

Sam Houston State University  
College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication FALL I 2017  
Department of Art Course Syllabus

ARTS 2375.03 CRN 84364 Photographic Concepts Section

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Emily Peacock

Location: AB3 114C

Phone #: (936) 294-1197 & Cell Phone: (409) 626-4596

Physical Office Hours: By appointment ONLY email: [stdeap@shsu.edu](mailto:stdeap@shsu.edu)

Course Catalog Description: Students are introduced to basic camera functions and concepts, use of visual design elements and articulation of personal ideas through the medium of fine art photography. Credits: 3.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to –

- 1) Make a perfectly exposed photograph using manual camera settings.
- 2) Demonstrate understanding of shutter speed, aperture, and ISO.
- 3) Apply visual elements of design and composition to photographic image making.
- 4) Edit a photographic image using basic Photoshop, Bridge and Lightroom tools.
- 5) Choose the proper white balance for photographing in various lighting situations.
- 6) Use photography as a tool to express visual ideas and concepts.
- 7) Critique and discuss photographic images.

Course Audience: This course is designed for entry level Photography majors or minors, BFA Studio, Computer Animation, and Graphic Design majors. It is part of the Art Core in the BFA degree plan and is required by all BFA majors in the Art Department.

Course Description: Students are introduced to basic camera functions and concepts, use of visual design elements, and articulation of personal ideas through the medium of fine art photography. Students will learn to use the photography as a creative tool to express themselves visually.

Course Supplies:

**DSLR Camera** with manual capabilities (ie. ability to change shutter speed, aperture, and ISO). The Photography Program does have a few cameras that may be checked out for student use during this course. Please let the instructor know ASAP if you will need a camera.

**Adobe Creative Cloud subscription (Photoshop and Lightroom).** If you do not currently have a subscription, you may subscribe for one month to the Photography version - <https://creative.adobe.com/plans?promoid=VBF1KRH4&mv=other>

As with other courses in the Art Department, this course requires a **Macbook Pro**. Please follow the link below to view the Art Department's Laptop policy and requirements for your major:  
<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/resources/laptop-initiative.html>

**Lynda.com account** – each student will receive a request to register to Lynda.com it is important to activate your account if you have not done so. If you have used Lynda.com in other courses, your account should still be activated and ready to use. Remember Lynda.com is a free resource to Art Dept. students and is an excellent resource. Please contact Megan Barrett in the Art Office if you have issues with registering: stdmlh19@SHSU.EDU or (936)294-1315

Epson Photo Quality Ink Jet Paper, 8.5" x 11" or larger, surface optional.

Note: Paper must be compatible with pigment ink jet printers. For best results, use Epson paper only unless approved by instructor.

**Tripod** (optional)

**Sketchbook** (optional)

**Various Lenses and external flash** (optional)

Communication and Collaboration: As the instructor, I will be checking my email every day and frequently logging into Blackboard. I will respond to your questions as soon as I possibly can. Email will be the fastest mode of communication for me as I will be accessing it even when I'm not at home or in the office. If you need a face to face meeting, I am happy to schedule an appointment in person. I will need at least a 24-hour notice since I do not live in Huntsville.

Assignments / Requirements: Students are expected to turn in all assignments by the stated due date and time. Late work will not be accepted. The projects are designed to teach a technical skill and provide opportunity for creative exploration. Think about content. Don't just complete the assignment for the sake of completion.

Critique Etiquette and Procedure: One of the most important aspects of a face to face art/photo class is receiving feedback from classmates. It is vital to the success of the class and personal growth as photographers that everyone participates in discussions and provides constructive feedback to classmate's images. Remember, we are trying to help each other and all comments should be beneficial to the recipient. Try to make at least one supportive comment: what is working or a strong aspect of the images? Next, try to make at least one comment about an aspect of the photograph that could be improved or approached in a different manner. Think about what the image is saying to you or how it makes you feel. This type of feedback can be helpful to your classmates as well.

Grading: **Please note that all visual art is subjective, however you will learn to honestly judge your own work.** Always ask yourself if you have put your best effort into your work. Can you do better? All grades are non-negotiable.

Course grades will be determined as follows: Weight of each component subject to change.

1. Assignment 1.....	10%
2. Assignment 2 .....	10%
3. Assignment 3 .....	10%
4. Assignment 4.....	10%
5. Assignment 5.....	10%
6. Assignment 6.....	10%
7. Final Project .....	20%
8. Participation and Reading Assign .....	5%
9. In class assignments.....	15%

Please review the following criteria:

**A** Super Amazing and excellent! A's are given to students who go the extra mile. Simply completing the assignments will not result in an A. In order to get an A in this class, students are expected to be shooting throughout the semester, participate in class discussions, and present work regularly in critiques. This work should demonstrate strong technical and conceptual development.

