

Class Schedule: 2 hours, 45 minutes

Description: ART 151. Photography as Art (3)

Not available for Art Major credit. Students must provide their own digital camera (SLR or compact digital). Introduction for non-art majors to the subject matter and aesthetics of photography. Review of artists' works that have been a major influence in the field and which reflect broader issues in visual culture. Assignments include learning basic camera anatomy, functions, and digital applications. Students need basic working knowledge of computer operation. (Available for General Education, Lifelong Learning)

Art 151: Photography as Art satisfies the Lifelong Learning section of the General Education program. Lifelong Learning coursework encourages students to develop an appreciation for the importance of the continued acquisition of new and diverse knowledge and skills, and offers opportunities to integrate personal, professional, and social aspects of life. Students will develop cognitive, physical and affective skills that will allow them to become more integrated and well-rounded individuals within various physical, social, cultural and technological environments and communities.

Art Department Student Learning Outcomes in Art 151:

- ◆ Understand and apply the elements and principles of design as they relate to photography's ability to impose a frame upon the three-dimensional world and translate it into two dimensions.
- ◆ Basic photography skills: camera anatomy and functions, the relationship among f- stop, shutter speed, and ISO, correct exposure and white balance
- ◆ Elements and principles of two-dimensional design as they relate to photographic compositions
- ◆ The history of photography and related art historical movements by looking at, evaluating, reading, and writing about other artists' work
- ◆ To use this knowledge as a means of communication through self-expression through assignments, discussion, lectures and reading.
- ◆ Analyze photographs, both verbally and written, through critique and self-reflection.
- ◆ Approach image making from a conceptual perspective by using the camera's frame to create content.

Course requirements: **Students are expected to bring their *cameras and books* to each class meeting.**

- ◆ *A Short Course in Digital Photography*, ed. 2, ISBN 9780205066421 by London/Stone is required. **Please bring text to each class meeting.** You will need to refer to diagrams from the text during the discussions.
- ◆ Five graded assignments (worth 90 points total) will be given during the semester and will emphasize visual communication and the technical and aesthetic aspects of photography.
- ◆ Two exams (worth 40 points total) based on information from readings and lectures will be given. Please bring a Scantron form 882E and pencil to class for each of the exams.
- ◆ Because departmental photocopying is extremely limited, you will be required to print all assignment sheets from the class Moodle website and bring to class as needed.

Grading Breakdown 130 points possible Assignments 90 points Midterm and final exam 40 points

Final grade breakdown (from Moodle):

Highest	Lowest	Letter
100.00 %	93.00 %	A
92.99 %	90.00 %	A-
89.99 %	87.00 %	B+
86.99 %	83.00 %	B
82.99 %	80.00 %	B-
79.99 %	77.00 %	C+
76.99 %	73.00 %	C
72.99 %	70.00 %	C-
69.99 %	67.00 %	D+
66.99 %	60.00 %	D
59.99 %	0.00 %	F

Equipment and Supplies

- ◆ Digital camera (SLR or compact digital): **Please bring to each class meeting.**
- ◆ **Memory Card (appropriate for camera)**
- ◆ **Card Reader** that works with your memory card **or USB cable to download images from your camera to the computer**
- ◆ **Tripod:** try to borrow one from a family member or friend. If not, you can purchase a tripod for as little as \$15.00 to 35.00. Try Radio Shack, Target, Best Buy, Walmart, or Ebay.

- A- Outstanding, excellent attention to detail, excellent concept for the level of the assignment (4)
- B- Above average work, good attention to detail, some technical issues, good concept (3)
- C- Work meet the requirements of the assignment, though without individual innovation (2)
- D- Barely meets the requirements of the assignment (1)
- F- Does not meet the requirements of the assignment (0)

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted for TWO weeks after the initial due date of the assignment. After that time they will not be accepted. All late assignments are subject to a reduction of a full letter grade for each week the assignment is late (E.g. An “A” assignment turned in two weeks late receives a “C” grade.) Late assignments **WILL NOT** be accepted for the final project.

