MFA Studio in Art: Photography

Course Description:
This is a MFA Art studio class in which the student, in collaboration with the professor, determines exactly the direction of their work for the semester. A detailed proposal of the semester’s work is required as is participation in class critiques, discussions, presentations, and any scheduled field trips and outside lectures. In-class discussions will allow students to exchange historical and contemporary ideas in theory and criticism. Class time will provide the opportunity to discuss technical problems and to explore conceptual directions.

This course requires a large measure of self-motivation and focus on the part of the student. Students will have some work time during class but should expect to spend an equal or greater amount of time outside of class completing projects. This course is designed for graduate students with an advanced knowledge of camera functions and darkroom techniques.)

Learning Objectives:

To research styles of photographs by historical and contemporary photographers.

To study groups of photographs by historical and contemporary photographers.

To apply this research and study towards the production of a portfolio of the student's photographs.

To learn photographic techniques to produce professional level works of art.

To present a classroom demonstration and lecture on one or more Photographic Techniques or Historical Perspectives that shows the ability to integrate knowledge and skills in their field and other areas of inquiry and research.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Demonstrate professional competence in one or more aspects of Photographic Techniques or Historical Perspectives in the creation and presentation of works of art with a professional level *portfolio of photographs of 8-12 prints. (The portfolio may have a TITLE & STATEMENT and possibly additional text to accompany photos.)
A presentation of the student’s research related to their studio work with printed or electronic handouts.

Increased knowledge of history of photography in area related to your portfolio as evidenced by written essays.

Positive interaction with other graduate students.

**The following will be determined by the student and professor**

Portfolio Specifications *:

Size:
Number of Prints:
Subject of Research Presentation:

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

1. **ASSIGNMENTS** - Satisfactory completion of scheduled assignments and presentations on time.

2. **Attendance**
   Attendance is mandatory for your success, will be recorded during each class session and is considered as part of the **professionalism** element of your final grade.
   - You will lose a single letter grade on your fourth (4) absence.
   - Five (5) absences will result in the drop of another letter grade.
   - Six (6) absences will result in the failure of the course.
   - Three (3) late arrivals or early departures will result in the recording of one (1) full absence.
   - Students are required to attend class for the duration of the scheduled time or until the Professor dismisses the class.
   - Attending critiques are mandatory.

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, **YOU must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. November 6 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

3. **EQUIPMENT** - Safe and Cooperative use of the darkroom and graduate lab
equipment by students enrolled in the class. No others may use the darkroom, cameras or printers. Because art studios use materials and tools that could be dangerous, safe and cooperative behavior by students is absolutely necessary. The studio course instructor will be the ultimate judge of cooperative as well as safe and unsafe behavior. Individuals engaging in uncooperative and/or unsafe behavior will be cautioned and instructed once by the instructor. If a second occasion of uncooperative and/or unsafe behavior occurs, that student will be un-enrolled from the course and given a “wd” with no refund of tuition and fees.

4. RESEARCH PROJECT – A research paper or project will be proposed by the student and approved by the professor.

FINAL EVALUATION
- 20% - Participation and Professionalism
- 20% - Research Paper or Presentation
- 20% - Meeting deadlines for assignments
- 40% - Final Portfolio

100- 90 = A 89-80=B 79-70=C 69-60=D 60 and Below = F

Materials:
Students will supply materials appropriate for their individual portfolio.

Suggested Texts:
Photography, by London & Upton
A Short Course in DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY, Barbara London, Jim Stone
Coming Into Focus, Barnier

* Portfolio Specifcations will be negotiated by the professor and student. In special cases, an MA student may negotiate an independent study project that may require different parameters for presentation and evaluation.

Class Schedule – Fall 15

Aug 27 Create Schedule of Presentations and Critiques
Students must email barbra.riley@tamucc.edu with your email address

Sept 1 Project Discussion

Sept 3 Project Discussion

Sept 8 CRITIQUE

Sept 15 CRITIQUE
Sept 22   CRITIQUE
Sept 29   CRITIQUE
Oct 6     Presentations of Research
Oct 13    CRITIQUE or Presentations of Research
Oct 20    CRITIQUE
Oct 27    SPRING BREAK
Nov 3     Oso Bay Symposium
Nov 10    Presentations
Nov 17    CRITIQUE
Nov 24    Semester grad reviews by committee
Nov 27    Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 1     Plan Presentation of Final Project.

**Final Exam : Thursday, December 3, 7:15-9:45pm**

*Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.*

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade on the assignment or in the class.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any
amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS: Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamu.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.