ARTS 408-01 Photography IV

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ARTS 408-01: PHOTOGRAPHY IV
ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDY: DIGITAL AS AN ART
Xavier University
FALL 2015

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Office Hours: Please text/email to arrange out-of-class conversation/assistance, as I am not on campus daily.

Suggested TEXT
Snap To Grid, Peter Lunenfeld
Simulacra & Simulation, Baudrillard
Criticizing Photographs, Terry Barrett
Photography In Print, Goldberg
Handbook Pricing & Ethical Guideline, 11th ed., Graphic Artists Guild
Business and Legal Forms for Fine Artists, Crawford

COURSE DESCRIPTION/RAMBLE
Photography IV is an advanced photographic study through digital as a medium. In this course we will challenge our knowledge, technical skills, creativity through the visual language that we've adopted and learned since Photo I, but have also become too comfortable and/or static/stale/lazy/boring in our execution. We will step outside of our comfort zones and ask ourselves to see and execute topics in a professional, advanced manner.

Photography will be discussed as both a fine art form, and commercial media. An introduction to advanced digital techniques and final display of gallery-level works will also be covered in this course. Lectures, readings, and films will introduce critical thinking, the work of noted photographers (past and present), the evolution of aesthetics, and theory associated with the history of the medium and type of photography, while also examining the impact that the photographic image exerts in contemporary culture today.

This is an active, studio-working class; however, most assignments will need to be produced outside of class-time given the restriction of face-time we have together. I cannot stress enough how important COMMUNICATION is. Since I am not on campus regularly, please email and text me, we can always have a FaceTime conversation about your works, future opportunities, etc etc if needed. The more you reach out, ask questions, and utilize my expertise, the more you will gain from this class, and grow as an artist visually, and through conceptual and technical knowledge/skill.
You have until the week before finals to re-do any assignment (obviously not the Final). This means that you will not be graded per every assignment, as I like to give students the opportunity to make something “right” or “better”. This class isn’t a simple grade, this class is to ensure that you don’t embarrass yourself through bad photography, especially as an “advanced level student”.

Buckle up! It’s going to be a ride.

**GOALS**

Students evaluate works of art, and writings. Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgement; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; experiencing the arts, and reflecting on that experience.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:**

- Students develop abilities to be informed observers of, or active participants in, the visual, spatial, performing, spoken, or literary arts.
- Students develop an understanding of the foundations of human beliefs, the nature of reality, and the norms that guide human behavior.
- Students examine and interpret how the human condition and human values are explored through works of art and humanistic writings.

**Visual and Performing Arts Expected Learning Outcomes:**

- Students develop abilities to analyze, appreciate, and interpret major forms of human thought and expression.
- Students develop abilities to understand how ideas influence the character of human beliefs, the perception of reality, and the norms which guide human behavior.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- To increase an understanding of visual communication through photography.
- To advance understanding of photographic theory, technique, and aesthetics.
- To develop an increased ability to express personal understandings, and insight, through photography.
- To develop an understanding of the criticism of photographic images, and their relationship to materials, techniques, content, and context.
- To develop a solid style, aesthetic appeal through your personal language of photography as a medium.
- To develop a new personal website, or revamp/update an existing one.
- To advance your current skills, and level of “seeing”
- To enhance a sense for good craftsmanship, execution, and presentation of work.
- To be able to critique a photograph in an articulate and thoughtful manner.
ASSESSMENT IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

**PROCESS**
Commitment to each stage of the process, and Evolution and Development of an idea.

**CREATIVITY**
Diverse research, brainstorming, and approaches historical, social, and contextual awareness.

**FORMAL**
Compositional structure & 2D understanding, along with the Synthesis of subject matter and form.

**TECHNICAL**
Presentation & Craft, paired with the Development of project-specific technique.

**COMMUNICATION**
Class Participation: responsive, proactive, and motivated.

**CLASS PROJECTS:** TO BE DISCUSSED & DETERMINED DEPENDING ON CLASS

Topics for class projects/critiques could include, *BUT MAY NOT BE LIMITED TO:*

- **1 (self) Portrait-A-Day**
  This assignment is mandatory, and for the duration of the semester. At the beginning of each week, you will submit the previous week’s portraits as JPEG files, via [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com)

- **“Mission Impossible”**
- **Illuminance/Illumination** (sub-categories of Person, Place, Thing, Idea/Concept)
  REQUIRED: weekly check-in, and prints for crit. Post critique, submit JPEG files

- **Perpetuating Purpose**
  REQUIRED: weekly check-in, and prints for crit. Post critique, submit JPEG files