Assignment Redo: You may redo ONE assignment, as long as you handed it in on time. You have up to TWO weeks after you receive your grade on the assignment to turn in the redo, and you must email me and let me know which flickr account you submitted the new assignment to.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty: University policies on academic dishonesty are listed in the university catalog. Here at the university we take cheating and plagiarism seriously. **PLEASE** be aware that if you turn in another person’s artwork and claim that it is your own **OR** if you turn in the same artwork to more than one class for credit without the explicit permission of both instructors **OR** if you turn in photographs that you took before the assignment was assigned, this is **PLAGIARISM/CHEATING**, and you will be held accountable for the consequences.

Missing the midterm/final exams: You are required to take the midterm and final exams at the scheduled date and time. The only exception would be in the case of a University-approved absence with documentation, eg. A dated mechanic’s receipt for car trouble or a doctor’s note for a medical emergency. Any such documentation must be presented in a timely manner, within two weeks after the scheduled midterm and immediately after the scheduled final exam. No exceptions!

Expectations for absenteeism and classroom conduct: You are expected to arrive on time and attend each class this semester. Persistent absences/arriving late/leaving early/leaving class during class time will be reflected in your grade for the class.

Classroom conduct: This class is conducted primarily via PowerPoint lectures. That is, I will convey information to you with the aid of visual imagery. Therefore, if you wear glasses or contact lenses please bring them to each class meeting. You are expected to take notes during each class lecture so please bring a notebook and pen to each class. Any information I cover in class may appear on an exam, and a great deal of information we cover in class is not included in the textbook. The **ONLY** reason for you to use a laptop computer during class is to take notes based on my lectures. You are expected to refrain from speaking to your neighbors during class time. The obvious exceptions to this rule are to ask me questions or to answer questions that I ask or to participate in class discussions or group activities. Unless you are experiencing an emergency, **DO NOT** leave the classroom during the class period. If you leave class you will be counted as absent for that class meeting. If you persistently talk to your neighbors in class, I will ask you to change your seat. If you persist in disrupting the class, your behavior will be reflected in your final grade. Please do not use your cell phone in any capacity during class (no texts, emails, calls etc.)

Please be courteous to your fellow students. Arrive on time, stay for the entire class and keep all cell phones turned off during class time.

ASSIGNMENT 1: SITE SPECIFIC 3 x 12 ANGLE, EDGE, COLOR
Art 151 CSUN

CONCEPTS:

1. **Camera Angle and Perspective/Where are you standing when you take the photograph?:** Can you look down on your subject matter? Can you get down low and look up at your subject matter? Can you find an unusual perspective from which to take your shot? Can you place your subject matter *low* or *high* in the picture plane? Can you photograph looking down (or up) a long expanse?
2. **Color/Using color to communicate:** How can you communicate with color in your photographs? What interesting or unusual ways can you use color? Can you use several shades of one color or coordinating colors? What about complementary colors or color opposites—colors that clash? Can you use bright or very muted but still beautiful colors? What about using the same color in several places throughout the photograph to tie it together compositionally?
3. **Edge/Framing your photograph:** Think about the EDGE of your frame. As you frame your shot, look at all four edges. Where are you “cropping” or cutting off your subject matter? What objects protrude into your photograph? Can you make your subject matter touch the edge of the frame on two or more sides? Be bold! Take one step closer to your subject. Back away one step. Move one step to the right or left. How does this change your framing?

Supplies: Compact digital or digital SLR camera. Take at least 36 images.

Exposure: Set your ISO to 200.

Size of image and resolution: Try a medium size setting (medium/ fine) unless you know how to resize your images, and then you can set the camera for large (superfine/large) and resize down to 1.5 MB to upload to flickr.

The Location: Walk around the Art Department with your partner. Select one or more locations or small areas that have some interesting design elements. These might be intersecting lines or shapes or overlapping forms. Take several photographs in each location. **Explore, experiment and discover.** Take many different shots of the same thing- vary your camera angle, framing and the distance from your subject. You may be surprised which shot you like the best!

