Photography I- 42589- Art 2810-002
Class meets in #113
Monday and Wednesday, 3:30PM - 6:15PM
Office hours: Tuesday: 11AM - 1PM
Course fee: 90$
Fazilat Soukhakian
Fazilat.soukhakian@usu.edu
Fazilat.soukhakian@gmail.com

Course Description
This course is intended for students seeking a knowledge of digital photography but who do not have any prior photographic experience. The primary goal of this course is to develop an understanding of compositional issues, learning how to work with multiple lenses and appropriate use for each subject, learning the most important technical aspect of working with a digital camera (i.e. how digital cameras work, digital vs. optical zoom, ISO, exposure compensation controls, white balance, histograms, metering, shooting modes, self-timer, use of flash), and apply their knowledge to shoot creative photographs. Review of artist’s works that have been a major influence in the field and which reflect broader issues in visual culture. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between an artistic technique and the expression of a work’s underlying concept. Analyze cultural production using standards appropriate to the form and context. Analyze and interpret material and performance culture in its social, historical and personal context; and engage in the artistic process, including conception, creation, and ongoing critical analysis. Assignments include learning basic camera anatomy, functions, and digital applications. Students must provide their own digital camera (SLR or compact digital) and needs a basic working knowledge of computer operations.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the semester, students will:

1. Demonstrate competency in the handling and operation of a digital point and shoot camera through visual experience.
2. Gain basic understanding of digital darkroom software, application and equipment.
3. Demonstrate an ability to identify, understand and effectively use compositional elements in their photographs.
4. Understand & apply photographic principles to visual assignments.
5. Learn how photographic technology can create artistic vision.
6. Build critical thinking and problem solving skills and learn formal art principles of image composition and design.
7. Learn to communicate ideas visually through photographs.
8. Learn how to discuss their work verbally and give constructive feedback to others in group critiques.
9. Become independent thinkers who will contribute inventively and critically to the culture through the making of art photography.
10. Identify their area of interest in photography by presenting small projects related to that area.
11. Gain esthetic appreciation of the world’s great photographers.

By the end of semester, students will be able to utilize their photographic skills in order to create photographs with intention, purpose and artistic vision.

Projects and Assignments
There will be a series of three projects, each addressing an aspect of digital photography. Students will be evaluated on the novelty of their approach as well as the depth and sophistication of their exploration of the project. All projects must be completed on time and according to the specifications set forth in the project description.

1. Exposure
To gain a basic understanding of metering principles, white balance and ISO and to learn how to refine exposure choices by accurately interpreting meter readings and using histograms in a variety of lighting situation.

2. Motion and Atmosphere: Camera and subject motion, blur and shutter speed

3. Final Project (Narrative):
Students will be asked to present a photo story (containing seven pictures) in order to combine their technical knowledge with the aesthetic understanding of photographic image. Students will be encouraged to choose a topic based on their personal interest and experience.

Supplies and materials:
The following supplies are required:

- Digital camera with a minimum of 6 megapixels, optical zoom (preferable) and manual mode OR exposure compensation capability. (no cell phone cameras)
- Camera manual
- Appropriate memory card(s) (minimum 1 Gigabyte storage capacity) and batteries
- Computer (laptop preferred, but desktop will suffice)
- Storage and backup device for saving photos (i.e. laptop computer, portable hard drive, CD-R’s and/or thumb drives.)
- Picture viewing software (Manufacturer software, Microsoft picture viewer, iPhoto, etc)
- A good, stable tripod is recommended, but not required.

Required text
Course Schedule

Week 1-

**August 31 Monday**- Course introduction & assignments overview.
**September 2 Wednesday** – short lecture on history of photography. Students will present their favorite photographer and their works.

Week 2-

**September 7 Monday – Labor Day**
**August 9 Wednesday** – Bring the camera, charged battery, memory card, and camera manual. Reviewing five examples of student’s previous work (amateur photographs). Creating five group of students (each group containing four students) to photograph various subjects before learning the basic skills of photography. Reviewing the photographs.

Week 3-

**September 14 Monday – Demo (ISO and Shutter Speed)**: Basic camera anatomy functions and controls: white balance, ISO, focus, exposure and menu settings. Presenting the works of two influential photographers from early 20th century.
**September 16 Wednesday – Result Presentation/ Work day**

****Sept 19 – Spiral Jetty Department trip (extracurricular)

Week 4-

**September 21 Monday- Demo: Exposure Control (ISO / Aperture)**
**September 23 Wednesday** – Results Presentation/ In-Class research and sharing session of photographs that are examples of effective and successful photographs.

Week 5-

**September 28 Monday – Critique day.**
**September 30 Wednesday – Demo:** Aperture and Depth-of-field: concept, controls and applications, creative use of perspective/ group shooting and discussion.

Week 6-
October 5 Monday – Result Presentation/ Work day
October 7 Wednesday- Project 1 Due: Final critique

Week 7-

October 12 Monday – Lecture: Exploring composition: Rule of thirds, Shooting vertical vs. horizontal, Choosing a point of interest, Adjusting your angle of view, Placing subjects off center, lines, backgrounds.
October 14 Wednesday – Presentation day/ In class, group work: research and sharing session of examples of creative composition

Week 8-

October 19 Monday - Introduce Project 2: Motion and Atmosphere/ Camera and subject motion, blur and shutter speed/group shooting and discussion.
October 21 Wednesday - Work day/ Presentation

Week 9-

October 26 Monday - Lecture on Color Theory/ In class research and sharing the sessions of creative use of color in photography (group work)
October 28 Wednesday - Demo: Basic Studio Lighting in Photo studio: Nicolas Gialanella

Week 10-

November 2 – Monday – Work day and Presentation
November 4 Wednesday – Individual meetings.

