INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FA PH ID 180

Photography contains that presence/absence that makes Sirens so mysterious and fascinating.
M. Blanchot

1- DESCRIPTION
The course will introduce students to the digital photography world with particular focus on updated techniques and how they can be incorporated into classic fine art photography. The course will explore of state-of-the-art computer software and how to control the scanning of a picture, transparency and negative to make a good quality digital print. Elements of photo composition and graphic design, photo history and relationships with other art medium will also be addressed during the course. FUA's Digital Laboratory is equipped with the most updated computers, software and peripherals. Prerequisite and Requirements: there are no mandatory prerequisites. Basic photography experience will be helpful. A digital camera of at least 5 mega pixels with an optical zoom lens 3x or more is required.

2- OBJECTIVE
Students will gain proficiency in taking, editing, processing and printing digital images. Students will develop their photographing skills with special attention to formal and compositional elements in an image. Students will also became more familiar with the technique as the course will introduce them to the history of Photography.

3- REQUIREMENTS
There are no mandatory prerequisites. However a basic background in photography or graphic design will be helpful. Lectures are held in English. A questionnaire is distributed on the first day of class to inform the instructor about the general background and characteristics of the students. Students are not required to answer all questions.
Students will be asked to research, read and study quite often at the School Library. Please make sure you are familiar with it (know how it works, opening and closing times, facilities, etc.) from the very start of the course. For the material you will need to type, please check the school computer facilities. No eating is allowed in class. A responsible and active class participation is expected at all times and activities. At all times cell phones must be turned off (both during lectures and visits). Students will be provided with terms and words used commonly in art history language. Please consider strict guidelines regarding attendance and behavior during scheduled visits/field trip (as described in pertinent paragraphs). Please also consider important notes on attendance, participation and assignments (as described in pertinent paragraphs).

4- METHOD
Method used will be experimental, through theoretical lectures, outdoor shooting, computer work, practical demonstrations, slide shows, visits to exhibitions (when available by the discretion of the instructor) collective critiques, magazine and books readings. Constant interaction with the instructor is mandatory. Interacting with other class members will also be necessary to create a positive and stimulating environment.

5- ATTENDANCE-PARTICIPATION
Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to FUA's academic policies. This is reflected in the attendance policy. Class attendance is mandatory and counts towards the final grade. Travel is NEVER an excuse for absence from class.

6- EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM
Attendance: 10% Participation: 10% Improvement: 10% First assignment: 10% Second assignment: 20% Final project: 30% Final test: 10%

FUA GRADING SCALE
100-93=A 92-90=A-89-87=B+ 86-83=B 82-80=B79-77=C+ 76-73=C 72-70=C-69-60=D 59-0=F I= Incomplete W= Withdrawal

7- EXAMS PAPERS ASSIGNMENTS
Two assignments and a final project will be given by the instructor. First assignment consisting in a series of 6 to 8 photographs will be critically reviewed. Critique will consist in a slide show. It counts for 10% of the final course grade.
**Second assignment** consisting in a series of 6 digital prints 8”x10” will . It counts for 20% of the final course grade. *(Please note: Late assignments will not be accepted. If the assignment is not completed in the grade will be F corresponding to 0 points.)**

**Final test** will consist in a mix of multiple choice and short answers. It will consist of 10 basic questions. It counts for 10% of the final course grade.

**Final exam** will consist in the final project critique. The final project will consist of 6 digital prints 8”x10”. Final exam counts for **30%** of the final grade.

Students that will not attend the exam day will receive an “F” as relative grade for the exam. **For no reason the date and time of the scheduled exam can be change**

**8-TEXT BOOK – FURTHER READINGS**

There is no text book for this course. Handouts will be given on the first week.

**Suggested readings:**

Tom and Michele Grimm, *The Basic Book of Photography*  
Michael Freeman, *The Digital Photography Handbook*  
Willfred Baatz, *Photography a Concise History*  
R. Barthes, *Camera lucida*  
S. Sontag, *On Photography*  
J. Morris, *Get the Picture*  
C. Cotton, *The Photograph as Contemporary Art*

**Web Sites:**

magnumphotos. com  
worldpressphoto.org  
visapourlimage.com  
spartcus.schoolnet.co.uk/REVphoto.htm  
masters-of-photography.com

**9- ADDITIONAL FEES**

N/A

**10- VISITS-TRIPS**

Visit to the Museum of Photography. Tickets are included.

**11- MATERIAL LIST**

A Digital Camera with optical zoom lens (if possible more than 6 mega pixels).

**12- LESSONS**

Note : Additional reading assignments will be distributed in class.

**ALTERNATIVE LESSON**

Should the instructor be indisposed or otherwise unable to attend, a substitute teacher will conduct a pre-prepared alternative lesson at the regular class time. This will take the form of a supervised laboratory work.