Syllabus
Art 151: Photography as Art, Course # 10449
California State University Northridge, Fall 2014

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Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 9:00am – 9:30am, 4:45pm – 5:15pm
Office Location: AC 331, Sagebrush Hall 224 or the photography lab
Office phone: (818) 677 – 6458 no voicemail

Course meeting day, time and location: Monday & Wednesday, 9:30am – 10:45am, AC 331

Syllabus & course schedule subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

Catalog Description:
Not available for Art Major credit. Students must provide their own digital camera (SLR). Introduction for non-art majors to the subject matter and aesthetics of photography. Review of artists’ works that have been a major influence in the field and which reflect broader issues in visual culture. Assignments include learning basic camera anatomy, functions, and digital applications. Students need basic working knowledge of computer operation. Photography as Art satisfies the Lifelong Learning section of the General Education program. Lifelong Learning coursework encourages students to develop an appreciation for the importance of the continued acquisition of new and diverse knowledge and skills, and offers opportunities to integrate personal, professional, and social aspects of life. Students will develop cognitive, physical and affective skills that will allow them to become more integrated and well-rounded individuals within various physical, social, cultural and technological environments and communities.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:
• Identify and actively engage in behaviors conducive to individual health, well-being, or development, and understand the value of maintaining these behaviors throughout the lifespan.
• Identify and apply strategies leading to health, well-being, or development for community members of diverse populations.
• Apply the knowledge and skills of science and technology and evaluate how they impact individuals, the community, and/or society.

Art Department Program Goals:
• Basic Skills - Developing a foundation of art knowledge, theories, skills, craftspersonship and technologies, where ideas and concepts are communicated in writing, speaking and art making.
• Art Knowledge - Broadening knowledge of ancient through contemporary art and to develop an understanding of art within theoretical, cultural, and historical contexts.
• Critical Thinking - Analyzing, interpreting, and questioning traditional methodologies and pre-conceived notions of art and art making through the process of generating and solving problems.
• Global Perspectives - Promoting an appreciation and tolerance of diverse perspectives dealing with art, culture, teaching and learning.

Art Department Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Acquire knowledge of basic photography fundamentals including: camera anatomy and operation, exposure components (ISO, aperture, shutter speed) and their relationship to one another.
2. Understand and apply the elements and principles of design as they relate to photography’s ability to impose a frame upon the three-dimensional world and translate it into two dimensions.
3. Create, design and produce photographic images with specific attention to concept, technique and aesthetics.
4. Acquire visual literacy through viewing, discussing and evaluating the work of both historical and contemporary photographers.
5. Distinguish safe and appropriate procedures and practices utilized in a photography studio and lab.
6. Critique, analyze and compare personal work, the work of peers and professionals.
7. Use this knowledge as a means of communication and expression.
**Course Handouts:**
Most handouts for this course will be sent via CSUN email. Please be sure your CSUN webmail account is active. If you wish you may forward your CSUN email account to your personal email account. Students should check their email for class handouts, assignments and notes prior to each class meeting.

**Special Needs:** Students with disabilities must register with Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) in order to receive accommodations. If you feel that you quality for the services provided by DRES contact them at (818) 677-2684 or stop by the office located in Bayramian Hall (BH 110). Faculty cannot provide assistance to students seeking disability accommodations unless they have disability documentation and are registered with DRES. Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs.

**Overview & Course Requirements:**

1) **Student Participation, Conduct & Attendance** (15 points):
   - Since this course meets for a short time twice a week, regular attendance is imperative. One excused absence for medical or a family emergency is allowed. Additional absences, excused or unexcused will result in a significantly lower final grade.
   - Each student’s participation, conduct and attendance grade will be dropped one complete grade for each unexcused absence.
   - Arriving late, leaving early or coming to class unprepared (without materials, textbook, image files, etc.) will be recorded as one-half absence.
   - A tardy student must notify the instructor at the end of class the same day or will be considered absent.
   - All students are expected to participate in and contribute to group discussions, lab and other classroom activities and critiques. During critiques students are required to discuss both their own work and their peers work using the given critique structure and vocabulary.
   - Students must complete all assigned readings.
   - The class will be conducted in an environment of mutual respect. Students who violate this agreement by disrespecting their peers or the instructor, will be asked to leave resulting in 0 credit for the day’s participation, conduct and attendance grades. Students must abide by the student conduct code defined by CSUN. The student conduct code can be reviewed online at: [http://www.csun.edu/a&r/soc/studentconduct.html](http://www.csun.edu/a&r/soc/studentconduct.html)
   - Cell phone use including text messaging is not allowed at anytime during our class meeting.
   - Please be certain that you are able to commit to both the time and financial requirements of this course.

