

PHOTO 010: BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY FALL 2012 – SECTION # 0401

Instructor: Jacalyn Lopez Garcia

Email: Students will be required on a weekly basis to use the Moodle message system to communicate with the instructor. In the event of an emergency (when Moodle is not accessible) send correspondence to garciajl@lamission.

Course Description: This is a foundation course that covers basic digital camera operation, exposure, composition and aesthetics. The student will learn how to photograph, transfer images to a computer; edit the images using industry standard software and create their own prints. Emphasis is placed on communicating both fine art and commercial photography techniques.

Class Meets on Tuesdays:

LEC 11:00 am-1:05pm & LAB 1:05pm-4:15pm (LRC 106 & 126)
Office Hours: Tuesday: 5:00pm (Instructional Bldg)

Due to the nature of this course students can expect that Lecture and Lab hours may overlap.

Required Textbook & Reading Materials:

Using Your Digital Camera: A Guide to Great Photographs by Dennis Curtin – This textbook is accessible via <http://www.shortcourses.com/use/> it can be purchased from the COD bookstore, the author's website and/or read on the Internet. ISBN# 9781928873877, 5th Edition

"The Photographer's Eye" by John Szarkowski – posted on Moodle

To ensure a positive learning environment students should bring the textbook to every class. A final written exam will be based on the materials covered in the textbook, handouts, and lectures. Other reading and video materials will be posted on Moodle to enhance the learning experience.

Recommended Reading (technical):

The Digital Photography Book, Scott Kelby
The Complete Guide to Digital Photography, Michael Freeman
40 Digital Photography Techniques, John Kim

Recommended Reading (theoretical):

Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography, Roland Barthes
On Photography, Susan Sontag

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: Lectures, discussions and/or critiques are presented on a weekly basis. Each exercise and/or assignment will focus on developing an understanding of the materials covered in your textbook, lectures, handouts, and critiques. All exercises and assignments will serve as building blocks and will not be released far in advance. If at any time you feel you need more work during any specific week I will be happy to recommend a supplemental exercise.

SUPPLIES: Students are required to provide their own memory card for use on the department cameras (details to be provided.) Students are also required to bring the textbook, a camera and the camera manual to every class. Camera manuals will be provided on the shared drive for department cameras. CDs will also be required to submit weekly assignments and they will not be returned. Hence, students are advised to keep a copy for their own records. Most assignments will require printed versions of exercises and assignments - prints will be returned (refer to instructions for details.) It is highly recommended that students have a memory card that can be used exclusively for this class. This will help save time organizing and preparing work for the grading process. Students should bring their own transfer cables or card readers to transfer photos to the computers because the department has a limited number of card readers for use in the lab. Students will be required to submit a selected number of prints on a weekly basis of their photographic work for grading purposes (details will be posted on Moodle for each exercise/assignment).

READINGS / EXERCISES / ASSIGNMENTS: Reading assignments will be assigned from the textbook, the Internet and various handouts. To ensure a positive learning experience reading assignments should be read well in advance. To ensure maximum points are earned all exercises and assignments must be submitted properly and must meet the scheduled due date requirement. Keep in mind that each exercise is assigned points based on your ability to successfully complete work in a timely manner. Late submits will be accepted for most exercises and assignments, however, late penalties will apply.

FINAL WRITTEN EXAM: Students must submit the written exam as noted on the schedule to be eligible to earn a passing grade in this course. There shall be no allowance for a missed exam.

FINAL PROJECT/PAPER/PRESENTATION: Late submits for the final project/paper will not be allowed. Attendance during the entire scheduled final is mandatory. Students must submit a final project/paper and remain in class during the final critique to be eligible to earn a passing grade in this class.

