

## DC 125-603 DIGITAL STILL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR NON-MAJORS

Spring 2015 | Monday/Wednesday 1:30pm – 3:00pm | DePaul Center 106B

Instructor: James Choi

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Office Hours: Monday 3pm – 5:30pm, Wed 3pm – 5:30pm at CS&TC Room 464 or by appointment

***\*\* 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.***

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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. 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. This course has an additional fee.

PREREQUISITE(S):NONE

### Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to the aesthetics of still photography and to the concept of photography as a descriptive and interpretive artistic medium. Students will learn the fundamental concepts necessary to shoot, edit, & manipulate photographs and critically evaluate the images. Throughout the course you will work on defining your individual aesthetic utilizing established composition and design elements. 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 while acquiring technical skills.

### Learning Domain Description

DC 125 Digital Still Photography 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 learn the fundamental concepts necessary to shoot, edit, manipulate, and print digital still photographs
- Students will acquire the knowledge needed to analyze and interpret existing works of photography in terms of composition, depth, and semiotic meaning.
- Students will understand how to use their own digital still cameras, as well as the software Adobe Photoshop needed in the course.
- Students, by reviewing external and internal work, will review and evaluate these creative works, translating that knowledge into written criticism of the work.
- 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**

Students will begin understanding the technical functions of their digital cameras through experiential projects and historical image making practices through research and lecture material. They will define formal and theoretical concepts as we broach them, and apply those definitions in conversation, as well as analyze images in Chicago's cultural repositories. They will utilize newly acquired critical tools and vocabulary to compose assessments of the work of their peers. They will research and write about the work of famous photographers of the past and present and discover a context for their own creation within the historical continuum.

## **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 utilize newly acquired critical tools and vocabulary to compose assessments of the work of their peers. Students will research and write about the work of famous photographers of the past and present and discover a context for their own creation within the historical continuum. Students will write ten analyses of their own work utilizing the new theoretical and technical principles introduced each week. Students will write text for photo-romans. Students will compose a final reflective essay articulating the visual aesthetic embodied in their portfolios utilizing elements of the artistic statements and curated exhibitions presented in class.

## **Course Management**

DEPAUL D2L <https://d2l.depaul.edu>

CDM Computer Labs are available for software use outside of class –  
[http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/current\\_students/pages/labs.aspx](http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/current_students/pages/labs.aspx)

CDM labs offer Photoshop on PC or Mac operating systems in Lincoln Park and Loop Campuses or make arrangements to acquire the software.

We are currently using CS6 – however, if you plan on obtaining your own copy the version currently available is Photoshop Creative Cloud, available by monthly subscription.

TUTOR available on 9th floor CDM building in the desk by the cage.

Supplemental instruction at LYNDA.COM available at the library or by personal subscription.

### **Textbooks and printed resources**

“Light and Lens: Photography in Digital Age” by Robert Hirsh

### **Recommended Materials:**

- Digital Camera: this should be a DSLR. You must make exposure adjustments. Please use the same camera all quarter.  
*Equipment Cage: CDM Building, 9th floor, room 930*  
*Mon-Thu: 9:00AM-9:30PM*  
*Friday: 9:00AM-5:30PM, Saturday: 10:00AM-4:00PM*  
*Phone Number: (312) 362-5733*
- USB thumb drives or External Hard Drive. Bring to every class so that you can quickly open your photos or your presentations.
- Card reader or USB cord

### **Laptops/Cell Phones**

Use of cell phones in the class is prohibited. Please turn your phone off before entering class.

### **Alterations**

The professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus at any time. Students will be apprised of any and all changes with clear instructions should they occur.

### **Grading**

ASSIGNMENTS: There are 8 writing assignments that will be posted on D2L. Late work will not be accepted.

### **Assignments:**

Attendance & Participation	20%
Weekly Photo Assignments	30%
Quiz 1	5%
Midterm Project	10-
Quiz 2	5%
Final Project	30%

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, 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

## **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. An absence is defined as not showing up for class, or arriving more than 15 minutes late or missing any 15 minute period during class time. I take attendance every class. 3 absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

## **D2L**

You will be using D2L extensively in this course. You will find links to the syllabus, course outline, video lectures, discussion forums, weekly assignments, etc.

\*\* All lectures and films will be viewable through D2L

## **Course Outline:**

### **WEEK 1 (March 30/April 1)**

INTRODUCTION TO COURSE AND REQUIREMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY OVERVIEW

Hirsch - Ch. 1

### **WEEK 2 (April 6/April 8)**

COMPOSITION

Hirsch - Ch. 2

### **WEEK 3 (April 13/April 15)**

CAMERA AND LENSES

Hirsch – Ch. 3

**\*Midterm Project: as assigned**

### **WEEK 4 (April 20/April 22)**

EXPOSURE

Hirsch – Ch. 4

### **WEEK 5 (April 27/April 29)**

LIGHT

**\*QUIZ 1**

**\*Midterm Projects Due**

Hirsch – Ch. 5

### **WEEK 6 (May 4/May 6)**

**MIDTERM PROJECTS Presented**

INTRO TO PHOTOSHOP

Hirsch – Ch. 7

### **WEEK 7 (May 11/May 13)**

COLOR

**\*Final Project: as assigned**

Hirsch- Ch. 8

### **WEEK 8 (May 18/May 20)**

DIGITAL COMPOSITING

Hirsch- Ch. 10

## **WEEK 9 (May 25/May 27)**

DIGITAL COMPOSITING 2

Hirsch- Ch. 11

## **WEEK 10 (June 1/June 3)**

QUIZ 2

**FINAL EXAM 6/8 11:45-2pm**

**FINAL PROJECTS PRESENTED**

### **Course Policies (from the university)**

#### **Attitude**

A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measureable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking other's opinions, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using internet. If any of these issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom.

#### **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 professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues. Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undistruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

#### **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 and posted under announcements on D2L.

#### **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.

### **Withdrawal**

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system (<http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>). Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

### **Retroactive Withdrawal**

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval.

College office appeals for CDM students must be submitted online via MyCDM.

The deadlines for submitting appeals are as follows:

Autumn Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent winter quarter

Winter Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent spring quarter

Spring Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

Summer Terms: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

### **Excused Absence**

In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the Dean of Students office. The form can be accessed at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/forms.html>. Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

### **Incomplete**

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. CDM policy requires the student to initiate the request for incomplete grade before the end of the term in which the course is taken. Prior to submitting the incomplete request, the student must discuss the circumstances with the instructor. Students may initiate the incomplete request process in MyCDM.

- All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval.
- If approved, students are required to complete all remaining course requirement independently in consultation with the instructor by the deadline indicated on the incomplete request form.

- By default, an incomplete grade will automatically change to a grade of F after two quarters have elapsed (excluding summer) unless another grade is recorded by the instructor.
- An incomplete grade does NOT grant the student permission to attend the same course in a future quarter.

**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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

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