

# Digital Still Photography for Non-Majors

Chelsea Cossu, MFA

[CCossu@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:CCossu@cdm.depaul.edu)

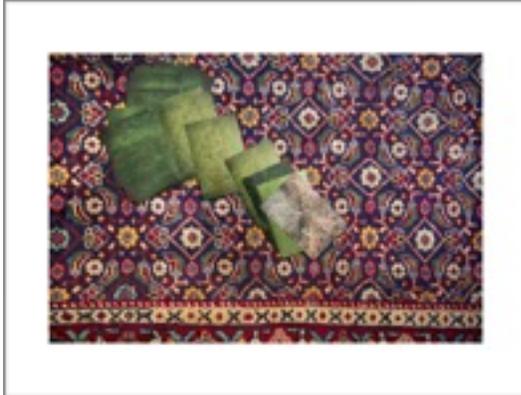
LECTURE NOTES: [cumulativecamera.cossu.cc](http://cumulativecamera.cossu.cc)

SHARE/FOLLOW/TAG: [@circacirca\\_chelseacossu](https://www.instagram.com/circacirca_chelseacossu)

\*\*\*SUMMER OFFICE HOURS\*\*\*

12:15-1pm Tu & Tr

Student Center 364



## **In-PERSON Section: 201**

Class number: 41193

Meeting time: TuTh 1:00PM - 4:15PM

Location: STDCT 00331 at Lincoln Park Campus

## **ONLINE Section: 210**

Class number: 41612

Meeting time: - (please see deadlines on COL and schedule your viewing accordingly!)

Location: N/A at Online Campus

**START DATE:**06/11/2018 **LAST DAY TO DROP:** 06/15/2018 **LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW:** 07/03/2018 **END:** 07/15/2018  
**LAST CLASS MEETING:** 07/12/2018 (you must be present if registered in section 201) **FINAL EXAM PERIOD** is class 07/12/2018

This course is an introduction to the **history and aesthetics of still photography** and the concept of photography as a descriptive and interpretive artistic medium.

Students studying photography in this context will discover relationships between individual photographers' choices and their own understanding of the language of the medium. Discussions of photographic theory and application across disciplines and in various contexts will enrich the meaning of this visual language, and will deepen the understanding of the role of still photography.

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.**

\*It's best to learn to use the tools you have. I suggest a camera you like, and want to use. I also suggest you use the same all quarter. It's probably worthwhile to use **MANUAL EXPOSURE** settings if your camera has them. If not, we can easily approximate it!

## **COURSE OVERVIEW:** What to Expect...

There is no secret to becoming a great photographer, besides practice. You will be expected to make lots of tests, experiment, and RE-SHOOT.

Students should be ready to participate by making images outside of class, and always having them on a hard drive in class, ready for discussion! You will need to spend significant time outside of class to shoot, reshoot, and work with your

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images. You'll need to be aware of the weather, and what surprise impact it may have on your work in this class. Make time to use the computer lab outside of class.

Consider the number of photos you've already made on your camera phone/camera camera/scanner/surveillance drone/screen-capture and imagine how many your future self may have. You'll need some method to handle all of that data - We'll lay the groundwork.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will select and use the settings on their own camera and in postproduction software to alter photographs.
- Students will demonstrate their process, and examine the processes of classmates.
- Students will write about historical and contemporary photographic practices.
- Students will edit and produce their own photographic series.

**Course Management System:** DEPAUL D2L <https://d2l.depaul.edu>

**My Teaching notes are here, but also linked from D2L** <http://cumulativecamera.cossu.cc>

**CDM** computer labs have software to use outside of class – These labs (and others) offer Photoshop CC on PC or Mac operating systems in Lincoln Park and Loop Campuses or make arrangements to acquire the software.

**Software:** We are currently using Adobe Creative Cloud (abbreviated CC and available in all labs). However, Depaul has discounted subscriptions if you plan on obtaining your own subscription of Adobe Photoshop Creative Cloud and Bridge. Supplemental instructional videos are to be viewed at

**LYNDA.COM** – Depaul has a subscription for all students and faculty. I'll be linking to the videos of use to this class!

