

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

COURSE OUTLINE

**Art (ART) 336.01
Introduction to Digital Photography**

Winter 2013

Lecture Dates: Monday January 14th to April 15th, no class Feb 18th

Lecture Time: 18:00-21:00

Room: SS 018 (Social Sciences Lab)

Instructor: Brandy Dahrouge
Email: badahrou@ucalgary.ca
Website: www.brandydahrouge.com
Office: AB 643 (6th floor of the Arts Parkade)
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

“Fundamental technical and aesthetic considerations in the use of the still Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera and silver-based photographic materials; basic use of the microcomputer in support of digital image processing in art.” - University Calendar

This course provides an introduction to the medium of photography and its historic and cultural context in relation to present day artistic practice. Our exploration will start with: the invention of photography (late 1800's), early equipment and techniques, principles of film photography, and the resulting digital revolution that has made photography ubiquitous with modern life. We will actively study and practice the technical skills necessary to effectively operate a digital SLR camera, and the basic image manipulation techniques for use in art. In addition, we will examine the aesthetic, theoretical, and conceptual considerations of photographic artists and attempt to put them into practice.

Antirequisite

Credit for both Art 336 and 337 will not be allowed.

Notes: Students wanting to take this class must provide their own Digital Single Lens Reflex Camera at the start of class.

Learning Objectives:

- To grasp the cultural relevance and historical context of select examples of photography and artists working within the field
- To identify and apply technical photographic principles in the operation of a SLR camera
- To recognize and explore the aesthetic elements of visual design in order to create images that communicate artistic ideas
- To become familiar with digital image processing and basic manipulation/adjustment techniques
- To begin to question, evaluate, and speak about your own imagery and your reasons and influences for taking a photograph.

Textbooks and Readings

I recommend "A Short Course in Digital Photography" by Barbara London and Jim Stone. It is available for purchase in the Bookstore and on loan in the library. Additional readings and articles to be announced throughout the course.

Required Materials

- A digital SLR camera (A camera with full manual operation and removable lenses)
- USB stick to transport your files
- Memory card reader or cables (for your camera) to transfer image files
- Notebook for field notes and class notes
- You will need to set up a Flickr account under the name you have registered with the University (not irockphoto89!) and post images to our group page. Instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

Supplementary fees

Students may be required to attend gallery showings; students will be responsible for their own transportation costs and admittance fees. You may be required to print your final assignment images at a professional photo lab.

Course Activities

This course is part lecture and part lab. It may include: demonstrations, slide shows, guest presentations, gallery visits, group discussions, and student presentation of work. In keeping with other studio courses within the Department of Art, class time may be used to practice skills and individually work on artistic techniques. This is not a course where you take vast amounts of notes, memorize a collection of terms and dates, and then reproduce them for an exam. Artistic practice requires just that - practice. Art students regularly put in double the amount of hours outside of the classroom as they do inside. A diligent and regular commitment is the only way to develop your artistic eye and the required skills to realize your vision.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weekly Photo Assignments 10% First Photo due Jan 27th (electronically before midnight)	Weekly photography assignments to build specific skills and practice techniques. Each week the new photo assignment is discussed in class and posted on BB. You are to post your photo assignment images to Flickr the night before class (Sunday by midnight) and I will select certain images to be discussed in the following lecture. This assignment will be marked as complete or incomplete.
Gallery Review Assignment 10% Due before February 25th www.exposurephotofestival.com	The month of February is the Exposure Photography Festival in Calgary/Canmore/Banff. Your assignment is to choose one of the photography exhibits in the Exposure festival, attend the gallery that is hosting the exhibition, and write a review about the exhibition and the artist/s. You will need to do this on your own time, there will be travel involved, and there may be admittance fees.
Mid-term Photo Project 30% Due March 4th	A series of images that are well-conceived and presented to the class. Assignment specifications will be provided.
Research Project 20% Due March 25th	You will research an internationally recognized photographic artist. A list of artists will be provided for you to choose from.

Part of your research will be to re-create one of their signature photographs yourself. Your research can be presented in the traditional essay format or in another creative format of your design. Assignment specifications will be provided.

Final Photo Project 30% A second series of images that are “resolved” to the best of your abilities. Assignment specifications will be provided.
Due April 15th

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of 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.

Final Exam

There is no final exam in this course.

Tips for Success in This Course

This course is in art, and we will explore how to use the camera to create art. We will discuss what this means and you will be given many examples and specifics. Art requires you to think about what you are creating, analyze why you are doing it, and decide what you hope to say by achieving it.

Think about what you are photographing and why. As art creation is our goal, subject matter such as pretty pictures of your dog, cat, children, stuffed toys, your boyfriend/girlfriend may not suffice.

Avoid multi-tasking. This means *not* photographing your math homework and handing that image in for our course. Or, photographing your trip to the mall, your walk/drive home from the University, you making dinner, you and your buddies sitting around watching football, or you washing your car. Do not hand in images of things you would be doing anyway. **Create something original and specific for your assignments.** Multi-tasking is not being creative.

Work hard, challenge yourself, be original, do your best, and don't make excuses.

Pre-existing photographs from other courses, season, etc., will not be graded.

Late Penalties

Assignments handed in late will incur a 10% per day deduction unless prior arrangements with the instructor have been approved.

Grading Method/Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade	G.P.A.	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 complete.
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	

60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.
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.

Grades are earned through hard work. They are not bargained for. There are no “easy A’s”.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

This course is held in a computer lab and we will use computers for assignment evaluation and image manipulation. However, our class time is not the time to update your Facebook status, complete assignments for other courses, or surf the Internet. Resist the temptation for distraction! **Respect the learning environment of your peers and the teaching environment of your instructor.**

Please turn off your mobile phone and do not use it in class.

Email Communication

I can be reached by email between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm on weekdays. I may not respond to emails sent on weekends or holidays. I will try to reply to your email within 48 hours of receipt.

Academic Accommodation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

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 Enrollment Services if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.

A Doctor’s note must be provided for late or missed assignments in order for the student to be eligible for credit. If an absence is known in advance, it is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements (in writing) to hand in work **ahead of the due date**. It is the student’s responsibility to catch up on content missed due to not attending lectures and demonstrations.

For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final

F.O.I.P.

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

Writing/Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure of the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the University. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases

and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end of your document is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or Writing Support Services (at the Student Success Centre) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

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

Written assignments for this course are evaluated based on content, clarity of ideas, grammar, and solid writing skills. If I cannot read your assignment or understand its contents, I cannot grade it. Please make use of spell check and re-read your assignments (or have someone proof-read them) before handing them in. If you struggle with written English, please seek help from the Student Writing Centre (see above link). I check all written assignments for accurate references and plagiarism.

Student Misconduct

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

Student Union and Student Ombudsman

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

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

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. All unclaimed work will be disposed of two weeks after the end 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/research/cfreb>

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 Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Stop by SS110, call us at 220-3580 or email us at 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 2nd 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.