**B** Well above average - completion of all assignments and work strong work shows progress and conceptual development.

**C** Average. Complete. Competent. Most photos are average.

**D** Below average work. Incomplete assignments and/or failure to show progress will result in a D.

**F** Unacceptable work for a college student.

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [http://www.shsu.edu/~slo\\_www/](http://www.shsu.edu/~slo_www/)

All work must be your own, generated by you alone and it must be completed this semester for this course. Any violation of these policies will result in an F for the semester. No **DOUBLE DIPPING!** (no using work from other photography classes.)

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with

Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/811006.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf)

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:** Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holyday as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in

which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf)

**VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case by case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

#### **USE OF PHONE & TEXT MESSAGING IN THE CLASSROOM**

Cell phones must be turned off or silenced prior to the beginning of each class (no texting). You will be asked to leave and be counted absent if you are texting or taking calls in class. Please use a sketchbook or your journal for taking notes. Computer and cell phone LCD screens are disruptive to both the instructor and other students during slide lectures. Repeated disruptions will result in a reduction of a student's final course grade.

## DEPARTMENT OF ART BFA REVIEW

The purpose of the BFA Review is to ensure that students have learned basic principles and techniques needed for advanced art courses. All Art students must successfully complete all of the Art Foundation courses and the BFA Review before being accepted into a BFA program in Computer Animation, Photography, or Studio Art. Graphic Design has a separate BFA Review. The Art Foundation Courses are WASH, Drawing, and Foundations in Digital Art. (ARTS 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, & 2313). Students must pass each course with a grade of C or higher to take the BFA Review and proceed to upper level courses. The semester after all of the Foundation courses are complete, students must sign up for the BFA Review. Students should see an art advisor every semester to ensure they take the BFA Review on time. It should be taken the semester immediately following the completion of the Foundation Courses. Students who do not pass the BFA Review may re-take it the following semester. Students who do not pass on the second attempt will not be allowed to continue as BFA majors, but may follow the degree plan for the BA in Art. Nonparticipation after signing up or being advised to sign up will count as a failure of that semester's review. Graphic Design students must complete Principles of Graphic Design (ARTS 2323) and participate in a BFA Review at the end of the semester that they are enrolled in Typography (ARTS 3322). For more information on the BFA review see the Department of art web page: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/review/>

## DEFACING UNIVERSITY PROPERTY

Do not paint on concrete, asphalt, trees, sides of buildings, etc. When using any kind of paint use a drop cloth or tarp to protect the surface from overspray. Defacing university property is prohibited by university policy. Students will be held responsible for the cost of damages to the facilities.

<b>Calendar FALL 2017</b>		
August 23, Wednesday	Overview of Syllabus	
August 28, Monday	Camera Functions Lecture	Assignment 1 Camera Functions
August 30, Wednesday	In Class shooting Assignment	
September 4, Monday	LABOR DAY	
September 6, Wednesday	Class Cancelled	
September 11, Monday	Assignment 1 DUE Critique	Assignment 2 Composition, Line, and

		Form
September 13, Wednesday	Composition Lecture	
September 18, Monday	Intro to Bridge and Photoshop	
September 20, Wednesday	Work day/Individual Meetings	
September 25, Monday	Assignment 2 DUE Critique	Assignment 3 - Night and Low Light
September 27, Wednesday	Introduction to Printing	
October 2, Monday	Continue to Print Images/Work day	
October 4, Wednesday	Intro to Lightroom	
October 9, Monday	Assignment 3 DUE Critique	Assignment 4- Still Life
October 11, Wednesday	In Class Shooting Assignment/ Basic lighting techniques	
October 16, Monday	Work day/ In Class Shooting Assignment Critique	
October 18, Wednesday	Work day/Individual Meetings	
October 23, Monday	Assignment 4 DUE Critique	Assignment 5- Surreal and Dreams
October 25, Wednesday	Field Trip TBA	MFAH
October 30, Monday	Work day/ In Class Shooting Assignment Critique	
November 1, Wednesday	Work day/Individual Meetings	
November 6, Monday	Assignment 5 DUE Critique	Assignment 6 Self-Portrait
November 8, Wednesday	Field Trip TBA	Writing Assignment
November 13, Monday	Writing Assignment DUE	
November 15, Wednesday	Assignment 6 DUE Critique	Assignment 7 Final Portfolio
November 20, Monday	Individual meetings In Class Work Day -Printing	Continue Working on Final Portfolio
November 22, Wednesday	THANKSGIVING BREAK	Continue Working on Final Portfolio

November 27, Monday	Continue Individual meetings In Class Work Day- Printing	Continue Working on Final Portfolio
November 29, Wednesday	Last Class Day - Final Portfolio Critique	
December 4-7	Final Exams	