ART 317-001 DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY  
Stephen F. Austin State University, Spring 2016

Instructor:  
Elaine Bezold  
bezolden@sfasu.edu

Class Meets:  
TuesThurs: 8:00-10:40 am  
ART 131 (Digital Lab)

Office Hours:  
MON&WED: 10-11 am  
TU&THU: 10:40 - 11:40 am  
Or by appointment.

Course Overview

This is an introduction to digital photography and printing. We will cover the basics of shooting with a DSLR camera, using editing and printing software, and also basic lighting techniques. Lectures will cover the work of contemporary photographers who use digital processes, and any other historical photographers relevant to specific discussions. There will be an emphasis on final print quality, the ability to think and speak critically about your work, and speak about the work of others. The course is designed to make students comfortable with the basics of Adobe editing and Epson printing/scanning software.

Course Materials

NOTEBOOK (Please, take a lot of notes.)  
DSLR camera + CF or SD card  
Tripod  
External hard drive  
Digital card reader  
EPSON Inkjet paper (Premium Luster is a good place to start)  
Sketchbook/notebook for artist journal

Resources
Assessment & Grading Criteria

You will be assessed in each class on your progress in technical accomplishments and participation in lectures, discussions, assignments, and critiques. Your grade will be based on attendance, class participation, and the quality of the effort you put into completing all assignments. Class attendance is required. More than three unexcused absences will result in immediate failure. Arriving late or leaving early three times will count as 1 absence. Failure to have work on a critique day will result in a zero for that project, no late work accepted. Failure to attend class on a critique day without an official (something like a doctor’s note, not just an email) will either result in: 1. a zero on the project if it is your day to show 2. an immediate deduction of half of your own critique grade when you do show. Feel free to contact me with any issues.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>5 pt. concept</th>
<th>5 pt. technical</th>
<th>10 pt. # of prints</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critiques</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25 pts. indiv. (125 pts total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist Journals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>-5 unexcused absence</td>
<td>-1 late</td>
<td></td>
<td>30 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>-5 not talking during discussion or critique</td>
<td>-5 not prepared for class</td>
<td></td>
<td>30 pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total points available in class: 235 pts.

Class Schedule
Jan 19

-Course overview: How will you be graded? What will we cover? What materials are required? What are optional additional materials or resources
-Overview of digital facilities and tools
-What to bring next class, what kind of cameras can work
-Artist Journals

For next class: Acquire (or check out) a DSLR camera with full manual function, RAW capability, and at least a 10 megapixel sensor.

Jan 21

- Basic run-through of camera function and the best settings for you
- Lecture
- Go over and assign natural light project

For next class: Shoot (at least) 50 pictures and bring your camera, card, and reader to class. Listen to the “Framing the Story” episode (from June 7, 2013) of the TED podcast and be ready to discuss it briefly in class. Have 9 entries total in your artist journals by next class to turn in for grading.

http://www.npr.org/2013/05/23/186301332/framing-the-story

Jan 26

We will start with a discussion surrounding the podcast of “Framing the Story” and your thoughts about how pieces of it might relate to photography. After discussion, we will cover how to load images from your card to your external hard drive and then go over beginning editing in Bridge.

For next class: Shoot 50 more images for natural light assignment

Jan 28

- Lecture on editing and printing
- Rest of the class period to work on editing and print
- Artist Journals due with (9 artists)

For next class: have images to work with and paper to print!
Feb 2
- Work Day

For next class: 10 final prints for critique

Feb 4
Critique- Natural Light

Feb 9
- Pt. 1 Lecture on contemporary documentary photography
- Watch “The Mother Project” and discuss

Feb 11
- Pt. 2 Lecture on documentary photo

For next week: Shoot (at least) 50 pictures to edit next class.

Feb 16
- Editing help and lecture
- Work and problem-solving
- Artist Journals (18 entries total)

For next class: Bring a problem print to get help.

