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Syllabus revised 2024

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SCHOOL OF DIGITAL IMAGING AND VISUAL ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY

COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

COURSE CODE: DIPHTP225

3 semester credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to photography with a particular focus on reportage and travel photography perspectives of this medium, offering a chance to explore the world through a camera viewfinder. Key course topics include learning to express a sense of place, capturing mood/feeling, and shooting a variety of subjects ranging from daily life to landscapes, urban settings, cultural portraits, festivals, and rituals. The course will be divided between outdoor field practice and learning introductory digital techniques. This course is recommended for students majoring in Communications, Journalism, and Tourism. Basic photography experience and knowledge will be helpful but not necessary. This class includes experiential learning with CEMI.

NOTE: The first half of the course will be devoted to understanding camera functions. During this period, assignments will emphasize basic camera functions in manual mode. In the second half of the course, the learned techniques will be employed in the assignments.

In this introductory course, students will not use the print lab to print their assignments or final portfolio. Assignments and final portfolio delivery can only be done through the universities dedicated electronic storage system. Access is only available within the media lab classroom.

2. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to use their digital camera effectively, paying particular attention to:

- f-stop
- shutter speeds
- ISO (gain)
- different in camera metering modes
- types of lenses and how they work
- formal rules of composition

By the end of this course students will also be able to:

- Demonstrate self-confidence working with people in the street
- Display basic history of photography knowledge
- Display knowledge of genre types of photography
- Set up lab station correctly
- Use basic Lightroom and Photoshop
- Make, edit and process images (intro level)
- Collaborate and critique with peers as active participants in public dialogue and discourse

- Work in groups and autonomously
- Acquire and develop intellectual, technical and analytical skills to make photographs that communicate
- Display understanding of what makes a good photograph in terms of technical quality, light, composition and storytelling
- Demonstrate effective

3. REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course.

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, projects, and site visits within the local community. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides, guided problem solving, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable.

5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

TEXTBOOK (Copy available at the university library):

Foltz, James, Ronald P. Lovell and Fred Zwahlen. *Handbook of Photography* (sixth edition). Thompson Delmar Learning, 2005.

The textbook is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS

- Ang, Tom. *Fundamentals of Photography*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.
- Freeman, Michael. *The Photographer's eye (10th Edition)*. Ilex Press, 2007.
- Modrak, Rebekah. *Reframing Photography*. Routledge, 2011.
- Nagar, Tanya. *The New Street Photographer's Manifesto*. Ilex, 2012.
- Webb, Alex, Rebecca Norris Webb and Teju Cole, *Street Photography and the Poetic Image: The Photography Workshop Series*. Aperture Press, 2014.

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times of the university library. Also note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also utilize additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

BIBLIOTECA PALAGIO DI PARTE GUELFA

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/

BIBLIOTECA DELLE OBLATE

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it

THE HAROLD ACTON LIBRARY AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information: www.britishinstitute.it/en

6. FIELD LEARNING

Please consult your Official Registration for any mandatory field learning dates. Field Learning Activities cited in Official Registrations are an integral part of the course and also include an assignment that counts towards your final grade, details will be provided on the first day of class.

7. COURSE MATERIALS

A DSLR camera and a lens with a focal length of 55mm or wider is required for this course.

Must have a manual setting: ability to set ISO, aperture, and shutter speed.

Students will have to acquire and deposit images for their assignments into the dedicated class storage folder. That can only be done in class or from any institutions' building with Wi-Fi.

8. COURSE FEES

Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The exact amount will be communicated by the instructor on the first day of class.

In addition, students may be required to leave a **deposit** for equipment loaned to them during the session. The deposit will be returned at the end of the course, provided the equipment has been returned in the same condition it was loaned.

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

10% Attendance

10% Participation

15% Assignments

15% Midterm Exam (inclusive of the exam and a selection of images)

25% Final Portfolio and Paper

25% Final Exam

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C- =70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

Absences are based on academic hours: 1 absence equals 3 lecture hours.

Two absences: 6 lecture hours, attendance and participation grade will be impacted.

Three absences: 9 lecture hours, the final grade may be lowered by one letter grade.

Four absences: 12 lecture hours, constitutes automatic failure of the course regardless of when absences are incurred.

Please note:

- The above hours refer to lecture hours. Please note that the contact / credit hour policy in the academic catalog includes additional distribution ratios according to delivery category. Ex: 1 absence equals 6 FL/SL/Lab hours or 9 EL hours.

- Hours may be distributed in different formats according to the academic course schedules.

LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DEPARTURE

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a

combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

TRAVEL (OR DELAYS DUE TO TRAVEL) IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE FROM CLASS.

It is the student's responsibility to know how many absences are incurred. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

Participation: Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work, proper care of work space and tools, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed. All of the above criteria also apply to Field Learning and site visits.

11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS

The **Midterm Exam** counts for 15% of the final course grade. This exam consists of a series of 10 photographic enlargements chosen from the best assignments photos and a multiple-choice test. The mid-term portfolio will be projected.

The **Final Exam** counts for 25% of your final course grade. The final exam is divided in two parts:

- A Final Project: chosen between the student and the instructor, consisting of 8-12 black and white or color images
- A portfolio presentation paper.

Note: the date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason. Refer to course website for session specific schedule.

The **Final Portfolio & Paper** counts as 25% of the final course grade. Specific details will be provided by the instructor.

