

Syllabus - Winter 2015

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

Instructor: Jeff Carrion

Classroom: Student Center, Room 331

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Office Hours: Mondays - 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.

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

- Students will be able to explain, in well-written prose, what a work of art is about and/or how it was produced.
- Students will be able to comment on the relationship between form and content in a work.
- 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.
- 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.

How Learning Outcomes Will Be Met

- Through the quarter 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.

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 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.

Viewing Class Session Replays

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 D2L. You can access class session replays by logging into this class's D2L section with your Campus Connect at:

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

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.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. **Two absences will result in a automatic deduction of one letter grade for the class. 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.

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.

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 (week 11).

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.

Late Assignments

Photo and Photoshop assignments are to be uploaded by 6:00pm, the beginning of class the following week. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

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 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.

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. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. 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: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

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.

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