
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY in Spring 2021 (AR1061)

Course Code	AR1061	Professor(s)	Tatiana Grigorenko
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	4th floor Grenelle
Class Schedule	R: 10:35-11:55 in Q-509 R: 10:35-13:30 in C-302 R: 12:10-13:30 in Q-604	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	tgrigorenko@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	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

This course can be used to fulfill the CCI requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

- 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)

Course Outline

Please note: course schedule subject to change. Please refer to announcements posted on Teams and announced in class, they take precedent over the schedule outlined below.

Week 1 – January 21st

In Class:

- Introduction to the course, requirements, equipment, technical information

Assignment:

1. Read your camera manual. Know how to adjust:

- aperture
- shutter speed
- camera to manual mode
- lens to manual focus
- white balance
- ISO
- camera to shoot RAW or RAW + jpeg files
- camera color space to Adobe RGB (not default sRGB)
- how to format your SD card

2. Shoot 50 photographs (open subject), play around with camera controls

3. Bring to next class:

- camera and (charged) battery
- lens
- SD card and reader
- external hard drive
- camera manual

January 24th – last day to drop/add courses online

Week II – January 28th

In class:

- Introduction to your camera and camera controls, depth of field, shutter speed, ISO settings
- In-class photo shoot

Assignment:

Photo Assignment 1: Shoot 50 pictures, choose 4 for critique:

1. and 2.: Make two pictures of the same subject that use depth of field to further their meaning (one with shallow depth of field, one with deep depth of field).
3. and 4.: Make two pictures of the same subject that use time (shutter speed) to further their meaning (one with fast shutter speed, one with slow shutter speed).

You must show these 4 photographs, in digital format (jpg), for our first critique. Please upload them to Teams (under assignments) by 10 am on February 11th.

Week III – February 4th

In class:

- **Introduction to photoshop, black and white conversion**

- **In-class photo shoot, postcard exercise**

- Slide Lecture: Lines and Shadows, part 1

Assignment:

- **Photo Assignment 1:** Shoot 50 pictures more pictures, choose 4 for critique, process as demonstrated and in black and white, and upload to Teams

Week IV – February 11th

In class:

- **Critique: Photo Assignment 1**
- Slide Lecture: Lines and Shadows, part 2

Assignment:

- **Photo Assignment 2: Lines and Shadows**, shoot 100 pictures.

Week V – February 18th

In class:

- Slide Lecture: World in Miniature
- More Photoshop. Introduction to black and white inkjet printing, in-class printing session.

Assignment:

- **Photo Assignment 2: Lines and Shadows**, print 5 photographs for critique.

October 24th- 28th, Mini break (no classes)

Week VI – March 4th

In class:

- **Critique: Photo Assignment 2: Lines and Shadows**

Assignment:

- **Photo Assignment 3: World in Miniature**, shoot 100 pictures.

Week VII – March 11th

In class:

- Slide Lecture: Self Portraiture
- Advanced Photoshop and printing techniques, in-class printing session

Assignment:

- **Photo Assignment 3: World in Miniature**: print 5 black and white photographs for critique.

Week VIII – March 18th

In class:

- **Critique: Photo Assignment 3: World in Miniature**

Assignment:

- **Photo Assignment 4: Self-portraiture**, shoot 100 pictures.

March 19th, Mid-semester grades due

Week IX – March 25th

In class:

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- Working with color in photoshop
 - Printing in color

Assignment:

- **Photo Assignment 4: Self-portraiture:** print 6 photographs for critique.
- **Final Project Proposal:** half page to one page written final project proposal

Week X – April 1st

Final project proposals due

In class:

- **Critique: Photo Assignment 4: Self-portraiture**

Assignment:

- **Final Projects, part 1: shoot at least 100 pictures**

April 2nd, last day to withdraw from a course,

last day to choose credit/no credit option

Week XI – April 8th

In class:

- More working with color in Photoshop, printing workday

Assignment:

- **Final Projects, part 1: shoot at least 100 more pictures, print 5 for critique**

Week XII – April 15th

In class:

- Critique: Final Photo Assignment, Critique #1, first five prints

Assignment:

- Final Projects, part 2: shoot at least 100 more pictures, bring 10 prints for critique

Week XIII – April 22nd

In class:

- Critique: Final Photo Assignment, Critique #2, ten prints

April 28th, last day of classes

April 29th – May 2nd, reading days

FINAL EXAM: May 6th, 15h00-17h30

FINAL Critique: Final Photo Assignment, Critique #3, fifteen prints

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and

should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has an attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for participation in study trips related to their courses.

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. During the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances arise, such as when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students are ill with Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In part, attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for all learners.

Attendance at all critiques is mandatory.

In all cases of missed course meetings, the responsibility for communication with the professor, and for any 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. Excessive absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may also recommend withdrawal, 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 exam periods*.

ADDITIONAL ATTENDANCE POLICY:

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

Grading Policy

Work requirements and grade distribution:

- Four assigned photo assignments (5 or 6 prints each, as assigned): 40%
- One final photo project as outlined in your proposal: (15 prints): 40%
- Class participation and attendance: 20%

Grades are assigned according to the following criteria:

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

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.

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

Other

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

Please note: You are required to have access to your OWN photographic equipment. AUP cannot lend cameras, lenses, etc. to you for the semester.

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