

Digital Photography Syllabus

DESCRIPTION...

Students will explore digital photography and related technologies for the production of fine art. Students will be given assigned readings and writings, will be asked to produce art work and will be asked to participate in class discussion to better understand the physical, conceptual and theoretical characteristics of the electronic media as it pertains to art and art making. Emphasis will be placed on the students' development of an understanding of photography and electronic imaging in a way that will help them to produce expressive and thoughtful works of art. Students will be introduced to the basic technology necessary for the production of their art work. **We will take LOTS of photographs.** Students will be expected to demonstrate an ability to use the tools competently in the production of their art work; however, the production and analysis of expressive and thoughtful art work is the main objective of this course. The elements and principles of design will provide a platform for formal composition and assignment production

COURSE OBJECTIVES...

By the end of the course students should:

- Have a clear knowledge of the principles of photography.
- Demonstrate historical knowledge of Photography ("photograms," camera obscura, pinhole camera)
- Consciously handle a digital photographic camera.
- Develop technical versatility and skills while using the visual elements and principles in compositional forms.
- Be able to photo document concepts (photographically interpret ideas).
- Control the format and resolution of a digital image according to its function.
- Have a clear knowledge of the computer hardware components affecting digital image manipulation and be able to perform basic manipulations through Adobe Photoshop and be able to create basic image presentations for digital projection
- Demonstrate understanding of vocabulary in reflections, written tests, classroom discussions, and critiques with teacher and classmates

METHODOLOGY ...

The course is theoretical and practical. Lectures present the theoretical aspect of the subjects with visual support and applied practical exercises in the classroom. Students will perform practice exercises to apply the lessons studied in the classroom. Students must complete all in class assignments which include the artistic ideation process, in-and out-of-class projects, reading, and research. All levels of studio art require that due dates be met. When questions arise, it is the responsibility of the student to meet with the instructor. Through studio practice, application of design concepts, and informed decision making, students will assemble a body of artwork that demonstrates quality and growth over time of content, technique, and process.

ARTISTIC INTEGRITY AND ISSUES OF COPYRIGHT

Students are expected to develop their personal imagery and to use artistic integrity throughout the course. Copyright issues are discussed early in the art program. Misuse of copyrighted materials is plagiarism. Student work that makes use of published images, and/or other artists' works **MUST** move beyond duplication.

CLASS RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES...

- Treat computers with care. Do not alter desktops and workspace in the software.
- Be respectful of others in your class.
- Store all books and materials for other classes in your "cubbie" during class time.
- No gum chewing or food while using the computers.
- Try hard, experiment, and have fun.
- Students are responsible for maintaining personal workspaces as well as actively participating in specific classroom maintenance tasks for the good of the studio environment.
- Students are responsible for the upkeep and management of their collected body of artwork.

REQUIREMENTS...

Adequate class time will be provided to complete MOST assignments during class time. However, additional time will be necessary to successfully take photographs and complete reading assignment. Since many of the actual photographs are taken outside of class time, each project timeframe includes 2-3 weekends.

WEEKLY REQUIREMENT

DAILY PHOTOS

- Students are required to submit **quality photos** on a **bi-weekly** basis. (Wednesday of Advisory week)

PROJECTS

Most photo projects are assigned the class following an Extended Period class and project is due the following Extended Period class day. Adequate class time will be provided to complete all assignments during class time. However, extra class time will be required to successfully take photographs and complete reading necessary to participate in class discussion. Since many of the actual photographs are taken outside of class time, each project timeframe includes 2-3 weekends.

CRITIQUES

- Critiques are an integral part of all classes. The class is expected to provide positive feedback and offer suggestions for improvement.
- Students are expected to engage in verbal and written critique/reflection of their own personal work as well as the work of their classmates and other artists.
- Students will reflect on own work and the work of peers with informed and critical decision making skills to make suggestions for improvement of personal work and the work of other students within individual and group critiques.
- The vocabulary of art will be used to form decisions about the work being discussed.

JOURNAL

- Journal topics and research assignments will be assigned on a regular basis. Some are associated with projects.
- Both directed and non-directed work should become a part of the content of the journal.

END OF SEMESTER PORTFOLIO:

- Students are expected to build and improve their work through self-reflection and critiques with their peers and teacher.
- Students select **TWENTY** pieces for presentation of their semester portfolio. The selection is an ongoing process of evaluation, reflection, critique and discussion to determine their portfolio pieces. Students understand that making art is an ongoing process informed by critical decision making as these selections are made. Semester portfolios should exhibit evidence of mastery in concept, composition, and execution.
- In the development of the portfolio, students should incorporate the elements of art and the principles of design into each work and incorporate ideas and concepts from art history, alternative formats, and visual culture studies.

EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT AND GRADING CRITERIA

Individual and experimental work adds complexity to the grading process. There are standards of quality in student work, and the evidence of thought, care, and effort demonstrated in the work that are discussed individually with students and in class critiques.

Assessments are embedded into daily course activities and include self-evaluations, teacher reviews, critiques and peer reviews.

Late assignments will be penalized one FULL letter per day. Late class work will be accepted up to 3 days after the due date. NO late assignments will be accepted beyond that time.

Projects that are **complete and turn in on time** may often be reworked for extra credit

CLASS RESOURCES

- PhotoShop CC Extended
- Studio lighting, umbrellas and Fabric Backdrop
- 18% GRAY CARD (several)
- Classroom has a "library" of instructional materials (art books, periodicals, reproductions, and digital images) that support the formulation of a creative problem and its comprehensive investigation.

INDIVIDUAL REQUIRED SUPPLY...

- Pringles can for Camera Obscura (Digital Photography 1 only)
- Digital Camera, memory card(s), batteries and Instruction Book.
 - A camera with manually adjustable aperture, shutter speed and focus is preferred. Cameras should have Aperture Priority mode. SLR cameras are strongly preferred over viewfinder cameras.
 - 16 gig flashdrive