Feb 18
- Go over problem print and we’ll break down how to fix it
- Rest of class to work

For next week: Shoot more for critique!

“The True Meaning of Pictures” Doc and discussion

For next week: 10 final prints for critique

Feb 23
Critique- Documentary

For next class: Find an art photobook in the school library and bring it to class to discuss
Feb 25
Discussion of the photobooks brought to class: Who are the artists? When did they make work? How does it function differently in book format? How can you make your own book?

March 1
Lecture

March 3
Art 21 and work day

March 8
Lecture

March 10
Critique- Artificial Light

March 15
No class, Spring break March 12-20

March 17
No class, Spring break March 12-20

March 22
Watch Doc

March 24
No class, Easter Break

March 29
Lecture and discussion

March 31
Lecture and work day

April 5
Critique- Choice of concept

April 7
“Stories We Tell” Documentary
April 12
Discussion and lecture pt. I

**For next week:** do assigned reading (TBA)

April 14
Discuss reading
Lecture Pt. II

**For next class:** have images to show me and work on in class

April 19
Short Technical Lecture
Work Day

April 21
Individual Mini- Critiques

April 26
Artist Statements and Portfolio Lecture

April 28
No class, Elaine out of town

May 3
Work Day
Help on Portfolios and statements

May 5
Prep for Final Critique*

May 10
Finals
**Final review:**

Critique of ten prints that you feel make a cohesive group. What did you feel was your most successful image? What connects the pictures? Is it thematic or aesthetic? How could they improve? What did you feel was your least successful image and how would fix it? Are the images functioning well technically and conceptually? How can you use principles from this class in other ways? Are they well-printed and professionally organized? Does the statement help the viewer understand?

**Homework Policy**

It is important to stay on track with this class because we’ll be covering material that builds on the previous week’s class, so keep a steady workflow. If you miss a class, refer to that week’s assignment in the syllabus or send me an email to see what you missed.

**Artist Journals**

Each of you will make a notebook dedicated to artists and photographers that currently interest you in some way. Every week you should add three names and images from the artists. Regular printer-prints are fine, do use color if the photographs are in color though. Every three weeks you will turn in the journals to me and I will check that you have 9 new entries. This is meant to help you build a working knowledge of photo-history and current work to apply in critiques and when you shoot. At the end of the semester you should have at least 39 entries, but you are welcome to include as many names as you like. This journal counts as part of your participation in class.
FOR DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:

Human Services Building, Room 325
P.O. Box 6130, Nacogdoches, TX  75962-6130
Voice: (936) 468-3004, Fax: (936) 468-1368
Hours 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

Students with disabilities are legally entitled to request accommodations at any time during the semester; faculty members are encouraged to help students identify their needs early by including an accommodation statement on their course syllabi. An accommodation statement may read:

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES:

Counseling Services
3rd Floor, Rusk Building
P.O. Box 13032, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962
Phone: 936.468.2401
Fax: 936.468.6638
counseling@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Counseling can address areas such as:

● Addiction and abuse on alcohol and other drugs
● Adjustment issues, including adjustment to college life
● Anger management
● Anxiety
● Communication
● Depression
● Eating disorders
● Gender identity and sexual orientation
● Grief
● Problem solving
● Relationship difficulties, including roommates, significant others, and professors
● Relationship violence and physical abuse
Sexual assault
- Stress management
- Thoughts of suicide or preoccupation with death
- Trauma

To schedule an appointment you may come by Counseling Services on the 3rd floor of the Rusk Building or call (936) 468-2401.

Please arrive 10 minutes early for the first session in order to complete intake information. You must be an enrolled student to access services. There is no fee for counseling. Counseling sessions usually last 50 minutes. All sessions are private and records are confidential.

If you are not comfortable in the working relationship with your current counselor, you have the right to request a transfer to another counselor. If an additional transfer is necessary, you may discuss this with the Director of Counseling Services.