

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART) 235.01

Introduction to Photography and Digital Imaging

Summer 2017

LEC Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 AM to 12:50 PM. SS018

LAB, Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1:00 to 4:50 PM. T.B.A.

Instructor: *Dr. Kristine Thoreson*
Office Location: *AB 647*
Office Phone: *N.A.*
E-Mail: *knthores@ucalgary.ca*
Web Page: *www.kristinethoreson.com*
Office Hours: *Wednesday 1:30-2:30 by appointment*

Course Description

An introductory course in current photographic methods, including digital photography, digital image processing and printing* and the presentation of photographs.

(*print preparation only)

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

N.A.

Objectives of the Course

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be familiar with the rudiments of digital photography and will have developed the technical skills necessary to produce quality photographic images. In addition, the student will have some understanding of the expressive potential of the photographic medium.

Note: Students must provide their own **Digital Single Lens Reflex Camera** for the duration of the term. Please consult with the Department for more information.

Textbooks and Readings

Reading will be provided over the course of the term.

Assignments and Evaluation

Evaluation is on the basis of term work including photographic digital portfolios, presentation of photographic digital portfolios, one written proposal and one multiple choice exam.

- **Portfolio I**, to be orally presented (digital images) in a group setting for discussion and critique on **Monday July 31st at 9:00AM**. **Weighted 35%**
- **Portfolio II**, to be orally presented (digital images) in a group setting for discussion and critique on **Friday August 11th at 9:00 AM**. **Weighted 35%**

* Students **must be present for, and participate in, the portfolio critique on the dates noted above. Portfolios may not be dropped off by an alternate person in lieu of student attendance.** See grading rubric below.

- **Exam:** one multiple choice exam – in class. **Wednesday August 9th 9:00 AM.**
25 questions, 45 minutes maximum. Weighted 20%
- **Written Proposal of Assignment f):** Due **topic on or before Monday July 31st** at 9:00 for approval. No handwritten submissions will be accepted, please type and print out your proposal for submission. Please describe 'what', 'where', and 'why' you will explore a particular theme and 'what' the desired impact will be including 'who' your ideal audience is using terms from our class discussion. **Failure to submit and have your open choice topic approved will result in a score of ZERO for this assignment. Weight 10%.** See grading rubric below.

Portfolio I:

Assignment a): 'Rules of Composition' (3 image)

Assignment b): 'Depth of Field' (3 images)

Assignment c): 'Motion Studies' (3 images)

Portfolio II:

Assignment d): 'Representation' (3 images)

Assignment e): 'Special Topic' in Contemporary Photographic Art (3 images)

Assignment f): 'Open Choice Thematic' (3 images)

Grading Criteria

Grading Rubrics for each image submitted: Portfolio I and II

The student is required to provide a clear and audible oral explanation of their digital photographic portfolio work in a group setting. The following criteria will be graded:

A) /3 Originality and Improvement: As discussed in class, is the idea or approach to the image interesting, unique? Does the student have an interesting personal point of view for each image? Has the student chosen an interesting time of day to suit the idea? Have we seen this image or approach to the topic before in class or elsewhere? Did the student put effort into making a great image that explores a topic conceptually? Did he /she advance their creative and technical skills from their previous level of ability?

0/3 = little effort apparent, little if any concept or idea behind the images

1/3 = typical, difficulty in finding a great approach for the image, no real point or idea communicated, no effort towards improvement apparent

2/3 = good effort apparent, some distracting or unresolved elements apparent, good concept beginning to appear, more work towards improvement needed

3/3 = great effort, very interesting perspective, exciting to look at and refreshing to see, strong concept or idea apparent, clear improvement or effort to improve demonstrated

B) /3 Exposure and Processing: Is the image exposed well and / or photographed using a suitable level of available light as discussed in class? Has the student over or under compensated for exposure in RAW or PHOTOSHOP? Has the Student over or under processed the image in RAW or PHOTOSHOP according to BEST PRACTICES?

0/3= mostly black, or mostly white

1/3= very underexposed or overexposed, unsuitable conditions chosen

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2/3= a little underexposed or overexposed, better conditions needed

3/3= just right, good details in blacks, whites and mid-tones, colours are clear and not murky

C) /3 Composition / Presentation / Processing: Has the student made use of compositional techniques discussed in class, have they explored their chosen scene for interesting angles and opportunities? Have they constructed or presented their work with good craftsmanship and attention to neatness and detail as noted in class demonstrations? Has the student digitally cropped the image according to BEST STANDARDS in RAW or PHOTOSHOP?

0/3= little apparent effort, snap-shot like, careless and sloppy or unsuitable presentation

1/3= not composed well, a good idea but difficulty executing it, crooked or poorly executed presentation

2/3= a good composition but some aspect of it is distracting or unappealing in some way, errors or improvement needed on presentation

3/3= great composition using rule of thirds or some other visually pleasing arrangement, clean, straight, aesthetically suitable and well executed presentation

D) /3 Sharpness & Processing: Has the student understood how to focus an image and use depth of field correctly? Has the student over or under sharpened the image in RAW or PHOTOSHOP according to BEST STANDARDS? Does the chosen area of focus help or hinder the success of the image technically and conceptually? Is the chosen area of focus easily identified, or do we have to strain to decipher what is in or out of focus in the scene?

0/3= Out of focus, or razor thin focus at the critical point of focus that makes it difficult to determine where the focus is, and or out of focus all over the image.

1/3= Slightly soft focus at the critical point of focus.

2/3= In good sharp focus at critical point of focus but slightly shallow or deep depth so that the idea is negatively impacted

3/3= In good sharp focus at the critical point of focus and having a deep enough depth of field around the main object of the photo and for the idea presented.

