

Digital Still Photography for Non-Majors

FALL 2019/20 **FILM 165-101**

Class number: 15899

TuTh 1:00PM - 2:30PM

STDCT 00331 Lincoln Park

Chelsea Cossu MFA

OFFICE HOURS: Office adjacent class TuTh 12:15-1pm

ccossu@cdm.depaul.edu

Important Course Registration, Drop, and Withdraw Dates: <https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

1st class: **Thursday, September 12, 2019** Last Class: **Tuesday, November 19th, 2019** Final Exam Date: **PROJECT/We do not meet.**



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.

IMAGE: *Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Finding Balance, 2018. 28 Polaroid prints, each mounted on aluminum.*

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.

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*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 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 ACCOUNTS

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Go to <https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud.html>

- In the top-right corner of the site, click Sign In.
- On the new page, below the Sign In button, click Get an Adobe ID
- Fill in the form that appears with the information it requests and press Sign Up when finished.
- Your new Adobe account should be created.
- To use Adobe apps on the lab/classroom machine: simply sign in using your personal Adobe account when it prompts you when opening any Adobe software.
- DON'T FORGET TO SIGN OUT!!!!!!!!!!

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.

___ COURSE RESERVE 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.

___ 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

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

___ **Continuum of Photography** Exercise **5 pts**

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__ **Technical Exposure Exercise** Exercise + Assignment **15 pts**

__ **Creative Inquiry** Assignment **10 pts**

__ **Continuation** Assignment **10 pts**

__ **Your Contact Sheets and Contextualization** Exercise + Assignment **10 pts**

Participation: 50%

__ **In each of our 10 classes, 5 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 and IN CLASS - WRITING WELL** through discussion, asking great questions, finishing your viewing of Videos and Course Materials in time to complete assignments and participate in class lectures.

__ **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!**

__ **COL recordings will be posted shortly after the class on TU and TR evenings.**

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. 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!

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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

Specific to my class: 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 Exercises:

Assignments ask you to demonstrate your skills with photographic images and written texts.

Exercises are step by step workflow worksheets, questions to answer about your own process and equipment, intended to enforce a process of gathering information, practicing skills.

Explanations of each 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.

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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 /or your blog as directed with parameters directed in each assignment. Each output method has specific technical requirements. If those requirements are not met, points will be deducted.

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: **Cossu20190120_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 **#FILM165_FQ19** 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.

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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.
- 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.

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: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor 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 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, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

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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://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/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>

Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the

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legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

Students with Disabilities

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling them to access accommodations and support services to assist with their success. There are two office locations:

- Loop Campus – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gergory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible. Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.