**FAQ** On the first day, I'll give you a checklist of links to search camera and software advice.

**TUTOR** NOT available for Summer Quarter

## TEXTS & RESOURCES

### Required Texts

\_\_\_ **LIGHT+LENS:PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE DIGITAL AGE** EDITION: **2ND 12** PUBLISHER: **TAYLOR** ISBN: **9780240818276**

\_\_\_ Your personal Camera Manual. Find it online if you no longer have it.

\_\_\_ Articles (.pdf Posts on D2L)

### Optional Texts, You'll encounter with me and in further study

\_\_\_ <http://www.dpbestflow.org/project-overview>

\_\_\_ Martin Evening's Photoshop for Photographers CC

\_\_\_ Criticizing Photographs: an Introduction to Understanding Images ED5 by Terry Barrett

### Other Requirements

\_\_\_ Digital Camera: this should be a **camera which allows you to manually control exposures, but if not we'll find a workaround...** Please try to use the same camera all quarter.

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- \_\_\_ Two data cards (SD or CF)
- \_\_\_ USB thumb drives – minimum the same size as your SD or CF card (they fail, have a back up!)
- \_\_\_ or External Hard Drive \*\*\*if you use a mac at home and a pc at school or vice versa you may have formatting issues. A thumb drive alleviates this problem.
- \_\_\_ Card reader or USB cord for camera
- \_\_\_ Tripod (nice but not required!)

## WEEK BY WEEK SCHEDULE ON D2L (to be filled in based on our class survey!

**Assignments 50%** must follow technical instructions while allowing you the framework for *experimentation*.

- \_\_\_ **Continuum Questions will be graded on thoroughly thoughtful responses on the Who are you survey 10%**
- \_\_\_ **Technical Exercise 10%**
- \_\_\_ **Historical Contextualization 20%**
- \_\_\_ **Creative Inquiry 10%**
- \_\_\_ **Continuation 10%**

## Participation: 50%

\_\_\_ **In each of our 10 classes, points are earned for having the materials and mindset you need to participate. This includes files, memory devices, and using class time for OUR DC125 class related work.**

It is expected that students participate in lectures by listening and note-taking, asking pertinent questions, and contribute willingly to our discussions in the classroom with a positive attitude open to inevitable disagreement or discomfort from encountering the unknown. We may very well be exploring uncharted territory here!

Here is a checklist of my expectations:

- \_\_\_ **ONLINE - WRITING** in the discussion boxes, asking questions, finishing your viewing in time to complete assignments.
- \_\_\_ **constantly shooting outside of class, and having all of those images on a hard drive to show at any time I ask to see your work. Aim for THOUSANDS of images - good and bad, and make sure you keep them all, they help us solve problems, and look for patterns! You'll be turning in at least one "contact sheet" proving your work.**
- \_\_\_ **planning ahead to create something of your own**
- \_\_\_ **SCHOLARLY** searching out inspiration in other forms, and keeping notes or images about your research encounters.
- \_\_\_ **Visiting Museums, Galleries, Libraries outside of class time and keeping notes or images about your research encounters. ONLINE - if you visit a place as you study remotely, be sure you're using the resources where you may be!**

## Grading

Grades are posted in D2L using the following scale. Assignments have a rubric to distribute points. A cumulative and experiential course means that moving on requires you to have mastered all of the foundational work done in exercises and assignments before. Missing just one question or instruction on the pass/fail exercise (especially because we can look up the answers, or fill in information verbatim from the lecture or even recording of the lecture) will be marked as failure.

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However, my intention isn't to penalize, just to move us together through the material. The spirit of our course is that any experimentation should be tried, and tried again! Remember that ASSIGNMENTS made in good faith, and turned in on time, can be redone and submitted for reconsideration!

Those of you who deserve an A+ will have an amazing portfolio piece!	A 100-95	A- 94-91
B+ 90-88	B 87-85	B- 84-81
C+ 80-77	C 76-73	C- 72-69
D+ 68-65	D 64-61	F 60-0

## Course Policies

\_\_\_ Work for this course will be produced in the quarter you are enrolled.

\_\_\_ Please try to use the same camera all quarter, using the most manual settings possible, with the flash off for exposure exercise assignments.

