Course Description:

This class serves as an introduction to the history, mechanics and applications of digital photography through a basic combination of lectures, reviews on the work of master photographers, class assignments and in-class critiques of student work.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will have learned basic digital photographic practices through active participation in class discussions, lectures, demonstrations, assignments and critiques. It is expected that students will become familiar with the following:

• A basic history of traditional and digital photography.
• The fundamentals of using a digital camera.
• Proper exposure of a photograph.
• Reasons for controlling F-Stops.
• Reasons for controlling Shutter speeds.
• White Balance.
• In camera editing techniques.
• Transferring images from the camera to a computer.
• A beginning understanding of Adobe Photoshop CS6.
• Different File types.
• How to color correct an image using Levels and Curves.
• Cropping.
• Healing.
• Non-destructive Editing.
• Digital presentation of images.
• Printing digital images.
• The art of photography.
• Beginning applications of photographic theory.
• Specific rules of composition.


Camera: Student’s camera MUST create a 6 megapixel image or larger. Almost all newer cameras shoot an image larger than the required minimum. Your camera MUST have the following features:

• Ability to control the white balance.
• Manual aperture control.
• Manual shutter control.
• Manual ISO Control.
Additional Items:

- 18% Gray Card.
- Tri-pod.
- You will need some sort of portable storage device such as a USB drive, portable hard drive and/or card reader. It makes it easier to transfer your files back and forth from computer to computer.

Server Space:

The College of Fine Arts provides space on a fileserver where you can also store your images. You first need to request an account before the second week of classes. You will be turning in all your digital photographs there. Follow the links below for help.

The fileserver address is fs.fa.utah.edu

Go to 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.

Class Structure: The lectures and demos will not be repeated. If you are late, you will need to get the information from someone else in the class.

Assignments:

We will have a variety of assignments that will help you better understand the how, when, where and why of digital photography.

Photographic assignments: You will be graded on 9 photographic assignments in addition to your participation during critiques, discussions, and demos.

- In-Class Exercises – There will be four In-Class Exercises. These are technical Assignments to help you better understand your camera and Photoshop. In class assignments make up a large portion of your grade and require you attendance and participation in class.
- Projects – These five assignments are meant to teach you how to use photography as an art form.

Written assignments:

- Artist Reviews – You will write two Artist Reviews. The reviews are a chance for you to learn about important historical and contemporary photographers, their methods and artwork. I will provide you with a list of photographers to choose from. If other photographers interest you, please ask me for permission to use them.
- Gallery/Museum Visit – You will be visiting a gallery or museum and writing a review as if you were a newspaper reporter.

You will be turning in all written assignments using Canvas. Make sure that your name appears at the top of the document as well as in the file name. Reports should be one page typed in 12pt Times New Roman and double-spaced. I will deduct points for bad grammar.

Reading/Quizzes:

- Reading assignments – You may be given several reading assignments. Understanding the readings allows you to be part of class discussions (which is part of your participation grade).
• Quizzes – Quizzes are based on readings, lectures and discussions.

Class Participation: Points for this are calculated from the following list.

• Discussions & Lectures – You will be asked a lot of questions during lectures, so answer them. We also review all the assignments so feedback is appreciated.

• Critiques – The critique is a valuable learning tool where you hear from your peers and the instructor on what you are doing well or what needs to improve in the artwork. You will be required to stand up in front of the class during a critique.

• Attendance

Grading Policy: In-Class exercises, quizzes and your final project WILL NOT be accepted if turned in late. All other assignments MUST be turned in by the due date and time listed on the assignment sheet. If a project is turned in late, 15% will instantly be deducted. For each day past the due date (that is day of the week not class period), an additional 15% per day will be deducted. After 4 days, the project will NOT be accepted for grading and you will receive 0 points for the assignment. If a student is not happy with a grade, the assignment may be reworked and submitted for a re-grade. However, the re-grade points are only worth half. For example, you received 15 out of 20, the difference is 5 points, so you are entitled to earn back 2.5 of those points. To qualify for re-grading, the original assignment must be turned in on time. Late assignments are not eligible for re-grading.

If a student wishes to discuss grades, please set up an appointment.

Grading Criteria:
Photography Assignments: Each of the photography-based assignments (Projects and In-Class Exercises) will be graded on these five criteria:

1. Understanding the assignment Did you turn in what was asked?
2. Conceptual elements Do the images fit the assignment’s concepts?
3. Composition Are the images dynamic?
4. Technical skills How well did you utilize your camera?
5. Execution Were the images presented professionally?

All digital images must be resized correctly and turned in via Canvas. No Exceptions.

Due Dates:
Jan 28, Written Assignment #1 Due
Feb 16, Project #1 Due
Feb 23, Project #2 Due
Mar 08, Written Assignment #2 Due
Mar 22, Project #3 Due
Mar 31, Project #4
Apr 05, Written Assignment Gallery Review Due
Apr 19, Final Project Due
Grading Standards:

- A Superior work, all criteria have been surpassed
- A-
- B+ Excellent work all criteria have been surpassed
- B Very good work, all criteria have been surpassed
- B-
- C+ Adequate work,
- C Barely meeting criteria
- D Failure to meet criteria
- E Failure to meet criteria

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."

Class attendance is part of your Participation grade. This is a studio art course and you are required to be in attendance. Four unexcused absences will result in receiving a 0 for participation points. Excused absences will be reviewed on an individual basis. If a student adds the class after the beginning of the semester, the student is required to make up all assignments.

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 II 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: Successful students always make sure that their work is original. This is important because the instructor must be able to gauge what the student has learned. Therefore, copying the work of another person, whether for an essay, answers on your assignments or during a test, is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Any time a student uses someone else's work and does not give that person credit it is plagiarism. Anyone who plagiarizes will receive a failing grade on the assignment. If this is repeated, the student will fail the course and can be expelled from the university. If you are “suspected” of plagiarism, you will bear the burden of proof. You must be able to present rough drafts or related materials and discuss the topic intelligently. Refer to the University of Utah Plagiarism Policy for more details and/or the University of Utah Policy and Procedures Manual.
Remember: never assume that material found on the Internet is not copyrighted. Use of copyrighted material falling beyond the limitations of 'Fair Use' as described in section 107 of the copyright law without written consent of its author is not only inappropriate for this class it is a crime and will be seen as plagiarism.

Cell Phones: All cell phones must be TURNED OFF (this includes alarms on your phone or laptop) at all times during the class. If I hear a cell phone during the lecture, the student will be asked to leave the class and receive an unexcused absence for the day. If you need to have your cell phone on during the lecture, please discuss it with me first.

Accommodations Policy: Some of the material that will be discussed and shown during the lectures may conflict with your personal values. Some of the historical images will have nudity or scenes of a graphic nature. I will try to let the class know prior to the lecture if there are some strong images so those students who want to leave prior to class may do so. Many of these images are important in both art history and historical contexts. There will not be any accommodations made to substitute or censor this information. Also, as a studio art class, I do not know what every student will show for critique.

If a student wishes to leave prior to the lecture, he or she must get the lecture notes from a fellow student. If you have concerns about this, please come speak with me as soon as possible.

Online Courtesy & Communication Policy:

Extreme consideration for the feelings of others is expected. People cannot see you smile and may not know when you are joking. Do not tell people they are stupid or wrong. Do explain why you believe differently. If someone has the facts wrong, direct them to the source of accurate information or politely offer your alternative “facts.” Use of profanity or direct/indirect insults which defame a person’s character, race, ethnicity, religion, etc. are inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

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.

This syllabus in not a binding legal contract, the instructor may modify it when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.