GRADING CRITERIA & SCALE: Final grades are based on a 130-point grading

system: 130-117 pts=A; 116-104 pts =B; 103-91 pts =C; 90-78pts =D;
less than 78 pts=F

Written Analysis = 5 pts

(5) Exercises = 3 pts each/ 15 pts

(4) Assignments = 5 pts each/ 20 pts

(14) - Hands On Training Sessions (H.O.T Sessions include participation in discussions, critiques, & all class scheduled labs for this course) = 4 pts each/ 56 pts

Final Written Exam = 14 pts

Final Project/Presentation = 20 pts

COURSE PERFORMANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICIES: Timely arrival for class sessions is critical to successful performance. Keep in mind that students with excessive absences, late arrivals, early departures and missing assignments will be subject to being dropped from the class at the discretion of the instructor.

Students accumulate points toward a grand total at the end of the term. Scoring is based on a 130-grading point system as noted above. To ensure positive learning outcomes students will need to pay close attention to schedule to insure maximum points are earned. Students must be in attendance to earn points for all hands-on-training (H.O.T. sessions include discussions, critiques & all scheduled labs for this course).

Work submitted in a timely manner will be graded 1-2 weeks after the due date. Work submitted late will be graded when time permits. If students desire feedback they should submit work in a timely manner.

Only assignments submitted in a complete and timely manner can be resubmitted for a better grade. If an assignment is received late it will be deducted a letter grade regardless of the quality of work, unless an excused absence has been recorded. Only 2 excused absences will be permitted in this course.

Students must be present on the day of the final presentations and must present a final project. The written exam and a final project are requirements and must be submitted to be eligible to earn a passing grade – no exceptions.

The written exam must also be taken as scheduled, there will be no allowances for a late submit on the written final or the final project.

An Automatic "F" results from equipment and materials theft, cheating on exams and/or exercises and assignments, including falsifying records or other actions that violate common courtesy and mutual trust.

If you stop attending this class you must drop the class yourself – officially. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "F" in this class. Keep in mind that withdrawals must be filed prior to September 9, 2012 to avoid a "W". The new state policy in effect limits students to 3 attempts per course.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me. You may also contact the Office of Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSP&S).

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Classes End - Dec 8

Final Exams - Dec 10-15

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STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Upon satisfactory completion of this course students will have gained knowledge as noted below.

- 1.) Develop an understanding of the advancements made in digital technology in the production of photographic images.
- 2.) Demonstrate the basic operations of a digital SLR camera using Manual controls to override Automatic functions.
- 3.) Recognize design elements and apply rules of composition to create engaging and interesting images.
- 4.) Demonstrate the capability of ISO to affect image quality and describe which settings works best for specific light availability.
- 5.) Demonstrate the capability of shutter speed to stop or blur motion. State the relationship between aperture and depth of field.
- 6.) Demonstrate exposure bracketing of non-moving daylight subjects. Judge what is the appropriate setting for best image quality.
- 7.) Define the differences between image quality settings (JPG, TIFF, RAW) including the advantages and disadvantages of each. Restate the differences between color spaces and understand the relationship between ISO, noise, and exposure. Demonstrate proper camera set up for maximum image quality.
- 8.) Define the Kelvin temperatures for different types of light sources. Understand how Kelvin temperature affects color and how to successfully incorporate it in a photograph.
- 9.) Demonstrate how the histogram relates to exposure in an image. Identify over, under, and correct exposure by evaluating a histogram.
- 10.) Define bit depth and image resolution and understand how they influence image quality.

- 11.) Employ basic tools in Photoshop to crop and set appropriate image size for printing and web. Apply basic image corrections using levels and curves to create images with acceptable color, tone, and contrast.
- 12.) Demonstrate the differences between natural and artificial lighting. Differentiate appropriate camera settings for Flash and Studio lighting.
- 13.) Operate a digital SLR camera using advanced functions.
- 14.) Illustrate the formal applications of two-dimensional design and apply them to the production of final images for the class.
- 15.) Evaluate the quality of photographs based on guidelines specified for each assignment. Identify and debate strengths and weaknesses of individual images.

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The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus with a two-week notice