

ART151 PHOTOGRAPHY AS ART

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Art 151: Photography as Art – Spring 2009

Office: Sagebrush Hall Room 224

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5-6pm, Fridays 10-11am (meeting hrs in Photolab)

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"While there is perhaps a province in which the photograph can tell us nothing more than what we see with our own eyes, there is another in which it proves to us how little our eyes permit us to see."

- DOROTHEA LANGE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce non-art majors to the aesthetics of photography. The course is structured to teach basic photographic skills and increase visual literacy including exposure to photographic-and-related art history and basic principals of two-dimensional design. Through this participatory workshop, students will learn how to use photography as a means to express ideas rather than only as documentation; and develop skills that will lead to taking a better picture.

TEXT

- Required: Creative Camera Control (3rd Edition), by Peter Laytin
- (Optional) Photography The Essential Way, Authors: London, Stone, Upton
- Supplementary Reader/Reading Materials

STUDENTS WILL LEARN

- Basic photographic skills including knowledge of camera functions and anatomy. The relationship between film speed (ISO/ASA), f-stop and shutter speed and how to correctly expose film/make digital images.
- To understand and practice of the principles of digital photography through composition, aesthetics and structure
- To develop an understanding of photography and related mediums through class demonstration, lectures, discussions, critiques and assignments.
- To develop visual literacy through exposure to the history of photography and related art by looking at and evaluating other artist's work both in-class and off campus.
- To demonstrate critical judgment
- To develop verbal and visual presentation techniques
- To use this knowledge as a means of expression through the completion of class assignments and other requirements

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCESS

- Lectures and/or media presentations explaining theory, practice and any issues specific to the planning and strategy of the assignments.
- Examples of previous student work along with professional samples.
- Explanation of the problem solving process, methods of execution, project completion and presentation
- Demonstrations of materials, techniques, and processes
- Off-campus museum/gallery or studio visit.
- Class critiques with students allow students to gain confidence in the verbal presentation of ideas, to express critical evaluation of their own, and other student's projects
- Exams and quizzes
- Student presentations and group activities

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Textbook/Supplementary Reader
- Five graded assignments will be given during the semester and will emphasize technical and aesthetic aspects of photography. Each assignment will include a written component that will outline: evolution of idea; technical skills used and a reflection on the project.
- Two graded Exercises
- Research Notebook
- Museum/Gallery Visit
- Final project
- One written test (based on in class material/discussion and readings)
- Attendance and Participation

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION AND CLASS GUIDELINES

- Attendance and participation are mandatory. Roll will be taken at the beginning of class. Upon a third absence your class grade will be lowered. Three times late-to (or leaving) class early will count as one absence. If you are late to class it is your responsibility to sign in so you won't be marked absent.
- Turn off cell phones when in class (no text messaging).
- No food in class, please respect the classroom and save food/snacks for break time or before/after class.
- If you are late-to or miss a class, you are responsible for getting the material covered from another student. It is not the instructor's responsibility to contact you when you've missed class. It is your responsibility to contact other students in class or in your assigned group and get the notes, then to schedule a meeting with the instructor to review any material that you still need help with.
- Please be respectful to the class and arrive on-time and do not leave early unless you've given prior notification to the instructor.
- Assignments are always due at the beginning of the class period unless otherwise specified.
- Unexcused, late assignments will not be accepted.
- *Conversely, if you show up to class, participate in class discussions, turn in completed assignments on time and show improvement in your assignments there should be no reason that you will not excel in this course.*
- You will not be competing with anyone but yourself and whatever you are ready to put into the class is what you will get out of it.
- Because this is not a typical lecture course, but a participatory workshop, you will learn from: Listening and taking notes; sharing your own observations; and DOING.
- HAVE FUN!

EXTRA CREDIT

Whether you're concerned about your progress or wanting to learn more, you will be provided with two extra credit assignments. Extra credit will help improve your grade but shouldn't be used to replace a missing assignment. Additionally, If you're not happy with the outcome of any of your five graded assignments (that have been turned in on time), you will have a two-week window in which to re-do 2 of them. This will allow you to improve both your skills and your grade.

FIELD TRIPS

One to two field trips off-site will be required; these can include visits to museums, galleries or artist studios. Field trip forms are required from all students for any fieldtrip scheduled during class time.

EXAMS OR QUIZZES

There will be one announced written exam that will cover technical material and history reviewed. Quizzes will be given at instructor's discretion to evaluate how students are progressing with their understanding of the materials covered in class and in assigned readings.

