PHOTO I – DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory studio course using digital cameras (DSLRs) and image manipulation software (Adobe Photoshop). Students are exposed to the theory and practice of photography through lectures and presentations of historical and contemporary art figures, and taught the basics of image capture techniques. A strong emphasis on conceptual visual exploration will be encouraged, photographic sequencing and themes will be discussed, and individual printing will be conducted, resulting in a professional portfolio of artistic images.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Student will learn basic photographic techniques using digital (DSLR) cameras and computer software through the participation and completion of assignments.
Student will learn to produce high quality, aesthetically pleasing images in accordance with visual language.
Student will create well-composed images related to personal expression and explore conceptual thought.
Student will learn to print professional photographic prints.
Student will participate in a total of 4 critiques, and give thoughtful and insightful feedback to others.
Student will produce an edited Final Portfolio of 15 digital photographs.

CLASSROOM

Class lectures and labs will meet in the Photography Building, otherwise known as the Blue Annex, MOD2, and will take place within the computer graphics digital lab, RM 118, unless other arrangements are discussed during class. Use of the Critique Space and other facilities in the photography building may also be required periodically throughout the semester. Pay attention in class when future site arrangements are made.

MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. CRITIQUES - A Critique is the equivalent of an exam. Assignments for critiques will be handed out to the class, along with dates and instruction. Sometimes these dates have to be modified because of weather, equipment problems or conflicts with other activities. If you know in advance that you will miss a critique, you may receive partial credit if you hand in your work early. Critique guidelines and extra-credit project opportunities will be shared in class and via handouts at the start of each assignment cycle, and it is the student’s responsibility to meet these requirements at DUE DATE, as well as addressing each with artistic intent, creativity, and merit.

2. ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION - It is essential to attend class in a punctual manner, have work to show and edit during class lab times, and to engage in note-taking during class lectures. See attendance policy. During class, lectures, presentations, and demos will be given which will accompany assignments. After lectures and/or presentations, lab hours are available for the digital editing of photos and are allotted for time to share and discuss work and ideas with the instructor. Class attendance for critiques is mandatory, and individual and group discussion is
required, as thoughtful comments and honest explorations into student artwork help navigate individuals throughout their creative journey in this course. Because this is a studio art course, outside class work is mandatory, and an average of an additional 5 hours each week of image capture and editing is expected. Please plan accordingly.

3. CARE OF LAB/EQUIPMENT – Safe, respectful and cooperative use of the equipment by students enrolled in the class is very important. No others (including family members, friends) may use the computers 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.

Printers are for use for assignments for Photo I class only! Using color printers in the photography lab for other classes is considered improper use. Please do not print your photos during another instructor’s class time or lectures. Please do not use school printers for excessive/personal use. They are to be used solely for class projects.

No food or drinks are allowed in the digital lab area.

A Statement about lab/computer use, iPad use and phone use: There will be no use of Facebook, email, other social media websites and the Internet in general during class. If you will be working on something relevant to the class, you will notify the professor of this use. You may not leave class for a personal phone call, unless it is an emergency. Texting, etc. is only allowed during break times, which will be available. Please use class time for class projects only, and please be constructive with your time in the lab. In accordance with lab etiquette, please be aware of your surroundings, and respect the personal space and property of your fellow students. Loud music, loud speech, and over-all “loud behavior” will not be tolerated. Please be considerate of others working around you.

The professor may ask you to leave the classroom (with a zero, absence for the day) if you do not follow these instructions!

CALCULATION OF GRADES

Each critique will count as 20% of your final grade average. There are 4 critiques, totaling 80% of your final grade average. Class participation constitutes 10% of your final grade average; this includes attendance, discussion, lab participation, professionalism and general work ethic. Your FINAL PORTFOLIO will constitute the remaining 10% of your final grade average. (15 of your best digital images presented within a professional and/or digital portfolio.)

Extra-credit assignments/opportunities will be discussed throughout the semester, with appropriate lectures.

Excessive absence may subtract from your final grade, see attendance policy.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory for success; it will be recorded during each class session and is considered as part of the professionalism element of your final grade.

- Student will lose a single letter grade on the 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.

SUBJECTIVITY AND ART

In Art, there is no simple formula for success. Unlike Math and Science courses, there is no right answer. Simply following instructions and feeding back information provided in the correct manner is important for establishing the basics of the technique of photography, however it will not help much as we move further into the creative process. In the end, it will be the inventive process that is paramount. Artists are seekers: they ask probing questions, seek out unusual perspectives, take risks, experiment, and find visual solutions to conceptual problems. It is this process that forms the basis of what it means to be an artist. In this course you will be expected to learn that process and to use it to create striking, conceptually strong images; your ability to do so will make up the majority of your grade during this term.

REQUIRED TEXT

YOUR DIGITAL CAMERA MANUAL! (This is a very important little book. It may very well hold ALL of the magical secrets to your camera’s success! Please read it, and safely experiment with your new equipment.) If you do not have a manual for your camera, you may be able to find one online.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

The History of Photography, Beaumont Newhall, 5th Edition $27 (amazon)

A Short Course in Digital Photography, Barbara London, Jim Stone $48 (amazon)

MATERIALS LIST

Students must provide the following materials needed for this course:

1) Their own or shared digital DSLR camera and accessories –
   DSLR camera MUST have a Manual Shooting Mode, not just Auto.
   DSLR camera MUST have RAW format shooting capabilities. (JPEG images will not be accepted as suitable classwork!)
2) SD Memory Card (with Card Reader if CompactFlash)
3) Portable (external) hard drives for storing images, 80GB/1TB or greater (Thumb-drives are not accepted.)
4) Small ½” Binder for handouts and work prints
5) Epson Ultra Premium Professional Luster Photo Paper
6) A professional photographer’s portfolio or portfolio box
7) Tripod

Estimated cost of materials: $750.00

USEFUL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

Corpus Christi Camera – 361-462-4120 – 1220 Airline Rd., #135, Corpus Christi, TX 78412
- this is a LOCAL, new camera shop that can meet many of your supply needs and answer many of your camera questions.
GRADE APPEALS

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

RULES, REGULATIONS AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment will result in a failing grade on that assignment or in the class, and/or may also result in further action by the college.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS

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 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.

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.
Dropping a Class

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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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 9, 2018 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

FALL 2018 SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Introduction to Course through syllabus and lecture/ History of Photography Part 1
Week 2 - History of Photography Part 2/ Introduction to Manipulation Software /Photoshop/Assignment 1
Week 3 – Workflow Demo/ Introduction to Camera Equipment Lecture/ Basic Camera Functions/Demo
Week 4 – Lab Work/Critique
Week 5 – Lecture on Visual Language and Camera Capture: Aperture/Depth of Field (Assignment 2)
Week 6 – Lab Work
Week 7 – Lectures on Contemporary Photographers/Lab Work/Critique
Week 8 – Lecture on Visual Language and Camera Capture: Shutter Speed/Motion (Assignment 3)
Week 9 – Lab Work
Week 10 – Lab Work/Critique
Week 11 – Lecture on Visual Language and Camera Capture: Lighting & Theme (Assignment 4)
Week 12 – Lab Work
Week 13 – Lab Work – Editing and Printing
Week 14 – Lab Work – Editing and Printing
Week 15 – Presentations of Final Portfolios/Final Critiques

*Schedule is subject to change due to weather or facility issues and/or additional time needed to meet specific requirements.

Have fun, be observant, and capture unique and exciting images!