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Course presentation. Technical history of photography. NOTE 1: bring your camera manual for next class. If you do not have your manual you will be able to find a pdf version on line. Also, always bring your camera to class charged and ready. NOTE 2: Please consider purchasing a storage device so that you may take home your images on the last day of class. The school is not responsible for mailing any form of the work you produce in class to you.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: - Display knowledge of how a camera works (History/Camera Evolution) - Set up workstation and folders as per instructed
Reading	<i>Handbook of Photography</i> , Recording Motion pp 31-47. <i>The Digital Zone System</i> pp 95-99, pp 150-182, pp 187-188 (pp. may vary from ebook edition to hardcopy edition, please check with your instructor).

Lesson 2	
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Meet	In class
Lecture	Manual mode camera settings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Color space, customizing your DSLR - File format used for class, jpeg, RAW, DNG - Manual mode in camera light meter - Aperture: control light intensity - Shutter speed: controlling exposure length - ISO: controlling gain (or film speed) - Reciprocity: how f-stop, shutter and ISO work together
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use manual mode camera settings effectively
Assignments	Manual Mode Test. For the next several assignments you will have to know how to properly set your camera to achieve a normal (N) exposure. Set your camera to manual mode and properly expose (N) 40 images (short) 100 images in (semester).
Reading	<i>Handbook of Photography</i> , re-read: Adjusting Exposure pp 31-35 & pp 296 – 303.

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Exposure Lsn 1: EV & Shutter
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up Lightroom (LR) and first work flow (importing and tagging) - Apply Exposure Values - Display knowledge of shutter speed
Assignments	Effects of shutter speeds: Starting with a shutter speed of 1/500 of a second and finishing with a shutter speed of 1 second make 10 “good” images out of 30 total shots.
Reading	<i>Handbook of Photography</i> , Recording Motion pp.35-36.

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Exposure Lsn 2: EV & aperture Light Room: setting up your personal catalogue, editing using attributes (color and star ratings).
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the correlation between f-stop, shutter and ISO - Use Exposure Values chart - LR: setting up your personal catalogue, editing using attributes (color and star ratings)
Assignments	Return with at least 6 “good” images out of 20 shots, showing a shallow depth of field.
Reading	Grimm, Tom and Michele Grimm. <i>The Basic Book of Photography</i> . Pp. 81-87 (Book available in FUA library).

Lesson 5	
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Meet	In class
Lecture	Exposure Lsn 3: EV & ISO
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: - Add drama to their images by controlling the intensity of highlights and shadows - Open an image from LR to PS - PS: basic processing 1 (development) using adjust layer curves
Assignments	Shadows: 6 “good” images out of 240 shots.
Reading	<i>Handbook of Photography</i> (recap) pp.31-pp.47.

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Principles of composition: thirds, halves, symmetry, dominant lines, positive/negative space. LR basic processing.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: - Use LR basic processing 2 - Apply knowledge of principles of composition to their photographs.
Assignments	Composition: A selection of “good” images out of 240 (due next lesson).
Reading	<i>Handbook of Photography</i> , Chapter 3.

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Midterm Exam and assignment review/ assessment.
Reading	Over break read: <i>The Photographer’s Eye</i> pp. 84 - 123, pp. 379 - 430

Lesson 8	
Lecture	Academic Break

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Ambient light, using highlights and shadows to give texture to you image. PS: adjustment layers, gradation layers for landscapes
Assignments	Scenics in Florence - finding the right vantage point (top of towers, hills, bell steeples) NOTE: DO NOT CLIMB OUT ON TO ROOF TOPS FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT. Think. Shoot. Analyze. Reshoot.
Reading	<i>The Photographer’s Eye</i> , pp. 468 – 521.

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class

Lecture	Scenic images: The decision of where to place an object, or objects, other than filling a space. Position issues: predictable and boring vs. purposeful and interesting. Integrated proportions, low and high horizons, subject size in positive/negative space.
Assignments	Morning people at work and their environment (5 good images) People at work and the equipment/tools of the trade that they use. (5 good images) Think. Shoot. Analyze. Reshoot.
Reading	Handbook of Photography: Chapter 8 <i>Lenses Filters and Accessories</i> .

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Travel Portraits Lens types and gear for travel photography. PS (correction) filters vs. filters for lenses.
Assignments	Markets: food & antiques. Open air markets are the perfect place to get a sense of what the “locals” like to eat. Antique markets are also a place for purchasing goods for the home. Photographers love open markets because they are full of people, character subjects, and there is a lot of “eye candy” to photograph. It is also a place where one can spend hours photographing without having to ask permission and most people like to have their photographs taken, making a photographer’s job easy. Find out what market are available (usually over the weekend) and dedicate a full day at the market. Think. Shoot. Analyze. Reshoot.
Reading	Nagar, Tanya. <i>The New Street Photographer’s Manifesto</i> . Ilex, 2012. Chapter 1.

Lesson 12	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Urban photo subject.
Assignments	Research a place in the city that is away from the typical tourist attractions and write about it. Go to location. Return with at least 6 <u>final</u> images of the location. NOTE: you may have to return to the location more than once. Think. Shoot. Analyze. Reshoot. Final paper assigned.
Reading	Nagar, Tanya. <i>The New Street Photographer’s Manifesto</i> . Ilex, 2012. Chapter 2.

Lesson 13	
Meet	In class
Lecture	From point to point – Journal photo.
Assignments	Pick a bus line form the centre of the city and ride it to the end of the line. Study the areas that it travels through. Do not get off. Part A) Photograph the journey from the moment you get to the bus station to the time you get off. Part B) Return to the place that caught your eye and return with 6 final images from that location. Write a report explaining if your images reflect correctly what caught your eye to bring you to that place. Think. Shoot. Analyze. Reshoot.
Reading	Nagar, Tanya. <i>The New Street Photographer’s Manifesto</i> . Ilex, 2012. Chapter 3.

Lesson 14	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Final portfolio overview and critique.
Assignments	Review all reading assigned so far and prepare for Final Exam.

Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Final Exam and paper due.