For your 36 exposures: Take 12 shots where you concentrate on the EDGE of your photograph. Take 12 photographs where you concentrate on your CAMERA ANGLE. Take 12 shots where you think about COLOR.

Work with a partner: You will be working with a partner from your group. Select a partner who has a similar camera so you can help each other figure out your settings and operate your camera. You can share a tripod with your partner.

Take an EQUAL number of HORIZONTAL and VERTICAL shots!

A complete assignment includes the following:

1. 3 correctly labeled images. One image demonstrates “angle,” one demonstrates “color” and one demonstrates “edge.”

2. Assignment Evaluation Sheet (print from Moodle site.) I CAN’T GRADE YOUR ASSIGNMENT WITHOUT THIS FORM!!

This assignment is due _____ at the beginning of class.

Presentation:

1. Download images to computer from your camera (digital) with USB cable.

2. VIEW/EDIT your images. Select one best image for angle, color and edge.

****If necessary, change the orientation of your image so it reads correctly. In other words, if you have a vertical image, make sure it is not lying on its side, horizontally!**

Taking time to view your images carefully and selecting the strongest photographs is one of the easiest ways to help yourself get a better grade in this class. Check to see that you are handing in the picture with the best focus and exposure!! It is sometimes hard to tell if a picture is in focus from the back of your camera, so take the time to upload to your computer and view each image enlarged. Think about how the images that you are handing in go together and which ones demonstrate the design elements we have been talking about.

3. Resize your images to about 8.5 x 11" at 72 dpi (around 1.5 MB). Please no large images.

4. Save your images to the location you select.

When you save them, rename the three images appropriately. (-2 points for incorrect file labeling)

lastnamefirstinitialasg1angle.jpg lastnamefirstinitialasg1color.jpg lastnamefirstinitialasg1edge.jpg

Eg: Miranda Lopez would label her images like this:

lopezmasg1angle.jpg; lopezmasg1color.jpg; lopezmasg1edge.jpg

If your files are larger than 5 mb, you will have to resize them.

5. Turn in your **ASSIGNMENT EVALUATION SHEET with your name on it (print from Moodle)** at the beginning of class on _____. If you do not have the assignment evaluation sheet at the beginning of class, your assignment will be counted as LATE!! I cannot grade the assignment without the evaluation sheet!!

Late assignments will be accepted for TWO weeks after the initial due date of the assignment. After that time they will not be accepted.

****You must be in class for your critique, when your images are shown, in order to receive full credit for the assignment! (-2 points for missed critique)**

10 Things to Remember:

Before you shoot your photograph...

1. What message will your photograph have?

2. Before looking through the viewfinder, pre-visualize how you want the photo to look.

3. Identify the parts of the scene/subject that will help to best convey your message.

4. Emphasize the important elements you have determined by evaluating the size, location and position of both

the distracting and important objects.

5. Consider the main subject and how the main subject interacts with its surroundings.

6. Look at the light and shadows. Consider how they help or distract from your viewpoint.

7. Evaluate the background and consider how to emphasize or deemphasize it.

!! Pay Attention!!

8. Always examine the edges and corners of the frame. Do they frame the subject the way you want or are they creating unnecessary distractions?

9. Consider the simplest possible way to frame the photo in order to communicate your important message.

10. FOCUS, scan edges and background for unnecessary distractions, if you still find problems, continue to recompose and re-focus.

SHOOT WHEN IT IS PERFECT!!

ASSIGNMENT 3: DOCUMENTARY DEPTH OF FIELD
Art 151 CSUN

Concept:

Twentieth century photography is rich with examples of objective documentation. Social issues of child labor, poverty in the working class, the Great Depression and dust bowl, issues of ethnicity and social injustice were photographed to present factual material objectively, but also as a form of protest, to inform *and* create empathy.