- Website UPDATE/re-VAMP
- Reading Responses/Reflection
- STOCK imagery
- Portrait Photography in the Non Profit Sector
- Studio/Product Photography
- Artist Statement & Manifesto
We Eat!
Editorial Storytelling
A Day In The Life
Final Project
Fill Flash vs Natural Light vs Hot Lamps vs Strobes
TED Talks Response/Reflection

SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS
- Midwest Photo Exchange (Columbus, OH) www.mpex.com
- B+H Photo/Video (NY, NY) www.bhphotovideo.com
- AMAZON
- K & R Photographics (KY), Dodd Camera (Cinci), Columbus Camera Exchange (Col.) MidWest Photo Exchange (Col.)
- CommArts, Aperture, PhotoForum, Exposure, Popular Photography, American Photo, PDN, Wallpaper, I-D:: magazines
- ProPhotoDaily, ArtNewsHeadlines
- GCAC, OAL, Ohio Online Arts, Art And Artists Of 513 (and 614), ROYGBIV
- Wexner Center for the Arts, Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center, Carl Solway Gallery

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Attendance is of utmost importance! ARRIVE ON TIME.

Since we only meet once-a-week, missing ONE class will count as *TWO absences.
*unless accompanied by a doctor’s note, or you’ve made arrangements with me prior to the absence-- this does not mean an hour before class shooting me an email/text.

Students are allowed a maximum of two absences- NO EXCEPTIONS! *Every absence after this will result in one letter grade deduction from your final grade.

2 tardies = 1 absence. If you are more than 5 minutes late, then you will be marked as tardy.

DO NOT MISS CRITIQUES, project presentations, or scheduled appointments outside of class with instructor. These will not be repeated. IF you do miss, and you’ve not already spoke to me about it, then please contact a fellow classmate for information on what you’ve missed.

ANY missed critiques, final or intermediary, will be a 10pt. deduction from the project grade.
GRADING SCALE & POLICY

Each final grade is given to each student individually. This isn’t a comparison class against your fellow peers and their progress, this is a class where you will be graded on your personal progress and advancement of skills and ideas.

At the end of the semester, you will need to have a successfully updated/revamped, or new website, AS WELL AS a jump drive of your digital files (RAW, PSD, and JPEG organized within assignment folders). You will also need to have actively join some of the community groups I will introduce you to, and prepare for a potential post-Xavier exhibition, call-to-artists, or grant/fellowship.

**Just because you have until the end of the semester to re-do any assignment (other than the Final) doesn’t mean you can show up to critique without work. IF this happens, it will lower your letter grade for that specific assignment.**

All Projects and Class Participation/Critiques = 70% of your Final Grade
Final Project = 30% of your Final Grade
**There are many chances for “extra credit” in this class- don’t fret!**

Sample Evaluation of Assignments:
Your photographic work will be evaluated based on the following general criteria:

- Technical Proficiency: technical excellence- the application of learned photographic in-camera, and on-sight techniques.
- Content: clarity of conceptual approach, effectiveness of the work, and inventiveness of the work regarding your idea.
- Use of Photography's Formal Elements: how well you execute a photograph through framing, vantage point, speed, depth-of-field, the thing itself, the detail, color, light, texture, etc.
- Project Presentation & Preparation: how you show your work in critique, and the amount of preparation that went into your project, image, selection, amount of shooting, etc.

ADDITIONAL RULES & POLICIES
If you do have to miss a class, and you’ve not spoken with me first about it (again, not 1 hour before class), find out from a classmate what we went over. Although most of the assignments will be online, check with a classmate as things can change!

Even if you are absent, you are still responsible for turning in assignments on that day.

Review the University Plagiarism Policy, as this too translates into the visual world.
Late work, as in not having work for a critique, will be docked 10pts-a-day, not per class. Don’t expect leniency with this.

No extensions and no Incompletes are possible- especially in regards to weekly self portraits, Response/Reflections, or FACEBOOK Critique.

You are in college, YOU are responsible for taking notes during class/lecture, as I will not be posting class conversations/lectures online. This is part of your job as a student.

Be self motivated! NO PASSIONLESS STUDENTS.

TAKE RISKS!

No complaining about long crits, or cost of materials. Art- especially Photography ain’t cheap.

No whining about anything- could result in point deductions.

Email me if you have any questions, but try not to bombard me with a million emails/texts, please and thank you.

If you are unclear about an assignment, idea, technique/technical information, then ask! Please do not wait until the day of to tell me that you didn’t get it, or didn’t have time to finish it.

No excuses, play like a champion!

NOTE:
The right to add to, or delete from, this syllabus is reserved by Professor J Renner.