2) **Projects:** (16 points each, 80 total)
Throughout the semester students will produce and be evaluated on the following projects:
- Depth of field and positive/negative aspects of your neighborhood or environment
- The Decisive Moment: stop, pan & blur action
- Composition and the natural & urban landscape
- Quality of light and your perspective on contemporary times
- Environmental portraits using indoor available light

Please note all student projects and materials must be retrieved by the final class meeting. Neither the Art Department nor your instructor will be held accountable for storage of student work or materials.

3) **Midterm and Final exam:** (15 points and 25 points)
A midterm exam will be given on Wednesday, October 22 and a Final Exam on Wednesday, December 10 at **8:00am**.

**Dropping:** It is the student’s responsibility to make sure they have been officially dropped from the class if a grade of “W” is desired.

**Assessment and Evaluation:**
Projects will be evaluated through student self-reflection sheets and rubrics completed by both the student and the instructor. Each rubric will address four criteria per project:

Students must be present in class to turn in class projects and assignments. Absolutely no work will be accepted via email, in my faculty mailbox, under my office door, etc.

It is the student’s responsibility to be certain all digital files are included on a USB drive. Missing digital files is equal to NOT turning in the project.
1) Effort & Attitude (4 points): Was the project turned in on time? Did the student fulfill all of the project guidelines? Did the student work to their fullest potential? Was the student respectful and cooperative to peers, and instructor during the production of the project?

Note on project tardiness: Late projects will only be accepted up to one week after the original due date and will result in one full grade reduction. *Late projects will not be accepted for the final project # 5.

2) Development of technical skills (4 points): Did the student attempt the new techniques presented in class? Was the student successful at executing the new techniques? Did the student rely on all relevant prior knowledge to produce the strongest technical work possible?

3) Aesthetics (4 points): Student experimented with different design and compositional possibilities? Does the subject matter show the student’s passion/interest for the subject? Does the subject matter illustrate the student’s willingness to go out of their way for their photographs? Did the student carefully consider the impact of light and composition on the image?

4) Concept (4 points): What does the image communicate or suggest? Why is this image important during contemporary times? Why will your viewer be interested?

Final semester GRADES will be based on:

- Student Participation, Conduct & Attendance: 15 points
- Projects: 80 points
- Midterm exam: 15 points
- Final exam: 25 points

135 total points available

Course grades of A, B, C and D are based on a minimum of 90%, 80%, 70% and 60%, respectively of the total number of 145 points possible.

Required Text:
A Short Course in Digital Photography, second edition, 2012

The textbook is available in the campus bookstore for approximately $73.00 new or $55.00 used

Required Materials:
- A Digital Single Lens Reflex camera (DSLR) or a Mirror less System Camera. The camera must have manual focus, ISO settings, F-stop and shutter speed settings and an internal light meter. The camera must have working batteries. A UV filter and lens cap is highly recommended.
- Appropriate memory card for DSLR
- Memory card reader
- 2 - USB jump drive 4GB+ * Students must have two working USB thumb drives. Each drive must be labeled clearly with the students first and last name on the exterior of the drive. If the drive is not labeled the project will not be graded and the student will receive no credit. These drives should be dedicated to our class only as you will turn the drives in and they will not be returned until the following class meeting.
- A tripod is strongly recommended but not required
- Disinfectant towelettes and band aids
- 3 ring binder, paper, pen & pencil
- Sharpie marker

Recommended Photographic Supply Stores:

B & H Photo and Video
http://www.bhphotovideo.com/
Bel Air Camera (Westwood)
10925 Kinross Ave. @ Gayley in Westwood Village
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 208 - 5150

Canoga Camera (Canoga Park)
22065 Sherman Way
Canoga Park, CA 91303
(818) 346 - 5506

Cals's Camera (Costa Mesa)
1770 Newport Blvd.
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
(949) 646-9383

Freestyle Photo (Hollywood)
5124 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(323) 660-3460

Freestyle Photo (Santa Fe Springs)
12231 Florence Ave
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(323) 660-3460

Sammy’s Camera (Santa Ana)
3309h S. Bristol St, Santa Ana, CA 92704 (714)557-9400

Sammy’s Camera (Culver City)
4411 Sepulveda Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 450-4551

