
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY in Fall 2019 (AR1061)

Course Code	AR1061	Professor(s)	Tatiana Grigorenko
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	4th floor Grenelle
Class Schedule	R: 10:35-13:30 in C-302	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	tgrigorenko@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	TBA

Course Description

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This introductory course is an exploration of both technical and aesthetic concerns in photography. Using a digital camera, students will produce original work in response to a series of lectures, assignments, and bi-weekly critique classes. The course will cover the fundamentals of photographing with digital SLR's, and students will learn a range of digital tools including color correction, making selections, working with layers and inkjet printing. After mastering the basics, students will work towards the completion of a final project and the focus of the remaining classes will be on critiques. Students will be asked to make pictures that are challenging in both content and form and express the complex and poetic nature of the human experience. Please note that an additional fee will be charged for this course.

EXPECTATIONS:

First and foremost you will be expected to work hard. You will be expected to show progress in the assigned amount of new work for your critiques. You will be expected to participate in critiques and talk about your own and others' work thoughtfully. Finally you will be expected to do all reading assignments and participate in discussions.

Expect to spend more time on your class work outside of class as in it (i.e. 5-6 hours per week). Budget your time wisely. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional help. My email address is listed at the top of this page.

Course Learning Outcomes

Control advanced technical parameters of his/her SLR digital camera.
Have learned how to make good-quality photographic ink-jet prints.

Explore and experiment with photography, developing his/her sense of aesthetics and personal expression.

Use specific vocabulary when talking about photography and develop a critical awareness of issues relating to photography.

Local and Global Perspectives: Students will enhance their intercultural understanding of languages, cultures, and histories of local societies and the global issues to which these relate (CCI LO1)

Aesthetic Inquiry and Creative Expression: Students will engage with artistic or creative objects (e.g., visual art, theatrical works, film) in different media and from a range of cultural traditions (CCI LO2)

Exploring and Engaging Difference: Students will think critically about cultural and social difference; they will identify and understand power structures that determine hierarchies and inequalities that can relate to race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion, or class (CCI LO3)

Civic and Ethical Engagement: Students will demonstrate awareness of ethical considerations relating to specific societal problems, values, or practices (historical or contemporary; global or local) and learn to articulate possible solutions to prominent challenges facing societies and institutions today so as to become engaged actors at various levels in our interconnected world (CCI LO4)

General Education

Course Outline

Week I: Sept. 5

In class: Course overview and discussion of required materials.

Assignment: Read camera manual. Bring camera, manual and all required equipment to next class. Shoot 50 pictures.

Week II: Sept. 12

In Class: Slide Lecture: Introduction, Camera Controls: Depth of Field, Shutter Speed, ISO, White Balance, RAW, Importing Files using Image Capture, Adobe Bridge

In class exercise: Make examples of frozen action and blurred action, shallow and deep depth of field.

Assignment:

Photo Assignment I: Shoot 50 pictures, choose 5 for critique:

- 1. Approach and photograph a complete stranger.
- 2. and 3.: Make two pictures that use depth of field to further its meaning (one with shallow depth of field, one with deep depth of field).
- 4. and 5.: Make two pictures that use time (shutter speed) to further its meaning (one with fast shutter speed, one with slow shutter speed).

You must show these 5 photographs, in digital format, for our first critique.

Reading: Introduction to The Photographer's Eye by John Szarkowski

Week III: Sept. 19

In Class: Photoshop introduction. Importing files, opening files, resizing, sharpening, grayscale conversion, density and contrast. Layer Basics: Making new layers, duplicate layers. Saving Files. Editing: Move tool, Copying and Pasting, Undo, Basic History States Canvas Size – Resizing, Cropping

Assignment: Photo Assignment I, Review class handouts, Prepare digital files for in-class critique and in-class printing in next week's class. Shoot 50 pictures.

Reading: *The Nature of Photographs* by Stephen Shore

Week IV: Sept. 26

In class:

CRITIQUE: Photo Assignment I: 5 digital files due.

Slide Lecture: Landscape.

Introduction to black and white inkjet printing, in-class printing session.

Assignment: Photo Assignment II: Landscape/Cityscape, make and print contact sheets. Shoot 100 pictures.

Week V: Oct. 3

In class: Slide Lecture, Street Photography. More ink-jet printing and in-class printing session. Troubleshooting the printer, Banding, Nozzle Check, Head Cleaning. Working with Raw files, white balance, fill light, recovery, etc. Raw black and white conversion. Transforming / Free-Transform, Scale, Rotation, Opacity, Merging, Flattening.

