Introduction to Photography for Non-Art Majors: FA 1551
Prague Summer Seminar 2012
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“Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst.” – Henri Cartier-Bresson

Course Description:
This course will cover the fundamental techniques of photography, digital capture and some elements of digital manipulation. It is an introduction to still-photography for non-art majors. This class is non-darkroom based and will familiarize students with basic skills of photography. Technical aspects such as camera operation, flash and lighting, exposure, film and film speed selection will be addressed in conjunction with non-technical aspects such as the history of photography, contemporary photography / art, aesthetics and composition, fine art / commercial applications, and the critiquing of images, via weekly lectures and assignments both inside and outside of class.

This class is intended to give the student a solid foundation of knowledge within the field of still-photography in which technical skill may enhance one’s concept and the final photographic image being produced.

Students are required to have their own DIGITAL camera, a laptop with appropriate imaging software such as Adobe Photoshop, Gimp or Lightroom. A digital SLR is recommended, but high quality digital point & shoot cameras are acceptable. (Appropriate supplies: memory cards, chargers, card readers, jump drives or external hard drives, etc. are advised as well as your camera’s instruction manual.)

Student Learning Objectives:
Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:
- Know the basic components and functions of their digital camera
- Bring more awareness to taking pictures and to the significance of light
- Understand the importance of framing
- Talk more critically and knowledgeably about photography
- Explain verbally what observations were made in the execution of their photographs, what particular observations were stressed and what means were used to stress them – in short, what was communicated
- Read the photographs of others: Analyze how an image was executed and how the quality of light, framing, perspective, and darkroom techniques serve to reveal what the photographs are trying to communicate.
- Write a short critique

Course Expectations and Guidelines:
Attendance Policy
Attendance is mandatory for all classes and cultural series events that take place on Wednesday evenings (these events count for class attendance). Each absence will reduce the student’s final grade by five (5) points. All absences are unexcused, unless a medical report is
provided. A five-minute grace period is allowed before a student is marked “late.” (Leaving the class early will be considered a “late,” as well.) Three “late-s” make up one absence. After five absences the student will fail the class.

*Plagiarism and any other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated*

In policies for many, if not all, educational programs, academic honesty is one of the core values of any classroom experience. It basically means that teachers and students treat each other with respect and value the integrity of the teaching/learning relationship by acting honestly and courteously. This course maintains an honest and courteous atmosphere of learning, production and communication. Consider what kinds of classroom behavioral norms and expectations you have (common courtesy stated in class).

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/judicial/.

**Academic dishonesty may be penalized, through due process, by failure of an assignment and possibly the course.**

* If you plagiarize any images you will automatically receive an F for that assignment

**Statement of classroom conduct**

Civility in the classroom and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. Courteous behavior and responses are expected.
No form of harassment (verbal, sexual, or physical) will be allowed.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services. Please visit: http://ods.uno.edu/

**Participation:**

It is your responsibility as a participating member of this course to come to each class period prepared to work, with all necessary materials.
Please turn off all devices such as cell phones, iPods, cell phones and laptops (unless requested or permitted by instructor).
Conversations unrelated to the course content, and other distractions (balancing your checkbook or doing work for another class for instance) during class discussions will affect your grade.

Group critiques in class are meant to foster a cooperative environment and allow you to express your understanding of your own and others’ images. At group critiques, all students must participate, expressing verbally what they and others have visually demonstrated. Lack of participation in critique will affect the participation grade.

Participation in critique involves the following:

1. Be on time, attend, and stay throughout the critique. If you leave critique early you are considered absent.
2. Have images ready for viewing (i.e. hung on the wall or formatted for digital presentation)
3. Ability to talk about the work (your personal view—how does your work complete project criteria)
4. Reception to and participation in discussion about your work

Class participation encompasses attendance, interaction during class lectures, discussions, and in class assignments. Class participation is vital to the studio / learning experience for both you and your peers, and will be worth 30% of your final grade. Being in class for demos and discussions are vital for satisfactory completion of this course.

