

Instructor :

Vanessa Fischer

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Course Title: Introduction to Digital Photography**Description**

Introduction to Photography for Non-Majors: Digital explores the traditional concepts, techniques, and language of photography via the use of contemporary digital technologies. Through lectures, in-class instruction, and assignments, students will develop a proficiency of the basic techniques of the digital SLR camera in order to understand the fundamental techniques of digital photography and produce quality digital prints. Students will also be introduced to a well-structured workflow for the upload, organization, editing & export, and printing of digital photographs. We will be looking at current trends of digital photography, as well as referencing the history of photography to create a full picture of the medium. This course will have a final project of 12-15 images that will demonstrate what the students have learned this semester, as well as exploring their own artistic voice; through aesthetic and concept.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- *Master the basic functions of a digital SLR camera, and the application of basic photographic techniques (such as light metering, the use of shutter speed and aperture, control of ISO and white balance) in order to consistently produce well-exposed digital images through lectures, in-class instruction and assignments.*
- *Recognize the basic aesthetic qualities of a well-made photograph - light, composition, color, and focus - and apply to the capture of digital images through lectures and group critiques.*
- *Employ strategies for upload & organization of digital files using Adobe Bridge and Lightroom and methods for archive & backup of data.*
- *Apply editing techniques for digital photographs, incorporating both Adobe Lightroom for broader adjustments, along with an overview of basic Photoshop techniques for finer adjustments or more radical manipulation of the image through assignments and supervised lab time.*
- *Demonstrate appropriate technique for export of digital files and differentiate standard photo file formats (jpg, TIFF, RAW, etc) and the intended uses for each format. Optimize digital files for their intended use -- printing, web-based applications, etc.*
- *Recognize printing strategies and techniques and use the digital print as a means of stylistic expression through the production of their own images, lectures and critiques.*
- *Articulate the technical and conceptual underpinnings of theirs and their fellow students work through class discussions and critiques.*
- *Develop culturally responsive learning skills when evaluating contemporary photography through lectures, readings and discussions.*

Expectations

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. This means attend class every day and be on time, be prepared for class, turn in all assignments on the date that they are due, do your very best on all class assignments and exercises even those that are not graded, and be courteous and respectful to fellow students and the professor. I have very high, yet attainable expectations for my students; these are reflected in the course workload and grading scale.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance in all classes is required. Students are expected to arrive on time and remain in class for the entire period scheduled. The responsibility for work missed due to any type of absence rests with the student. A failing grade may be assigned to any student who attains less than 80 % of class meetings (3 classes of a course meeting once per week). Any exceptions are made at the discretion of the instructor. Instructors need to be notified in advance that the student will not be able to attend.

Grading Policy

5% Class Participation

5% Artist presentation

10% Homework Project: *Portraiture, Who Are You?*

10% Homework Project: *Stranger Project*

10% Homework Project: *Abstract Landscape Project*

10% Homework Project: *Daily Ritual Project*

10% Homework Project: *Your Safe Space Tableaux*

20% Midterm Portfolio Project

20% Final Project

Course Schedule

WEEK 1

In Class:

- Introductions
- Introduce and review syllabus
- Introduce Artist Presentations
- Rent out class set of cameras for semester
- In class partner interview
- Learn the five basic functions of a DSLR camera
- Learn basic photo storing method
- Discuss editing and the importance of deleting

Homework Project: *Portraiture, Who Are You?*

1. Using your camera in a manual setting take a photographic portrait of your partner based on in class interview
2. All students are required to have 1-3 successful images 20 images in total and no self-portraiture
3. Choose three possible artists you would like to present.

WEEK 2

In Class:

- Schedule Artist Presentations
- Introduce Adobe Bridge as a cataloguing tool
- Students learn the rule of thirds
- Students learn cropping and printing through photoshop
- Digital printing demonstration
- Critique final image of *Portraiture, Who Are You?*

Homework Project: *Stranger Project*

1. Take 10 photographs of strangers while making conscious framing choices.
2. Introduce yourself to at least 5 of the strangers.

WEEK 3

In Class:

- Artists Presentation
- Students learn Perspective, Point of View and Framing
- Students learn Depth of Field
- Critique *Stranger Project*

Homework Project: *Abstract Landscape Project*

1. Take 20 images photograph the architecture you pass by every day. Play with depth of field to emphasize the lines, shapes and colors you see by changing your camera perspective.

WEEK4

In Class:

- Artists Presentations
- Students learn about White Balance Lighting
- Students learn the basics of editing in photoshop: Exposure, Brightness & Contrast, Levels
- Converting and editing in black and white
- Image sharpening/noise reduction
- Professor presentation on photographing the daily ritual as a subject matter
- Critique *Abstract Landscape Project*

Homework Project: *Daily Ritual Project (2 weeks for assignment)*

1. Photograph someone close to you in your life doing a daily ritual in three different types of lighting.

WEEK 5

In Class:

- Artists Presentations
- Basic editing in Photoshop for color: Color Balance, Curves, Vibrance/Saturation
- In class work day on editing the *Daily Ritual Project*
- Discuss Sequencing

Homework Project: *Daily Ritual Project*

2. Continue to photograph someone close to you in your life doing a daily ritual in three different types of lighting.
1. plus writing component

WEEK 6

In Class:

- Artists Presentations
- Critique *Daily Ritual Project*
- Introduce Tableaux
- Demo using remote shutter

Homework Project: *Your Safe Space Tableaux*

1. Photograph your safe space as a tableaux. A safe space is a place you go and feel like you can wind down and just be yourself.

WEEK 7

In Class:

- Artists Presentations
- Discuss Midterm Portfolio

- In class work day on Midterm Portfolio

Homework Project:

1. 10 Final Midterm Portfolio Images

WEEK 8

In Class:

- Artists Presentations
- Midterm Critique**
- Introduce Final Project

Homework Project:

1. Write a Final Project Proposal

WEEK 9

In Class:

- Artists Presentations
- Group discussion on final project proposals
- Introduce sequence options

Homework Project:

1. Create 5 in progress prints

WEEK 10

In Class:

- Critique the work in progress prints:
 - Image strength
 - Hands on sequencing
- In class work day on Final Project

Homework Project:

1. Create 5 new in progress prints

Week 11

In Class:

- Critique the in-progress prints:
 - Image strength
 - Hands on sequencing
- In class work day on Final Project

Homework Project:

1. Create 7 Final Images for Final Group Critiques

WEEK 12 NO CLASS

WEEK 13

- FIELD TRIP TO A MUSEUM OR GALLERY RELEVANT TO COURSE

Homework Project:

1. Create 7 Final Images for Final Group Critiques

WEEK 14

In Class:

- ❑ FINAL GROUP CRITIQUE OF PORTFOLIO

Homework Project:

1. Final Digital Portfolio AND Final Printed Portfolio

WEEK 15

ONE ON ONE WITH PROFESSOR FINAL PORTFOLIO REVIEW

Materials List

DSLR Camera

Tripod

Notebook/Journal - input metadata for all photos: record exposure: aperture (F- Stop), shutter speed, iso, white balance.

USB Memory Stick or External Hard Drive - to store your images that you make during this class (purchasable @ Amazon, B&H Photo, Best Buy)

Folder or Binder - to store your class notes and handouts