

Course Syllabus

Photographic Concepts

ARTS 2375, Section 80661

3 Credit Hours

Spring Semester, 2018

Class Location: ONLINE

Class Meeting Times: ONLINE

Instructor: Divya Murthy

Office Location: ONLINE

Instructor Contact Information: E-Mail: divyam@shsu.edu

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment, please email me to schedule

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.

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 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) **Critically evaluate and discuss photographic images.**

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

Course Description: This course is an introduction to photographic image making, editing, and production. Students will learn to use the photography as a creative tool to express themselves visually.

Course Supplies:

- **DSLR Camera with manual capabilities** (i.e. ability to change shutter speed, aperture, and ISO). **Other types of cameras and phone cameras will NOT be accepted.**
- **Tripod**
- **Logbook/Sketchbook –**
 - **To Keep Track Of Your Settings** (EX: F/Stop, Shutter Speed, ISO, Subject Matter, Lighting)
- **This course requires a Macbook Pro and Adobe Creative Cloud** (Photoshop- required) and Lightroom (optional). 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.

*OPTIONAL SUPPLIES

- **Various Lenses**
- **Textbooks:**
 - Photography (12th Edition or recent editions)
by Barbara London, Jim Stone, John Upton **ISBN-13: 978-0134482026 ISBN-10: 0134482026**
 - Criticizing Photographs (5th Edition or recent editions)
 - by Terry Barrett **ISBN-13: 978-0073526539 ISBN-10: 0073526533**

Course Content and Structure:

This is an online course. Students will be expected to log in at least a few times every week and view PDF/slide shows, Lynda.com assigned programs, upload images for critique and comment on classmates images. There will be exercises and projects scheduled weekly, at the discretion of the instructor.

Communication and Collaboration:

As the instructor, I will be checking my email and logging in to Blackboard throughout the week. 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. For this course, we will be using discussion boards for critiques and class discussions. Grades **will be posted for each assignment within 1-2 weeks after the due date**. Announcements and streaming media will also be used as a means of communication.

Assignments / Requirements:

Weekly and some Daily assignments will be given. **Students are expected to turn in all assignments by the stated due date and time. Late work will not be accepted.** In order to get full credit, you must make comments on your classmate's images for each assignment. 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:

Being an online course, please keep in mind:

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 classmates 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 image? Next, try to make constructive comments 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.

If Critique participation and etiquette become a concern, then we will review it further.

Grading:

Please note that all visual art is subjective, however you will learn to honestly judge your own work. Always ask yourself whether or not you have put your best effort into your work. Can you do better? **All grades are non-negotiable.**

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.

POLICIES REGARDING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, AND STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS CAN BE FOUND AT

[HTTP://WWW.SHSU.EDU/SYLLABUS/](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/)

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (ACADEMIC POLICY 3810213)

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: [Dean of Student's Office](#)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY (ACADEMIC POLICY #811006)

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 should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). 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 Services for Students with Disabilities 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 Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY (ACADEMIC POLICY 3 861001)

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 holy day 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: </dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES POLICY (ACADEMIC POLICY 3 861001)

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/bb0d849d-6af2-4128-a9fa-f8c989138491.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 (ACADEMIC POLICY #100728)

(Possible text) Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Please *turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins*. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

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 or Graphic Design. Graphic Design students must also pass a separate Graphic Design Review after the 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. Non-participation after signing up or being advised to sign up will count as a failure of that semester's review.

Graphic Design students must pass the BFA Review, 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

Defacing University property is prohibited by University policy. It is also a criminal offense. Students will be held responsible for the cost of damages to the facilities. Violations will be reported to University Police.

Students should not paint on concrete, asphalt, trees, sides of buildings, interior walls or floors of buildings, locker doors, etc. When using any kind of paint use a drop cloth or tarp to protect the surface from overspray.

DEPARTMENT OF ART LAPTOP REQUIREMENT

Students in the Department of Art are required to own a laptop as specified by each BFA program. Macintosh laptops are strongly recommended and can be purchased at discounted rates for students. The specifications for each BFA program and links to the Apple Store can be found on the Department of Art website: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/resources/laptop-initiative.html> . Students will be required to have laptops and the Adobe Creative Suite software in art courses that require computers. Laptops must meet or exceed the specifications described and be capable of interfacing with Department printers and other peripheral devices.

Week		Reading Assignments and Activities
Pre-week	Jan 17-21	Read Syllabus, Introduction Videos, Ice Breaker Cliché exercise
1	Jan 22- 28	Watch <u>Lynda.com</u> Course: Foundations in Photography Unit 1- Assignment #1: Motion and the Illusion of Motion
2	Jan 29-Feb 4	Unit 1- Assignment #2: Playing with Depth of Field
3	Feb 5-11	Unit 2- Assignment #1: Shape and Emphasis
4	Feb 12-18	Unit 2- Assignment #2: Line, Balance, and Space
5	Feb 19-25	Unit 2- Assignment #3: Texture, Pattern, Unity
6	Feb 26- Mar 4	Unit 2- Assignment #4: Contrast and Value
7	Mar 5-11	Unit 3- Assignment #1: White Balance
8	Mar 12-18	Spring Break
9	Mar 19-25	Unit 3- Assignment #2: Color Cast & Content
10	Mar 26- April 1	Unit 3- Assignment #3: Bold & Subtle Color / Color Emphasis
11	April 2-8	Unit 4- Assignment #1: Night Photography
12	April 9-15	Unit 4- Assignment #2: Dark Images
13	April 16-22	Unit 5- Assignment #1: Constructed Landscapes
14	April 23-29	Unit 5- Assignment #2: Portraits
15	April 30- May 6	Final Week
All semester		Attendance / Participation 10%

ARTS 2375 Photographic Concepts Section

The content and style of these projects are subject to change at the discretion of the professor

Introductions

Syllabus

Introduction Video	(10 points)	
Clichés (ice breaker exercise)	(5 points)	= 15 points

UNIT 1

How A Camera Works

Motion and the Illusion of Motion	(45 points)	
Depth of Field (object)	(45 points)	
Crit / Comments	(10 points)	= 100 points

UNIT 2

Formal Elements / Composition

Shape

Emphasis

Line

Balance

Space

Texture

Pattern

Unity / Continuity

Contrast & Value

Crit / Comments = 100 points (10 each)

UNIT 3

Color

White Balance	(25 points)	
Color Cast & Content	(25 points)	
Bold & Subtle Color	(25 points)	
Crit / Comments	(10 points)	= 85 points

UNIT 4

Dark / Night Images

Night Photo	(45 points)	
Dark Photo	(45 points)	
Crit / Comments	(10 points)	= 100 points

UNIT 5

Making Photographs

Constructed Landscapes	(45 points)	
Portraits	(45 points)	
Crit / Comments	(10 points)	= 100 points

500 Points Possible

450 – 500 = A

400 – 449 = B

350 – 399 = C

300 – 349 = D

Below 300 = F