GRADING

Grading at CSUN is based on a plus/minus system. Grades are based on a point system that considers the following criteria:

- Development of concepts that are thoughtful
- Attention to and proficiency with execution, technique and completion of assignments
- Effective visual and verbal presentation skills
- Active and verbal participation in class activities and critiques
- Attendance with necessary materials and assignment preparation
- Personal challenge and effort in project development
- Participation and attendance in critiques
- Deadline compliance

EXERCISES are worth five points each and evaluated as follows:

5-4.5= Excellent, student has gone beyond the parameters of the assignment and shown conceptual development

4.4-4= Good, Above average effort, the work is well executed and various solutions have been considered

3.9-3.5= Average, Meets minimum standards of quality, craftsmanship and process

3.4-3= Weak, work shows minimum effort

2.9-2.5= Poor

2.4 or below = Not Acceptable

0= Not Shown

ASSIGNMENTS (INCL. RESEARCH NOTEBOOK), AND TEST are worth ten points each and are evaluated as follows:

10-9 = Excellent, student has gone beyond the parameters of the assignment and shown conceptual development

8.9-8 = Good, Above average effort, the work is well executed and various solutions have been considered

7.9-7 = Average, Meets minimum standards of quality, craftsmanship and process

6.9-6 = Weak, work shows minimum effort

5.9-5 = Poor

4.9 or below = Not Acceptable

0= Not Shown

FINAL PROJECT is worth 20 points and is evaluated as follows:

20-18 = Excellent, student has gone beyond the parameters of the assignment and shown conceptual development

17.9-16 = Good, Above average effort, the work is well executed and various solutions have been considered

15.9-14 = Average, Meets minimum standards of quality, craftsmanship and process

13.9-12 = Weak, work shows minimum effort

11.9-10 = Poor

9.9 or below = Not Acceptable

0= Not Shown

Activity	Points	% of Grade
Assignments	50	50%
Written Test	10	10%
Exercises (5pts each)	10	10%
Research Notebook	10	10%
Final Project	20	20%
TOTAL	100	100%

FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 88-89

B 83-87

B- 80-82

C+ 78-79

C 73-77

C- 70-72

D+ 68-69

D 63-67

D- 60-62

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES OF INSTRUCTION

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- Film Option: 35mm camera SLR with manual controls, built-in light meter and 50mm lens (or variable lens with 50mm option).
- Film Option: 35mm color slide film (E6 process only film type/speed options will be discussed in class)
- Film Option: 35mm slide viewing pages
- Film Option: Three-ring binder (to store Slides)
- All Students: Permanent Marker (Extra Fine Point Sharpie), Pencil
- Film: Magnifying loupe/source for viewing slides (optional)
- Film: Slide carousel tray (optional)
- All Students: Flash unit/portable lights (optional)
- All Students: Tripod (optional but Recommended)
- All Students: RESEARCH NOTEBOOK - Spiral Bound- hard cover sketch book (unlined minimum size 9"X12" min size 8"x10")
- All Students: Glue stick or Double sided tape

DIGITAL EQUIPMENT OPTION

- Digital SLR with manual controls, built-in light meter with 35 mm lens (or variable lens with 35mm option) OR compact digital camera with built in f-stop/shutter speed adjustment controls
- Memory Card (appropriate for camera)
- CDs, Soft CD cases, Jump drive or external hard drive
- Card Reader

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART SUPPLY STORES

- Freestyle: 5124 W. Sunset Blvd., Hollywood 323.660.3460
- Bel Air Camera: 10295 Kinross Ave., Westwood 310.208.5150
- Samy's Camera: 431 South Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles 323.938.2420
- Samy's Camera: 585 Venice Blvd., Venice 310.450.4551
- Calumet 1135 N. Highland Ave, Hollywood 323.446.1238
- PIX Photo: (open LATE) 211 S. La Brea Ave., Hollywood 323.936.8448
- Canoga Camera: 22065 Sherman Way, Canoga Park 818.346.5506
- The Darkroom: 9227 Reseda Blvd., Northridge 818.885.0123
- (Art Books) Hennessey & Ingalls: 214 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica 310.458.9074
- (Art Supplies) PEARL: 1250 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles 310-854-4900

PHOTOGRAPHY LABS

(for E6 Film processing or Digital Printing)

