Class Syllabus:

Instructor: Jamie Kyle  E-mail: Jamie.kyle@utah.edu  
Office: Bldg: Art RM: 364  Office Hours: MW 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Semester: Spring 2015  
Class Time: MW 4:35 PM-5:50 PM  
Class Location: M Lib 1745

Fulfills: Fine Art Exploration Requirement (3 credit hours).

Course Description:  
This course will introduce the mechanics and applications of digital photography as well as basic photographic concepts taught through a combination of lectures, photographic projects, and in-class group critiques of student work.

Course Objectives:  
Through this course, students will learn basic digital photographic practices through the use of in class lectures, demonstrations, in and out of class assignments and critiques. In return, the students will learn the following skills:

• A basic history of traditional and digital photography.
• The fundamentals on how to use a digital camera.
  o Proper expose of a photograph.
  o F-Stop and depth of field.
  o Shutter speeds.
  o White Balance.
  o Differences of light.
  o In camera editing techniques.
  o Transferring images from the camera to a computer.
• A beginning understanding of Adobe Photoshop CS5/CS6/Creative Cloud.
  o File types and sizes.
  o How to color correct an image using Levels and Curves.
  o Cropping.
  o Spot fixing.
  o Digital presentation of images.
  o Digital Manipulation of images.
• The foundations of digital photographic aesthetics and composition.
The art of photography.
- Beginning applications of photographic theory.
- Specific rules of composition.

Class Policies:

University Attendance Policy:
“You may not attend a University course unless you are officially registered and your name appears on the class roll. The University expects regular attendance at all class meetings. You are not automatically dropped from your classes if you do not attend. You must officially drop your classes by the published deadline in the academic calendar to avoid a "W" on your record. You are responsible for satisfying the entire range of academic objectives, requirements and prerequisites as defined by the instructor. If you miss the first 2 class meetings, or if you have not taken the appropriate requisites, you may be required to withdraw from the course. If you are absent from class to participate in officially sanctioned University activities (e.g. band, debate, student government, intercollegiate athletics), religious obligations, or with instructor's approval, you will be permitted to make up both assignments and examinations.”

My Attendance Policy:
This course is a studio class, meaning you are expected to be in class. A portion of your grade will consist of participation points. All late arrivals and absences will affect your participation points at the end of the semester. Excused absences will be handled on an individual basis. For an absence to be excused I must be contacted prior to the missed class, or very shortly after. Do not wait till the end of the semester to discuss absences with me. The sooner the absence is discussed, the more willing I am to excuse it. Any lecture material missed due to absence will not be repeated for individual students. In-class exercises missed due to absence becomes the responsibility of the student to make-up.

Tardiness Policy:
Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Any arrivals after the first fifteen minutes of class will be deemed “late”. Three late marks will be counted as one absence. Lecture material covered will not be repeated for late students. I understand that sometimes factors beyond your control may cause you to be late. If this is the case, come talk to me day of, and no later than the following class. We will handle things on an individual basis.

Course Materials:

Course Text:
Please note that the course text is not required. All readings will be provided digitally via Canvas.

**Camera:**
The camera MUST create a 5 megapixel image or larger. Almost all newer cameras shoot an image larger than the required minimum. A camera with these additional features will make the assignments easier:
- Ability to control the white balance.
- Some sort of aperture control.
- Either a shutter-priority or aperture-priority setting.

**Additional Items:**
- Gray Card (OPTIONAL but very helpful.)
- Tri-pod (OPTIONAL)
- A SD card reader OR the computer connection cable for your camera. Needed for file transfers from your camera to the computers.
- Camera user manual. Many of these will be available online. This is not required, but helpful when learning how to use your camera.
- Some sort of portable storage device (USB drive, portable hard drive, etc.) will be needed to transfer your files back and forth from computer to computer.

**Server Space:**
The school provides space on the Fine Art fileserver where you can also store your images. Requesting server space will be covered in the first class period. You MUST have access to the Fine Arts server in order to turn in your photo projects.

The fileserver address is **fs.fa.utah.edu**

Go to [http://helpdesk.finearts.utah.edu](http://helpdesk.finearts.utah.edu), select the Students tab and follow the instructions. There are also links on that site on how to connect to the fileserver using a Mac or PC.

**Adobe Creative Cloud:**
For this class we will rely heavily on Adobe Photoshop. This program is available on most campus computers. For working at home, the University is offering free accounts for Adobe Creative Cloud to all students free of charge. Adobe Creative Cloud will provide students with access to all Adobe products and software during the duration of their studies at the University. Visit the University Software Store for more information and to download Adobe Products.