Today documentary photography has crossed over to fine art and documentation of people, of environments and of current social issues can be found in newspapers, magazines and galleries. Documentary photography differs from photojournalism in that it spends time with the subject, exploring a place, an issue or a group of people.

Some good documentary topics include:

- A specific group of people that share a common interest, or a sub-culture
- A workplace- the process, the people, the hardship, the craft or the boredom
- A specific cultural heritage- a cultural practice, religious, ethnic etc.
- An environmental issue or problem that concerns you
- A day or part of a day, in your life- someone's life- a diary
- A commemorative event- march, ritual, celebration or protest
- A neighborhood in transition
- Urban or suburban life
- Your generation- what identifies it- how is it different?

Photograph in such a way that we get specific information about the topic or issue. Use some verticals. Think about visual clarity- check for distracting elements in the background. Think about light- direct and indirect- and watch your aperture and shutter speed.

1. Read 29-47; 152-153; 168-169 for next week.
2. Shoot 50 images. Think about where you will be shooting. Outdoor locations are best, but if shooting inside use your tripod (or prop the camera on a stable surface and use self-timer), but **no** flash. If you are shooting inside, you might want to select 400 ISO. If you photograph outside in bright light, you might want to select 100 ISO. Otherwise, 200 ISO might be fine.
3. **Make sure some shots have wide depth of field**, with everything sharp near to far. Use a 28 to 50 mm lens, f16 or f22, not too close to the subject. **Set the f-stop first**, then set the shutter speed your camera tells you is correct.
3A. If you are using a camera WITHOUT manual settings, you will have to figure out how to get wide depth of field with your camera. The mountain setting (infinite or wide depth of field) will be a good choice.
4. **Make sure some shots have narrow (shallow) depth of field**, where the environment is blurred. Use a 50 to 135 mm lens, f2.8 or f4, and closer to the subject (but not closer than the distance ring allows). **Set the f-stop first**, then set the shutter speed your camera tells you is correct. You may need to use open shade or early morning or late afternoon to get this large an f-stop.
4A. If you are using a camera WITHOUT manual settings, you will have to figure out how to get shallow or narrow depth of field with your camera. The portrait head would be a good choice, since it will give a blurry background.
REMEMBER: You need to carefully focus your camera on the most important part of your subject whether you are using a large or a small aperture. You create the plane of critical focus according to where you focus your camera!!

5. For this assignment, you will select four to six images that you feel convey important information to the viewer about the subject you have selected. One of these shots must illustrate wide depth of field (f 16 or f 22). In other words, both the environment of the photograph and the subject will be sharp. One of these shots must illustrate narrow depth of field (f 2.8 or f 4.0). In other words, the subject will be sharp but environment will be blurred. The other two to four images will be your choice. Your job as a photographer is to spend time with your subject and to convey important visual information to the viewer. Pick images that you feel will enhance the viewer's understanding of your topic.

A complete assignment includes the following:

1. 4 to 6 correctly labeled images
2. Assignment Evaluation Sheet (print from Moodle site.) **I CAN'T GRADE YOUR ASSIGNMENT WITHOUT THIS FORM!!**
****Correct focus and exposure are important parts of your grade, so please use a tripod in low light situations and make sure your meter is happy!****

This assignment is due _____ at the beginning of class.

Presentation:

1. Download images to computer from your camera (digital).
2. VIEW/EDIT your images. Select one image with wide depth of field (widedof) and one image with shallow depth of field (shallowdof) and two to four additional images that convey information about your subject .
3. Resize your images to about 8.5 x 11" at 72 dpi (around 1.5 MB).
4. Save your images to the location you select.

When you save them, rename the three images appropriately. (-2 point for incorrect file labeling)
lastnamefirstinitialasg3widedof.jpg Lastnamefirstinitialasg3shallowdof.jpg lastnamefirstinitialasg33.jpg
lastnamefirstinitialasg34.jpg

Eg: Miranda Lopez would label her images like this:

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