Course Policies**

### **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: mocking another's opinion in discussion forums. The instructor 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 instructor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

### **Changes to Syllabus**

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

### **Course Requirements**

Photo assignments, 600 points (6 x 100 points each)

After most classes you will be assigned a photo project to complete outside of class. The projects will vary in their scope and specificity depending on the technical or aesthetic goal of the assignment. Typically a subject or theme will be assigned pertaining to the subject matter of the class session for the week. You will be required to take several photographs illustrating the assigned theme and/

or demonstrating the specified technical elements and turn in a selection of those photographs you feel are best. You will also include along with your photos a written description about your photo assignment that details why and how you made your photographs.

You will be expected each class to verbally discuss your photo assignment and describe to the class why and how you made your photographs.

The photos you submit must be made specifically for this class, during the particular photo assignment period. Turning in photos previously taken will result in a deduction of credit on the assignment.

The photos you submit must be made with a dedicated digital still camera. Images from camera phones, iPhones, laptops, etc will not be accepted.

#### Photoshop assignments, 100 points (2 x 50 points each)

Photoshop assignments will be assigned for some of the classes pertaining to Photoshop instruction. The assignments will be to create and/or modify and edit your images as the assignments calls for. If you do not have a personal copy of Photoshop you will need to arrange for time in one of the computer labs to complete the assignments.

#### Quizzes, 100 points (2 x 50 points each)

There will be 2 quizzes for the course, the first on class 4 and the second on class 8 (subject to change). These quizzes will test you on your knowledge of the history and theory of photography, the technical aspects of photography and Photoshop.

#### Final project, 150 points

The final project will be a photo assignment that demonstrates all of the technical and aesthetic elements learned throughout the entire course. You will be required to make a series of photographs based on the assigned subject or theme. This series of photographs should come together as a photo essay, a series of images that tell a story. You will be required to document how and why you went about photographing your particular subject and the reasons why you chose your selections. You will also be required to incorporate the Photoshop techniques that were taught into all of the final images you select.

#### Class participation and discussions, 50 points

Class participation via the D2L discussion forums will be the basis of your participation grade. Constructive feedback on other's photo assignments and other participation via the Course Q & A forum will be considered in your class participation grade. Not providing discussion posts, or posting late will result in a deduction of credit for class participation.

## **Flexibility of Assignments, Quizzes, Discussions and Final**

The particulars of each assignment, quiz, discussion and the final will be discussed in class before they are assigned. While they will follow the general guidelines as summarized above each assignment will be different as well as the requirements for turning them in and providing additional supporting documentation with them. There will also be flexibility in the frequency of assignments, quizzes, discussions and the final depending on the progress of the class as a whole.

## **Late Assignments and Discussions**

Assignment and discussion due dates and times will be specifically listed in D2L and generally follow the same schedule as the in-class section. Photo and Photoshop assignments are to be completed and uploaded by the beginning of class the following session. Discussion posts are to be completed four days following their respective assignment due date (which will be specifically listed in D2L). **Late assignments will not be accepted and recorded as zero.** Makeup and/or 'extra credit' assignments would be unfair and a disservice to others in the class who completed their work on-time and will not be provided.

## **Grading Criteria for Photo and Photoshop Assignments**

Photography is, by nature, a subjective medium. While some may say that there is no such thing as a "bad" or "wrong" photograph, that will not be the case in this class. Specific aesthetics and techniques will be taught and will be expected to show in your work.

While you will be learning many so-called "rules" of photography in this class, the one rule you will be expected to follow above all others is - you must first know the rules before you can break them. In other words, if your work shows a break of any of the rules you must be prepared to explain exactly why you chose to do so, it must be pre-meditated.

Pre-recorded verbal feedback and rubrics will be used together to evaluate assignments. The rubrics include listings of criteria on which assignments will be evaluated and describe levels of quality from excellent to poor. The rubrics also provide students with a self- assessment checklist. Rubrics will be made available to preview in D2L for each assignment.

Further description of grading criteria will be discussed as projects are assigned.



## **Grade Scale**

900 - 1,000 points = A

800 - 899 points = B

700 - 799 points = C

600 - 699 points = D

599 or lower = F

Depending on the flexibility of assignments, quizzes and the final as stated above, this grading scale may be modified to reflect a change in total available points.

## **Course Summary**

The class will follow a schedule that begins with a discussion of the syllabus, course requirements, grading criteria and qualities. Then it will move into lecture and discussion of the history of photography and camera technology, the aesthetic qualities of good photography and good photographers.

The technicalities of making photographs with your camera will be covered including specific practice with the light controlling devices of a camera - ISO, shutter speed and aperture. Discussions and practice will also include the aesthetic elements of good photography: proper exposure, good composition, sharp focus and controlling depth of field.

The technical characteristics of cameras and the images they record will be discussed including megapixels, image size and resolution and image formats.

The class will introduce Adobe Photoshop as a post-production tool for editing and formatting images.

Throughout the class all of these lessons will build on each other to give you a solid foundation for understanding the technical and aesthetic elements that make for good photography. The class will culminate with discussion and practice of creating several series of photographs that stand together as a larger body of work that tells an emotional story to its audience.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week 1**

- Course overview and discussion of syllabus.
- Tumblr blog setup and overview.
- Brief history of photography, camera technology, light and lenses.

- Aesthetics of photography: making a photograph versus taking a picture.
- Aesthetic elements of good photography: exposure, composition, focus, depth of field.
- Photo Assignment 01 - Assigned

## **Week 2**

- The light controlling devices of a camera: ISO, Shutter, Aperture.
- The exposure triangle.
- Photo Assignment 01 - Due
- Photo Assignment 02 - Assigned

## **Week 3**

- Exposure modes: auto, program auto, aperture priority, shutter priority, manual.
- Focal length and focus modes
- Photo Assignment 02 - Due
- Photo Assignment 03 - Assigned

## **Week 4**

- Quiz 1 covering weeks 1-3.
- White Balance, image recording and size, image compression.
- Photo Assignment 03 - Due
- Photo Assignment 04 - Assigned

## **Week 5**

- Introduction to Photoshop
- Photo Assignment 04 - Due
- Photoshop Assignment 01 - Assigned

## **Week 6**

- Photoshop in depth
- Photoshop Assignment 01 - Due
- Photoshop Assignment 02 - Assigned

## **Week 7**

- Composition in depth.
- Photoshop Assignment 02 - Due
- Photo Assignment 05 - Assigned

## **Week 8**

- Quiz 2 covering weeks 1-7.
- Portraiture in depth.
- Photo Assignment 05 - Due
- Photo Assignment 06 - Assigned

## **Week 9**

- The photo essay: making a series of photographs tell a story.
- Photo Assignment 06 - Due
- Final Photo Assignment - Assigned

#### **Week 10**

- The photo essay continued.
- TBD by the instructor.
- Continue work on final photo assignment

#### **Week 11**

- Final Photo Assignment - Due
- Course wrap-up

## **College 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. Please see <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx> for additional information.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <https://offices.depaul.edu/oaa/faculty-resources/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>

### **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>

## **Incomplete Grades**

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. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

## **Students with Disabilities**

DePaul University is committed to ensuring equal access to its educational and extracurricular opportunities for students with disabilities. The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) offers reasonable academic accommodations and services to support our students. We also serve as a resource to the many university departments that have a responsibility to accommodate students. Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for services and contact information.