PHOTOGRAPHY I – DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY – ONLINE

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to digital photography capture, processing, and basic editing software. While focusing on the fundamentals of digital photography, it will introduce students to the theory and practice of fine-art photography and assist them in producing a conceptually devised and technically consistent digital portfolio.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Student will learn basic photographic techniques using digital (DSLR) cameras and computer software (Adobe Creative Cloud/Photoshop) 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 participate in a total of 4 critiques, and give thoughtful and insightful feedback to others. Student will produce an edited Final Portfolio of 12 digital, professional photographs.

CLASSROOM

Due to shifting COVID-19 challenges, all Photo 1 courses for Prof. T. Schober will be held online. This course will be conducted through Blackboard for the majority of instructional output, as well as utilizing other web services, like WebEx for specific lectures, OneDrive for file sharing and class critiques, with additional content to be added and updated. At times servers may go down, or websites may not cooperate, so some fluidity in accessibility may be required. Should operational changes occur, your instructor will contact you. Your classroom will be your computer this semester … so please make sure that it is charged, updated, and ready to go!

MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. CRITIQUES - A Critique is the equivalent of an exam. Assignments for critiques will be posted in their respective Modules within each Blackboard course. Critique requirements, as well as due dates will also be posted. For online critiquing purposes, all student work will be uploaded to a communal drive (OneDrive) for student observation and feedback, which will be communicated through a Discussion Board Forum in Blackboard, moderated by the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to meet the Critique requirements by the given DUE DATE, as well as addressing each assignment with artistic intent, creativity, and merit; and it is required for all students to participate and give constructive feedback on all shared work during critiques in the Discussion Forum. If work is late (turned-in past the deadline) an automatic 10-point deduction will be made. Additional 10-points will be deducted every day past the deadline that work is not turned in. If extenuating circumstances should arise, or if there is an emergency, please notify your instructor in a timely manner.
2. ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION - Once-a-week check-ins will be required for all online classes. These will be conducted through Blackboard, within the Discussion Board Forum, under an Attendance Thread. Each student will be required to check-in with an assignment progress report via that thread for attendance credit. This also ensures that each student is current, and up-to-date with assignments and all class announcements. Monthly photo-related reading assignments will also be posted, with required communal discussion within Bb Discussion Board Forums. Student involvement with these activities, as well as active feedback during critiques, will constitute the participation and attendance fulfillment of the course.

3. CARE OF LAB/EQUIPMENT – All Texas A&M University Photo Students will have access to at-home Adobe Creative Cloud services (Photoshop/Bridge), and can access these programs as they normally would on campus. Through your computer, download the FREE Adobe Cloud application prompt, and login with your Islander Email address, and sign-in with your Islander ID. If you are experiencing any connectivity problems, please let your professor know.

Every student enrolled in a Studio Art Class MUST show proof of completing the SME Safety Course.

CALCULATION OF GRADES

Critiques will total 80% of your final grade average.
Class participation constitutes 10% of your final grade average: this includes attendance, quizzes, readings, discussion, professionalism and general work ethic.
Your FINAL DIGITAL PORTFOLIO will constitute the remaining 10% of your final grade average. (12 of your best digital images, professionally edited/corrected in their final editions for grading.)

Extra-credit assignments/opportunities may 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 through weekly check-in sessions within the Discussion Board Forum, and is considered as part of the professionalism element of your final grade. If a student does not check in, they are considered absent.
*Student will lose a single letter grade on the fourth (4) absence, with continued absences subtracting a second letter grade. Failure to check-in for an extended length of time will result in a FAILURE of the course. Should extenuating or emergency circumstances occur, please notify your instructor. The key to attendance is keeping in contact with your professor, meeting due dates, and having an open line of communication available throughout the semester.

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, by searching the specific make and model type of your camera, followed by the word ‘manual’.

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 (M), not just Auto. DSLR camera MUST have RAW format shooting capabilities (JPEG-only work is not accepted.)
2) SD Memory Card (with Card Reader if CompactFlash)
3) Portable (external) hard drives for storing images: 80GB/1TB suggested
4) Tripod

Estimated Cost: $500.00

*Because this is an ONLINE ONLY course, you will be required to have access to a working computer. Your computer must be up-to-date, and have abilities to run Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Bridge, Internet access, Blackboard access, WebEx access, etc. All Adobe Creative Cloud software is available to registered TAMUCC Art students for free. To access these programs, you may be required to download the Adobe App, through their website. To log-in, use your Islander ID.

USEFUL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

www.bestbuy.com
www.amazon.com
www.adorama.com/OfficialSite - Adorama Photo Supply (an inexpensive photo supply source.)
www.bhphotovideo.com - B&H Photo Supply (an excellent photography source!)

GRADE APPEALS

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at:
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.
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.

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.

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. The Department Chair and the Office of the Dean must approve any amendment. 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.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER

Because of the current ever-changing pandemic situation, and because of online-based service accessibility issues, changes to the schedule as well as changes to some assignments may need to be made. The professor reserves the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. Should changes occur, I will announce them in a timely manner via Blackboard Announcements and/or messages/email.
FALL 2020 SCHEDULE

August 19th – 23rd: Week 1 – MOD 1 – Introduction to Course and the History of Photography


September 7th – Labor Day (No Class)

September 8th – 13th: Week 4 – MOD 3 – The Camera – Basics and Introduction to Equipment


September 21st – October 4th: Weeks 6 – 7 – MOD 5 – Motion / Shutter Speed – Show Motion & Stop Motion; Critique 2 (A2 & A3 – Depth-of-Field & Motion)


October 26th – November 1st: Week 11 – MOD 7 – Introduction to Conceptual Thought – Typology

November 2nd – 15th: Week 12 – 13 – MOD 8 – Continuation of Conceptual Thought – the Photo Narrative; Critique 4 (A5/A6 – Typology/Narrative)

November 16th – 22nd: Week 14 – MOD 9 – Finalizing of Images / Portfolio Building

November 25th – Reading Day (No Class)
November 26th – 27th – Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)
November 30th – Reading Day (No Class)

December 1st – 6th: Week 15 – MOD 10 – Final Portfolio DUE

*Schedule is subject to change.

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

COVID-19 Temporary Amendment to Syllabus

Campus Safety Measures

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related
activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- **Self-monitoring**—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. **Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.**

- **Face Coverings**—Face coverings (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Description of face coverings and additional guidance are provided in the [Face Covering policy](https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/) and [Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)](https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/) available on the [Provost website](https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/).

- **Physical Distancing**—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.

- **Classroom Ingress/Egress**—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.

- **To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter). If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the [Student Conduct office](https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/) for sanctions. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.**

**TAMU-CC Face Coverings**

TAMUCC Face Coverings Policy and FAQs:
[https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/](https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/)

Rule and Procedure:
[https://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/34.99.99.c0.02_use_of_face_coverings.pdf](https://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/34.99.99.c0.02_use_of_face_coverings.pdf)