Assignment and Exercise explanation sheets are handed out in class, Posted as PDFs on D2L, as well as explained in my lecture. Check the date as well as the time due. The cut off time for online D2L submissions is computerized and will cut off at exactly the time posted – this may be different for different assignments. It is your responsibility to check for each assignment to be sure your work is submitted on time. These assignments and exercises are designed to simultaneously exercise technical skills such as file management, post production best practices, and Photoshop editing skills, while expanding the critical understanding of photography, and honing a personal system of visual expression.

Every assignment will utilize a new skill in towards a **cumulative** knowledge of professional standards in imaging. Students will be challenged to think conceptually about their own visual development in a broader context of historical practices.

Again, the lessons in the class are cumulative, and skills discussed in reference to a previous assignment will be used again and again without special instruction. Students will complete a final assignment – a project of their own choosing using the skills developed in throughout the course. This is an individually proposed final project of sufficient scope to demonstrate competency in technical skills and conceptual development.

Assignments are never to be turned in via email. Any assignment emailed to me without exceptional invitation will be ignored.

Each assignment will be completed and posted on D2L and your blog with parameters directed in each assignment. Each output method has specific technical requirements. If those requirements are not met, points will be deducted.

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All files should be named with a consistent naming convention all quarter, including at least the date and only for the files you turn in, add your name. CDM Naming Convention is different. You'll be altering this slightly, and turning in work which demonstrates a longstanding workflow best practice to be put to use long after your days as a student are over.

IN MY CLASS USE THIS EXAMPLE FILE NAME: **Cossu20180120\_projectname\_0034.jpg** This includes a sequence number, from your shoot, not one you assign. Finally, you'll add your name to only select files you're turning in.

## Late Work/ Missing Work/ Just Work:

I will not accept late work, unless you have a documented excused absence.

However, any **assignment** you attempt in good-faith will be able to be reconsidered! This policy is for assignments, not exercises, exams, surveys, or quizzes. Exercises are an effort to outline technical parameters and you will correct these as you go. I urge you to re-do as much as possible! Post your photos during your work time, not while I'm lecturing. It's maddening to see you thoroughly engrossed in your solitary work when I'm trying to lecture and we're in a group.

## Absences:

You are allowed 1 unexcused absence. Please submit your documentation to the Dean of Students to notify me that your absence is excused. Missed course work must be made up within a mutually agreed upon time frame. *Excessive Absences, Tardiness, or Leaving Early* will negatively impact your participation points. If you miss a class, you will be responsible for seeking the information you missed – in most cases recorded on Course OnLine, available via link on D2L. You may also consider visiting my office hours to ask questions.

## Tardiness:

Students arriving more than 15 minutes late, or leaving before class is dismissed will be considered absent. Please be punctual!

**Socializing:** Your class tag is **#CDM125summer18** I like to use Instagram **@circacirca\_chelseacossu** . I have a twitter I don't check, sorry. What do you use? Please talk to each other and work with each other, but please, unless you're starting a backchannel of discussion about exactly what I'm lecturing on, stay off the social media while you're in my lecture! Cell phones should be silenced, If your use of cell phones or social media sites infringes on class time regularly, you will be asked to leave.

## Email:

You may always feel free to use email to ask questions, and expect a response within 1 work day. If you don't get a response, kindly email again, there may be a problem. Please use reason when considering the timestamp on your email. If you sent it late in the evening and we have class first thing in the morning, there's a chance I won't see it in time.

These tips will help:

- Please Do use a clear and concise subject. For example: DC125- (Always including the section #\_\_\_\_) and your questions about class.

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- Do Not reply to emails I send the entire class.
- Instead, make a new one, with a pertinent subject line.
- Please Do include links to blog posts, and full explanation of what I can help with.
- Please Do include a screenshot or capture if you need to show me something (Mac: Command, Shift, 4 draw a box around it and it will be on your desktop. PC: Printscreen key and paste into text)
- Do Not abuse email for submitting any other images, homework or assignments on time or late.

Sometimes email isn't the best way to communicate. If so, I look forward to meeting during my office hours.

## 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.

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

## 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.

o ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as

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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.

hone number: (312)362-8002

ax: (312)362-6544

TY: (773)325.7296