

Syllabus & Course Outline

Fall 2012: Art 154 Intro to Digital Photo : Item # 0692

This document provides a general description of the course including content, objectives, structure, required resources, and basic expectations for successful performance. For more specific questions about equipment and class policies, please consult with your instructor.

This course consists of a three hour lecture, three hour lab plus your personal time outside class for a total of five units.

INSTRUCTOR	Chad White, Faculty Head of Photography
CONTACT	chad.white@bellevuecollege.edu
OFFICE HOURS	Rm C252 Mon-Thu 8:00 -9:15am, or by appointment
WEB SITE	http://stopdownstudio.com/art154/
LECTURE TIME	Wednesdays, 1:30 -4:20pm, Rm N202
LAB TIME	Mondays 1:30 -4:20pm, Rm N202
MIDTERM EXAM	Wednesday 11/14, Rm N202
FINAL EXAM	Wednesday, 12/07, Normal scheduled class Rm N202

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

We are in the midst of a major revolution in how we conceive of and represent our visual world. The tools that are available to us as photographers change quite literally week by week and it has never been easier to make technically successful pictures. With that in mind, this class is an introduction to the fundamental vocabulary and techniques of digital photography with an emphasis on developing your skills of perception and your visual competence in the creation and consumption of lens-based imagery. This will require you to quickly master the basics of camera use and software techniques. Perhaps most importantly, you will explore the complex relationship between composition, technical execution and visual ideas that communicate with intent.

While these course objectives look to the future, there's much to be learned from the past. Therefore we will look at and discuss a wide selection of photographs since photography's inception over 160 years ago and consider the broad and powerful impact of the most widely seen and used form of visual representation yet invented.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

QUIZZES & LECTURE ASSIGNMENTS	10%
MIDTERM EXAM	10%
FINAL CUMULATIVE EXAM	15%
ATTENDANCE & EXERCISES	10%
PROJECTS & CONTACT CRITIQUES	40%
FINAL PROJECT	15%

TOTAL	100%

If at any point during the term you would like to discuss your grade and/or progress in this class, please make an appointment to meet.

LAB ASSIGNMENTS

There will be a series of lab assignments during the course of the quarter. Expect to spend 3 hours a week working on the lab assignments (and final project). Lab assignments must include both your prints and contact sheets submitted and labeled with your name, instructor name, and the time your lab section meets.

Late work will not be accepted without explicit prior approval from your instructor.

LECTURE

The lecture is where you will be introduced to basic concepts and photographic techniques and you'll be exposed to a wide range of photographic imagery. You will be assigned weekly tasks that you are expected to complete during the week they are assigned. Readings will come from the assigned text, works placed on electronic reserve at the library, and web sites provided through the course web page. The course content is dynamic by necessity and design and learning modules are likely to change.

You will have a midterm and cumulative final exam, plus a series of scheduled and unscheduled quizzes and in-class assignments. Regular attendance in the lecture is expected, and missed quizzes, assignments, and exams can't be made up.

LAB

The lab is the "hands-on" portion of the class where you engage in the creation and production of imagery. You will encounter more thorough demonstrations of techniques that will always be reinforced with practice exercises. The techniques demonstrated in lab are intended to be applied directly toward your photography projects. The lab is also the setting where you will have extensive editing and critique sessions. Achieving visual competence demands that you think about and discuss pictures and the lab is where this takes place. The computers in the N202 lab are reserved for your exclusive use during your scheduled class period. There are no open labs scheduled this quarter. Use your scheduled lab sessions wisely. The digital photo lab is truly "state of the art." Please take proper care of the equipment, and never bring food or drink to your work station. There are designated areas in the classroom for beverage breaks.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

"f--8 and be there," attributed to Weegee.

Your attendance and active participation in class is a basic expectation for adequate performance in both the lecture and lab. Your success in this course will be directly proportional to the effort and energy you put forth. Attendance is taken in both lecture and lab. A late arrival in the lab will be automatically considered an absence. More than three unexcused absences in the lab can constitute an automatic failure. If you miss a class or arrive late, you will need to talk to a fellow student, find out what happened, and get caught up. It is unfair (to the instructor and to classmates) and unrealistic to expect a personal representation of material to every student who is late or absent.

SAFETY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

To request academic accommodations due to a disability please contact the BC Disability Resource Center : www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc. This is a very important step as accommodations cannot be made retroactively. Notify the Instructor Immediately.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

Photography is expensive. This class will require you to spend approximately \$100 for supplies. This does not include the cost of a camera.

Not having the money to purchase supplies to complete assignments is not an acceptable reason for incomplete work.

1. ART 154 course reading is provided and is accessed through the course web site.
2. Camera: 35mm DSLR (single lens reflex) with FULL manual control of aperture, shutter speed and focus. Camera must be capable of shooting in RAW format.
3. Digital Memory Card: SD or CF versions based on your camera model. 4-8GB size is usually enough.
4. Portable external hard-drive for image backup. Firewire 400-800 interface is recommended, although USB 2.0 is sufficient. Small flash drives are not sufficient to hold many large digital files.

SOURCES FOR SUPPLIES

Freestyle Photo, Los Angeles, 800.292.6137, www.freestylephoto.biz (Course code 62926)

Glazers Camera, 430 8th Ave North, Seattle, WA 98109, www.glazerscamera.com

B&H Photo, New York, 800.221.5662, www.bhphotovideo.com