Sammy’s Camera (Hollywood)
431 S. Fairfax
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(323) 938 – 2420
Course Calendar

Week 1 Read: Chapter 1 The Camera
Monday, August 25
- Introductions, Course Syllabus and supplies
- Homework: purchase textbook and materials, acquire digital camera (be sure to bring camera to the next class)
Wednesday, August 27
- Lecture: Memory cards, Formatting
- Check cameras

Week 2 Read: Chapter 2 The Lens
Monday, September 1 – NO CLASS LABOR DAY
Wednesday, September 3
- Lecture: anatomy of the camera, exposure (ISO, aperture & shutter speed), light meter
- Homework: Bring camera to next meeting

Week 3 Read: Chapter 3, Light & Exposure
Monday, September 8
- Lecture (CONTINUED): anatomy of the camera, exposure (ISO, aperture & shutter speed), light meter
Wednesday, September 10
- Lecture: Depth of Field, Robert Frank, Review Formatting
- Present project # 1
- Homework: Shoot 24 images showing long and short depth of field and positive/negative images of your neighborhood or environment

Week 4
Monday, September 15
- Lecture: Camera Cleaning & Tripod Use
Wednesday, September 17
- Lecture: File Types & Sizes
- Homework: Prepare Project # 1 to turn in at the start of the next class meeting

Week 5
Monday, September 22
- Project # 1 due at the start of class today
- Critique 1
Wednesday, September 24
- Critique 1
- Homework: Read The Decisive Moment and answer questions

Week 6 Read: The Decisive Moment
Monday, September 29
- Lecture: Shutter speed, action & motion
Wednesday, October 1
- Decisive Moment questions due at the start of class today
- Discuss Henri Cartier Bresson and the decisive moment reading
- Present project # 2
- Homework: Shoot at least 24 images showing examples of the decisive moment and stop, pan or blur action

Week 7
Monday, October 6
- Lecture: White Balance
Wednesday, October 8
- Lecture: Camera Types
- Homework: Prepare project # 2 to turn in at the start of the next class meeting
Week 8
Monday, October 13
- Project # 2 due at the start of class today
- Critique 2
- Homework: Complete Mid Term Study Guide
Wednesday, October 15
- Review Mid Term Study Guide
- Critique 2
- Homework: Study for Mid Term Exam

Week 9 Read: Chapter 9
Monday, October 20
- Lecture: Compositional techniques, elements of design, the urban and natural landscape, John Humble, Edward Burtynsky
- Present project # 3
- Homework: Shoot at least 24 images showing examples of each compositional technique discussed in class and the natural/urban landscape
- Homework: Study for Mid Term Exam, Read: Chapter 9
Wednesday, October 22
- Mid term exam

Week 10 Read: Chapter 8
Monday, October 27
- Lecture: Qualities of light, your perspective on contemporary times, Hiroshi Sugimoto
- Present project # 4
- Homework: Shoot at least 24 images showing examples of each quality of light and your perspective on contemporary times
- Homework: Prepare project # 3 to turn in at the start of the next class meeting
- Homework: Read Chapter 8
Wednesday, October 29
- Project # 3 due at the start of class today
- Critique 3

Week 11
Monday, November 3
- Critique 3
Wednesday, November 5
- Project # 4 due at the start of class today
- Critique 4

Week 12
Monday, November 10
- Critique 4
Wednesday, November 12
- Lecture: Environmental portraits and indoor available light, review white balance, Mary Ellen Mark and Annie Leibovitz
- Present project # 5
- Homework: Shoot at least 24 images showing examples of indoor available light source and a variety of environmental portraits

Week 13
Monday, November 17
- Film Screening: Annie Leibovitz, Life Through The Lens (part 1)
Wednesday, November 19
- Film Screening: Annie Leibovitz, Life Through The Lens (part 2)
- Homework: Prepare project # 5 to turn in at the start of class
Week 14
  Monday, November 24
  - Project # 5 due at the start of class, **no late projects accepted!**
  - Critique 5
  Wednesday, November 26
  - Night shooting extra credit option

Week 15
  Monday, December 1
  - Critique 5
  Wednesday, December 3
  - Night shoot extra credit projects due today only
  - Night shoot critique, complete any other outstanding critiques
  - Homework: Complete your final exam study sheet

Week 16
  Monday, December 8
  - Final exam review
  - Homework: Study for your final exam
  Wednesday, December 10 **8:00am**
  - Final Exam