Week 11-

November 9 Monday– Final Critique/ Project 2.
November 11 Wednesday - Presentation day: Students introduce their area of interest in Photography/ example of the well-known photographers work

Week 12-

November 16 Monday – Introduce Final Project: Narrative/ Lecture on contemporary photo projects.
November 18 Wednesday – (Nick Gialanella) Introduction to Printing
Week 13-

November 23 Monday – Work day.
November 25 Wednesday – Thanksgiving Break

Week 14-

November 30 Monday - Work Critique (presentation of the draft of final project).
December 2 Wednesday- Individual meetings.

Week 15-

December 7 Monday – Work day.
December 9 Wednesday: Final project Due/ Critique day.

December 14th: Clean-up.

Policies and Procedures

Method of Evaluation:
Design will be assessed according to how well the work addresses the intended objectives of the exercise and shows growth in vision, composition and use of materials to create quality work. This is in addition to thoughtful participation in the discussion of the exercise. Additionally, the grade will be determined by your productive concentration during class exercises and the initiative shown in outside projects. Work will be graded according to following scale:

A - Outstanding: The quality is performed to a very high standard of proficiency for this level of the program.
B - Very Good: The quality is performed to a high standard. The student has reached a level which clearly exceeds "competency."
C - Good/Competent: The quality is clearly demonstrated without being exceptional in any way. This grade represents adequate completion of the work assigned.
D- Satisfactory: The quality is demonstrated to a minimally acceptable level. There may be flaws, but they are not serious enough to fail the student on this quality.
F: Unsatisfactory: The quality is absent or performed to a very low level, or performance is seriously flawed. This is a failing mark.
Overall grade will be based on the realization of our IDEA objectives as follows:

**Gaining factual knowledge** (terminology, classification, methods and trends)
- Technical realization of projects (i.e. correct application of assigned photographic processes)
- Demonstration of acquired knowledge reflected in class discussions and on quizzes

**Developing creative capacities**

- Quality of project presentations and relevance of conceptual approach (i.e. artistic realization of given theme)

**Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments and points of view**

- Active verbal participation in class and critique sessions and students’s presentation (i.e. significant contribution to class discourse, including being prepared to discuss assigned readings and/or current projects)

**Grading Scale:**

- **A 100-95%**
- **A- 94-90%**
- **B+ 89-85%**
- **B 84-80%**
- **B- 79-85%**
- **C+ 74-70%**
- **C 69-65%**
- **C- 64-60%**
- **D 59-55%**
- **F 54% and below**

**Verbal Participation**

Students are required to active verbal participation in all class sessions. A percentage of your final grade is used to evaluate the quality and significance of demonstrated statements. Quality and quantity of active verbal participation will ultimately determine participation grade. The same grading scale applies as listed above.

**Attendance**

Students are allowed a maximum of 2 unexcused absences per semester. 2 tardy arrivals (more than 10 minutes late) will count as 1 absence. Information you miss due to absence is your responsibility. Any additional absences require a legitimate, written excuse. Excused absences will require official documentation stating why the student was not able to attend that particular class period and must be worked out with instructor in advance whenever possible. After 2 absences, your grade will be affected accordingly:

- 3 unexcused absences - drop one letter grade for the course
4 unexcused absences - drop two grades
5 unexcused absences - instructor may drop the student from the class

*Critique days are an exception – any absence will result in an immediate drop in letter grade for the project (provided the assignment is turned in on time).*

Due Dates and Work Habits:
Work shall be defined as "exercise" (work done in class, under instruction) and "projects" (assignments done outside of the class time). Exercises will be due at the date provided on the assignment sheets. These due dates will be labeled as "Critique & Working Critique," during which the work will be discussed. We cannot discuss works that are not complete. Students are expected to spend time outside of class in order to successfully resolve the projects. Work handed in a day late will be downgraded one full letter grade. After that, work will not be accepted. Throughout the semester, one project may be redone; substantial improvement is required to improve the grade, but the grade will not be further reduced. The photo- and computer labs are shared space. Please be sure to leave the area clean at the end of each class.

Objectionable Material:
Be advised that some fine art photography studied in this course may contain nudity or other sensitive content. If you find the material objectionable, you are encouraged to discuss your concerns with the instructor. Pornography is against university’s policies.

Academic Misconduct:
Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Students involved in academic misconduct will be penalized. Misconduct includes cheating, deception, dishonesty, disruption of class and plagiarism. Penalties include failure of the assignment, failure of the course and reporting to the Director of Judiciaries, which could lead to suspension or dismissal from the university.

Special Needs and Accommodations:
The Americans with Disabilities Act states: “Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center, preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille.

Diversity Statement:
Utah State University is committed to creating a community that affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences and supports the realization of their human potential. We recognize that there are differences among groups of people and individuals based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation, and geographical area. All persons are encouraged to respect the individual differences of others.

Sexual Harassment:
Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Office, located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the office at 797-1266.