Assignment: Photo Assignment II: Landscape/Cityscape, print 5 photographs for critique. Shoot 100 pictures

Week VI: Oct. 10

In class: CRITIQUE, Photo Assignment II: Landscape/Cityscape, 5 black and white prints due.

Using curves and the info palette to control color, density and contrast. Retouching – 100% View, Rubber Stamp, Healing Brush, Retouching on a 2nd layer Filters -Unsharp Mask, Noise, etc. Introduction to color Inkjet Printing

Assignment: Photo Assignment III: Street Photography, make and print contact sheets, bring digital files to work on in-class next week. Shoot 100 pictures.

Reading: John Szarkowski's introduction to *William Eggleston's Guide*

Week VII: Oct. 17

In class: Making selections using the marquee, lasso, color range and magic wand tools. In-class work time, color printing session.

Assignment: Photo Assignment III: Street Photography, shoot 100 pictures, make 5 prints.

Oct. 18: Midterm grades due

Week VIII: Oct. 24 (class to be rescheduled)

In class: CRITIQUE Photo Assignment III: Street Photography, 6 black and white prints due. Slide Lecture, Portraiture

Assignment: Photo Assignment IV: Portraiture; make and print contact sheets, bring digital files to work on in-class for next week. Shoot 100 pictures.

Fall Break: October 30 - November 3, no classes

November 4: Last day to withdraw or choose credit/no credit option

Week IX: Nov. 7

In class: Museum visit

Assignment: Photo Assignment IV: Portraiture, print 6 color images for critique. Shoot 100 pictures.

Armistice Break: Nov. 11-12

Week X: Nov. 14

In class: CRITIQUE Photo Assignment IV: Portraiture, 6 color prints due. Work day.

Assignment: Write a proposal for your final project, submit to Blackboard. Shoot 100 pictures.

Week XI: Nov. 21

In class: Making selections, local adjustments, work day.

Assignment: Final Projects, shoot 100 pictures, print 5 images for critique

Week XII: Nov. 28

In class: CRITIQUE, 5 prints from final project due. Work day.

Assignment: Final Projects. Shoot 100 pictures, print 5 images for critique

Week XIII: Dec. 5

In class: CRITIQUE, 5 more prints from final project. You must also bring the previous week's prints with you! Work day. Editing workshop.

Assignment: Final Projects, continue shooting! Shoot 100 pictures. Print 15 final images for critique.

Reading Days: December 7-11

Week XIV: Dec. 12

FINAL CRITIQUE: 15 FINAL PRINTS DUE

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

ADDITIONAL ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend *all* scheduled classes, but a total of *two late arrivals or absences* will be tolerated in this course. A student must arrive before roll call to be considered present. Two latenesses count as one absence. After two absences, the final course grade is lowered by a third of a letter grade (e.g. B becomes B-). **After three late arrivals/absences, the student will be assigned a failing grade.**

Grading Policy

GRADING:

- Individual progress
- Class participation and attendance, including participation in critiques and discussions
- Technical proficiency
- Execution: quality of work
- Effort and improvement throughout the course

Please note: only two grades will be given in this class: one at midterm and one final grade

All work must be printed and ready for critique at the start of class. Photographs printed during class critique time will be marked late and will not be critiqued.

Other

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

- A digital SLR camera that can shoot “RAW” (the brand does not matter)

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- An SD card of at least 8GB (SanDisk or Lexar brand)
 - A camera lens (preferably a 50mm fixed-length lens, but zooms are ok)
 - An SD card reader
 - An external hard drive of at least 500GB
 - A portfolio box

Your course fee covers standard paper and ink usage, additional usage will be charged to your student account. AUP will provide a photo inkjet printer.

SOFTWARE:

Mathieu Motta of AUP ITS will provide registered students with an Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator) account, free of charge. You must email him to request an account at: mmotta@aup.edu. In addition, AUP has a subscription to LinkedIn Lynda tutorials, which are a fantastic resource for extra practice and review of techniques learned in class.

DATA LOSS:

All your work must be saved and backed up. Digital information does not exist unless it is saved in at least two locations. Data loss for any reason is not an excuse for missing assignments. Do not rely on the data drives in the labs – the drop boxes and servers get cleaned frequently.

Backup on an external drive.