- A&I: 933 N. Highland Ave, Hollywood 323.856.5225
- A&I Annex: 1550 17th St., Santa Monica 310.264.2622
- Bel Air Camera: 10295 Kinross Ave., Westwood 310.208.5150
- Richard Photolab: 8016 Melrose Blvd., Los Angeles 323.939.8893
- Fleshtone: 7412 Beverly Blvd. Los Angeles 323.938.0154
- The Darkroom: 9227 Reseda Blvd., Northridge 818.885.0123

ADDITIONAL

- Email: Please activate your campus email account and monitor your email – email is considered an official source of communication and you will be responsible for information sent out via email (to your campus account). If you prefer to receive campus email to a non-campus account, you may configure mail-forwarding to that account. Please note that you will be contacting me via email at niku@csun.edu, campus accounts (@csun.edu) occasionally filter out emails from other accounts (ex. @hotmail.com) so please be sure you reply using your campus account to ensure that I get your email.

*Information subject to change with notification at instructor's discretion.

COURSE CALENDAR

ART 151 - SPRING 2009

WEEK 1

Introduction; Class overview
Review Equipment/Syllabus

Bring Camera, Book and Owner's Manual (for digital cameras) next week
Groups; Discussion/Practice: Looking at Images
HW: Exercise 1 (Due Week 2)

WEEK 2

Look at student's cameras
Looking at Images, Camera basics: Reading the Meter, Film/Digital Review,
Camera anatomy, Differences in control from the D-SLR, compact-digital camera and
the 35mm film camera (Entry level, Intermediate, Prosumer and Professional
Cameras).

E1 Due: Review/Critique E1, Review Book/Magazine Images
Review: Camera settings for various situations, eyepiece/LCD
Making a log book, idea books, and writing reflections.
Practice: Presenting your work in class: CD, thumb drive, external HD, file formats,
other presentation options: Web/Print
Review/Discuss: File types
Characteristics of Light
HW: Assignment One (Due Week 4)

WEEK 3

Continue: Metering, Exposure, Lenses, Light
Discussion/Practice: Elements and Principles of Design

Photographer Highlight/Discuss
Discuss/Practice: Photo editing software, managing digital files

WEEK 4

Discuss: Photography with meaning: cultural, personal, and societal
Photographer highlight
Collect A1; Discuss A2
HW: Begin A2 (Due Week 6)

Review/Critique A1

WEEK 5

HW: Begin E2 (Due Week 7) Review Photo Editing, Compositing, Color Correction

Zone System Intro and Special Lighting Situations
Photographer Highlight; Begin Photo History

WEEK 6

Museum Visit (Location/Time TBA)
Equivalent Exposures, Motion, Panning, Blur; Digital Workflow
Discuss A3

Review/Critique A2; HW: Begin A3 (Due Week 8)

WEEK 7

Review/Critique A2 (continued)
Continue Photo History
Collect/Review/Critique E2

WEEK 8

Discuss Abstractions/Review Images
Review/Critique A3; HW Begin A4 (Due Week 10)

WEEK 9

Discussion: Thinking Conceptually/Contemporary Photography.
Photographer Highlight

WEEK 10

Portraiture – Visit Studio, Review Lighting Options
Demonstration: Portrait Lighting using Flash/Strobe/Diffusion and Hot
Review/Critique A4; Begin A5 (Due Week 12)

WEEK 11

March 31 – Cesar Chavez Day – Campus Closed
Portraiture/Photographer Highlight/Discussion

Demonstration: Other cameras
(Film and Digital options/Medium & Large Format)
Workshop & Discussion: Presentation Options
Final Project Proposals Due; Begin creating series for Final Project

WEEK 12

No Instruction April 6-11 (Spring Recess)

WEEK 13

Making images; Using Multiple Techniques/Alternative Processes
Museum Assignment Due Review/Critique A5
Work on Final Project
Continue Review/Critique A5
Discussion/Resource Review: Continuing your Photography
Resource Review: Continuing Your Photography

WEEK 14

Test
All make-up work and all Extra Credit Due

WEEK 15

Final Projects Due; Begin Final Project Presentations

Final Project Presentations

WEEK 16

May 8th - Last Day of formal Instruction
Final Project Presentations Continue

WEEK 17

May 11-16th Final Exam Schedule
Final Project Presentations

*Readings will be assigned throughout the semester.

*Schedule is subject to change at instructor's discretion.