Syllabus - Spring 2013

Date and time: **Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.**

Instructor: **Jeff Carrion**

Classroom: **Student Center, Room 334**

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

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

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

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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. The role these artistic choices play in conveying meaning in still photography. 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.

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

Digital still camera

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 Windows based class. You will be expected to have a familiarity with Windows 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.

Late Assignments

Photo and Photoshop assignments are to be uploaded by the beginning of class the following week. Turning in late assignments will result in a drop of 1 letter grade for up to 24 hours after it is due, after that you will receive an F for the assignment.

Policy Regarding Cheating

Cheating on assignments will not be tolerated. Fabricating information or claiming another's work as your own is cheating. Anyone caught cheating will be assigned a failing grade for the class.

Sexual Harassment

The policy as specified in the student handbook will be adhered to in this class.

Course Management System

This course with primarily use D2L for course management. All course related materials will be made available in D2L including: presentation slides, homework assignment descriptions, quizzes and various exercise files. This course will also use the COLWeb course management system for class session replays, see below.

Viewing Class Session Replays

This class is a COLWeb recorded class, there will be a video recording made of each class session that you can watch if you need to review material or if you are absent. Class replays can be viewed within an hour or two after the conclusion of each week's session. All classes for the entire quarter will be available in this class's section of COLWeb, an online class management system similar to D2L. You can access this class's section of COLWeb by logging in with your Campus Connect to:

https://col.cdm.depaul.edu/login/SSO.aspx

When logged into COLWeb select this class then navigate to the "Lectures" tab, there you will be able to view and download class sessions. There are also a number of other ways to view classes through COLWeb both online and offline and with free mobile apps for Android and iOS.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. **Three absences will result in a loss of credit for the course**. Although circumstances and illness can and do happen, there is no such thing as an excused absence. Furthermore, there is no substitute for being in class and participating in the discussion, lecture and exercises. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late to any class will be considered tardy. Two tardies are equivalent to one absence. Arriving more than 45 minutes late will count as an absence. Leaving part-way through a class will count as an absence.

Classroom Decorum

On most evenings, we will take a 15-minute break midway through the class. Please remain in the classroom except during the break. Phones should be set to vibrate only. Texting should be reserved for the break or after class. The computers in class are for specific class work only, using them for personal use or anything other than the specific class material and exercises is not allowed.

Course Requirements

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

Most weeks 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 week 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 weeks 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 week 4 and the second on week 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. You will make a verbal presentation of your final photo assignment during the final class.

Class participation, 50 points

Class participation is expected and required for this class. Constructive comments on others photos, active listening and asking relevant questions will be reflected in your class participation grade. Not paying attention, talking with classmates, texting, sleeping and using the computers for non-class related activity will result in a deduction of credit for class participation.

Flexibility of assignments, quizzes and final

The particulars of each assignment, quiz 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 and the final depending on the progress of the class as a whole.

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.

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 iPhoto and Adobe Photoshop as post-production tools for organizing, 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.