**Assignments:**

Assignments are to be turned in on time. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED! Plagiarism and any sort of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated! In policies for many, if not all, educational programs, academic honesty is one of the core values of any classroom experience. It basically means that teachers and students treat each other with respect and value the integrity of the teaching/learning relationship by acting honestly and courteously. This course maintains an honest and courteous atmosphere of learning, production and communication. Consider what kinds of classroom behavioral norms and expectations you have (common courtesy stated in class). Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at [http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/judicial/](http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/judicial/). **Academic dishonesty may be penalized, through due process, by failure of an assignment and possibly the course.**

There will be three reading assignments, which will deal with subjects concerning basic image making concepts and the status of contemporary photography. No text is required for this course. Articles for these readings will be available to you via Moodle. Reading assignments will require a short response paper (250-500 words,) that can be emailed to the instructor and will be followed by in class discussion. Written responses for gallery exhibitions attended during class will also be required. The written component, as well as engagement in any class discussion, will factor into your grade for participation. Although the quality of the writing is not under scrutiny, good, clear writing is expected. You get points if you did the reading, were able to write something thoughtful and reflective and then be able to discuss it with your peers.

There will be three photographic assignments, including your final project. These will be followed by critiques in which we will review all work as a class. Participation in critiques is both mandatory and vital. It is an open forum wherein you will speak about your work and what you feel are its strengths and how well it fits the assignments criteria, as well as a forum in which to receive feedback, both positive and critical from your peers, as it relates to your work.

Students must have Internet access to www.uno.edu and the Moodle portion of FA 1551. All communications outside class will be done through Moodle. Students are responsible for all e-mail communications from the instructor to their UNO email address. Help with Moodle can be accessed at [http://www.uno.edu/CurrentStudents.aspx](http://www.uno.edu/CurrentStudents.aspx)
Grading
Class Participation and Attendance:  30%  Grading: A  90-100
Assignment #1:  20%       B  80-89
Assignment #2:  20%       C  70-79
Final Assignment:  30%      D  60-69
F   0-59

Grades are strictly earned and are a reflection of your progress and dedication, and commitment to your work. “A” work is well above average; it displays that you have challenged yourself towards producing imagery that goes beyond the parameters of the assignment, is clearly focused, with thought given to all components of an image, (exposure, composition, light quality, concept, etc…) “C” work is average; it meets the parameters of the assignment, displays decent knowledge of the photographic vocabulary, and the photographs are legible. “B” work falls in between the two.

Week 1
July 16 – Monday
Course introduction – Overview
Go over syllabus, teaching philosophy, travel photography (ethics and plagiarism) as well as the ethics of digital imaging
Fieldtrip info
Visit lab

July 17 – Tuesday
Slide Lecture: Still Photography (Motion, depth of field, lenses)
Basic digital camera operations
How to meter and control exposure
Slide lecture: Czech photographers
Discuss Assignment #1

July 18 – Wednesday
In class shooting

July 19 – Thursday
Slide Lecture: aesthetics and composition
In-class shooting: Elements of composition and more on exposure
Homework: Reading #1

July 20 – Friday
Field trip to Leica Gallery, other galleries on Skolska or Art Banka

Week 2
July 23 – Monday
Discuss reading and critiquing images
Lecture: postproduction digital basics: importing, image size, selections (go through p-shop tool box) as well as preparing images for critique.
July 24 – Tuesday
Critique #1
Homework: Reading #2
Slide examples and Lecture: Assignment #2 - Lighting and Abstraction

July 25 – Wednesday
Field trip Galerie Fotographic

Week 3
July 30 – Monday
Discuss reading
Critique #2
Discuss Final Assignment

July 31 – Tuesday
In class shooting

August 1 – Wednesday
Field trip Jan Saudek Gallery
Homework: Reading #3

August 2 – Thursday
Lecture: Final Assignment- Editing and Sequencing
Contemporary Photography Lecture

August 3 – Friday
Discuss reading
Final Lecture on Czech Photographers
Preparation for final critique

Week 4
August 6 – Monday (Last day of class)
Lab: Final images for print/work on final project
Pre critique
Class evaluations

August 7 – Tuesday (Finals)
Final Critique

By the end of the class you will have written 4 Gallery Reviews total: 3 from fieldtrip, 1 from a gallery on your own.

READING, Terry Barrett
#1- Chapt 2 and Contemporary Czech photographers
#2- Chapt 4
#3 Chapt 6