[http://software.utah.edu](http://software.utah.edu)

**Student Conduct:**
From the General Handbook.
“All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.”

“Faculty…must strive in the classroom to maintain a climate conducive to thinking and learning.” PPM 8-12.3, B.

“Students have a right to support and assistance from the University in maintaining a climate conducive to thinking and learning.” PPM 8-10, II. A.

Plagiarism:
Any time you use someone else’s work and do not give credit to the source… that is plagiarism. Any cases of plagiarism will receive a failing grade on the assignment, and if repeated, the student will fail the course with the possibility of disciplinary action from the university. Review the University of Utah Plagiarism Policy for more details and/or the University of Utah Policy and Procedures Manual.

Along with plagiarism, images shot prior to the beginning of the semester cannot be used for class assignments. Any image files submitted for grading that lack the appropriate meta-data, will be subject to question.

Content Accommodations Policy:
Content Accommodation will be discussed the first day of class. As this is a Fine Art class, there is the possibility that some images shown during lectures may include mild nudity, violence, or things of a graphic nature. Many of these images will be historical in nature, and have an important role in the telling of photographic history. Beyond the warning the first day, there will be no effort made to censor images. If this is of concern to you, contact me as soon as possible. With that said, I do not know what sort of work students will create and show for critique. If there any images displayed with strong content, I will do my best to inform students who have discussed content accommodations with me before hand.

ADA Statement:
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the
class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 801-581-5020 (VTDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

Wellness Statement:
“Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For help resources contact the Center for Student Wellness; www.wellness.utah.edu; 801.581.776”

Assignments:
Here are the sorts of assignments to expect during this course.

Photo Based Work:
• Workshop Assignments – These assignments are generally short in-class assignments that focus on recently demonstrated technical skills. Many of these will revolve around correct camera use and Photoshop skills.
• Projects – Projects are worth more points than workshop assignments and will be allotted more time for working. These will focus on using the skills learned during workshops, to demonstrate understanding and creative concepts.
• Final Projects- Will be discussed in depth in class.

Photographer of Interest Assignments (POI):
• The POI Assignment will be covered in depth in class. This is an opportunity for each student to pick a photographer or style of photography that interest them. Each student will be asked to give a 5 to 10 minute power point presentation where they show the artists work, and explain why it appeals to them. They will then lead the class in a brief discussion about the work.

Gallery/Museum Visit:
• Students will be required to visit a gallery or museum of their choice. Students will select one work from the displayed work, and complete a one page write up about that work. More information will be given in class.

Reading/Quizzes:
• Reading assignments will be assigned to be completed outside class. All readings will be provided via Canvas. In class discussion or quizzes will follow each reading. Discussions will be counted for participation points.

Class Participation: Points for this are calculated from the following list.
• Discussions & Lectures
• Participation in class critiques.
• Good use of class time class time working on assignments.
• Attendance – see Attendance Policy section.

Late Work:
Late work will only be accepted one day past due with a 20% reduction in points. If circumstances beyond your control prevent you from turning in your work on time, you need to contact me ASAP. Students will be handled on an individual
basis. Any leniency in deadlines will only be considered if you talk to me ahead of time, or very shortly after the deadline. Do not wait until the end of the semester. Final projects will not be accepted late. In-class exercises may be completed late only for excused absences by the next class period. Any In-class exercises discussed or turned in later than one class period will have the 20% deducted.

**Grading:**

**Grading Criteria:**

**Photo Based Work:** Each of the photography projects will be graded on the following criteria. Expectations will always be discussed when a project is assigned.

1. Understand Did you turn in what was asked?
2. Concept/Subject Do the images fit the assignment?
3. Composition Do the images use compositional rules/pleasing?
4. Technical How well did you handle your camera?
5. Execution Were the images presented professionally?

**Points Total:**

This is a break down of how points will be weighted in determining your grade:

- **Projects 30%**
- **In-Class Exercises 20%**
- **Written assignments (POI, Gallery Visit, Experimental Research) 15%**
- **Quizzes 5%**
- **Class Participation 15%**
- **Final Project 15%**

**Grading Standards:**

The final grade is determined by a total of all the points received throughout the semester:

- **93 - 100 (%) A** Superior work, all criteria have been surpassed
- **90 - 92 A-** Excellent work all criteria have been surpassed
- **87 - 89 B+** Very good work, all criteria have been surpassed
- **83 - 86 B** Above average work,
- **80 - 82 B-**
- **77 - 79 C+**
- **73 - 76 C** Adequate, average work
- **70 - 72 C-**
- **67 - 69 D+**
- **63 - 66 D** Barely meeting criteria
- **60 - 62 D-** Not meeting the criteria
- **60 - E** Failure to meet criteria

NOTE: As Instructor, I hold the right to amend this syllabus at any time, given I inform all student of said changes.