E) /3: What critical, social or cultural context does the image relate to? How does your specific subject matter relate to your chosen critical, social or cultural context, and how have your photographic choices helped communicate your message creatively?

0/3= No clear critical, social or cultural context provided.

1/3= Some evidence of a critical, social or cultural context is offered, but little or no explanation is given as to how the subject matter relates, and or how the photographic choices have communicated the idea.

2/3= A good engagement with a critical, social or cultural context is offered, the explanation is mostly complete however the subject matter may not relate as well as was thought or the photographic choices do not support the message as well as thought or intended.

3/3= An excellent engagement with a critical, social or cultural context is offered. The subject matter explored relates clearly to the context, and the photographic choices help communicate your message very clearly.

F) /3 Presentation Skills: Does the student use an audible volume, maintain good eye contact with audience, use a moderate pace in the presentation? Does the student speak freely and confidently in their own words without reading directly from a page (cue cards may be used).

0/3= The student's presentation is not audible or much too loud, and or the student do not make eye contact with the audience, and or speaks much too quickly to be understood, and or reads from a page without expression and or reads from a book (not in their own words).

1/3= The student's presentation is difficult to hear or too loud, the student makes little eye contact, speaks too quickly or slowly, is hard to understand and or reads directly from a page / not in their own words for the most part.

2/3= The student's presentation is generally well done, however they could improve upon volume, eye contact, pace, or confidence, or using their own words.

3/3= The student speaks at a great volume, makes good eye contact throughout the presentation, keeps a moderate pace, delivers the presentation with confidence and speaks freely, in their own words.

TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE FOR PORTFOLIO I: / 18

TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE FOR PORTFOLIO II: / 18

Written Proposal for Assignment f):

A grade for the written proposal will be determined by points. A score out of 10 points will be assigned based on the following rubric: 2 points will be docked each time you miss a required component (what, where, why, what the impact is, and who your audience is), make a writing error, make an unclear statement, or misuse a term or concept from class or otherwise.

Writing

Writing is a required component of this course with regard to the typed proposal for assignment **f) Open Choice Thematic**. University level proficiency in grammar, spelling, sentence structure and thought development are required. Any mistake in these four areas will be docked 2 points per mistake. See grading rubric above.

A passing grade on both portfolio submissions is essential for the student to pass the course.

The grading scale applied to these assessment components is that given below under "Grading Method/Grading Scale." Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep all assignments, even those previously graded. The instructor may wish to individually review your work in part or whole at other times than those at which portfolios are submitted, in order to give you individual advice. **Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam NO**

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of or any relevant documentation regarding each submitted assignment.

Please hand in your assignments directly to your instructor. If this is not possible, you can use the drop box outside of AB 608. Assignments that are put into the drop box will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Late Assignment Policy

Assignments are due at the start of class on designated dates throughout the term. **Late Assignments will NOT be accepted.**

Additional Information

It is strongly recommended that students purchase a means for storing their data on an external media drive, 2G minimum.

Optional Equipment:

- Tripod
- Cable release or remote control

Course Activities

Course activities consist principally of (1) digital photography with an SLR camera (during class time and on student's own time) (2) exploration of digital files in the Adobe Photoshop® environment; (3); presentation and discussion of photographs in a group critique format. (4) Lectures and demonstrations.

Grading Method/Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade	G.P.V.	Grade Definition
96-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding
90-95	A	4.0	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
85-89	A-	3.7	
80-84	B+	3.3	
75-79	B	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject
55-59	C-	1.7	
53-54	D+	1.3	
50-52	D	1.0	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Studio Procedures

The creation of art can be a dirty process and a studio is only workable if everyone cooperates in keeping it clean. Out of respect and consideration for your classmates and other users of the space, it is expected that everyone will participate in keeping the studio clean and tidy.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

No cell phones / smart phones are permitted during lectures, critiques or exams.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Academic Standing

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html>

Deferral of Exams/Term work

It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examination(s) for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with Enrolment Services if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.

For more information about deferring a final exam go to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

For more information about the deferral term work go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15.pdf

F.O.I.P.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Writing/Plagiarism

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support> or <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. Visual art projects submitted for course credit must be produced by the student specifically for this class. Students must not submit projects if credit has or will be provided for it in another class. This includes re-worked assignments from previous or concurrent courses, unless permission is provided in writing by the instructor. Additionally, the student is asked to be mindful of using visual sources from the internet, ensuring that that material is not derived from any on-line or other available source, and that appropriate copyright permission is granted, when required.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Student Misconduct

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Student Union

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

Student Ombudsman

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Lockers

The Art Building lockers are administered through the Student's Union's used bookstore, Bound and Copied. Lockers are rented on a first come, first served basis. Due to the shortage of lockers, and the high demand, students cannot hold more than one locker at a time. All of the details on renting a locker and your responsibilities can be found on the Locker Rental Agreement at

https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/locker_rental_agreement_2010.pdf

Lockers for all sessions can be rented through my.ucalgary.ca. Once you're in the Student Centre, click on **Other Academic Services** and choose **Locker Reservation**.

Lockers must be vacated by the end of term.

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

Models

In this class students may be expected to draw from nude models. **A student electing not to do so must notify the instructors IN WRITING of his/her concerns.**

Portfolios and Assignments

The Department of Art will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading, or for work posted on bulletin boards in the art building.

Note - All unclaimed work will be disposed of.

Note - Studio spaces, bulletin boards and display areas need to be cleared 2 weeks after the last day of classes.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews or observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-5.html>

or

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/chreb>

Campus Security/Safewalk

Call 220-5333 anytime. Help phones are located throughout campus, parking lots and elevators; they connect directly to Campus Security - in case of emergency, press the red button.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

Emergency Evacuation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Stop by SS102, call us at 220-3580 or email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca or artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.