
Introduction to Photography

The journey of a thousand leagues begins from beneath your feet.

Lao Tzu. 600 BC-531 BC

Contact Information

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Texts

Langford's Starting Photography, Phillip Andrews, Michael Langford 6th edition, 0240521102, Publisher: Focal Press-Elsevier, 2008 AND Class handouts (Readings will also give pages in 5th edition if you already have a copy: *Langford's Starting Photography*, Phillip Andrews, Michael Langford 5th edition, ISBN 0-240-52056-4, Publisher: Focal Press-Elsevier, 2007)

Course Description:

A survey of the historical and practical aspects of photography as an art form. Students will be introduced to the use of light, composition and communication through images. Significant photographers from a diversity of backgrounds will inspire students in the practice of photography and developing an appreciation of the varied uses of the photographic image in our culture.

This class will be taught both online and on-campus. All students will use online classroom for lab activities, assignment submission and image sharing.

Materials

- Camera
- Extra Batteries for your camera as needed
- Your choice of 10 rolls of color print film or 10 rolls of color slide film or 10 rolls of black and white film or appropriate memory cards.
- Access to a computer to post your assignments to the etudes classroom and participate in the Flickr group
- Eight to Twelve enlargements
- Eight Mats for final project or materials for alternative assignment approved by instructor
- Folder or mailer for final project with return postage if on-line student (or permission for me to keep final project)
- Box or folder for finished pictures for on-campus students.

Objectives

The student will be able to:

- A. Create photographs that demonstrate an understanding of light, color, and composition.
- B. Understand basic digital and traditional photographic techniques
- C. Compare and contrast different photographic styles and genre.
- D. Read and evaluate selected articles on photography-related topics.
- E. Demonstrate knowledge of current photographic technology.
- F. Discuss and describe expanding visual awareness.
- G. Recognize the contributions made in this field by people from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Assignments

All imagery in the assignments and portfolio must be your original work. Assignments are due on the due dates as posted in the **online classroom**. Each assignment will be accompanied by three things you learned from the assignment written in full sentences. Late assignments will be accepted up to two weeks late ONLY and will receive one letter grade penalty per week late. "Redos" will be accepted up to two weeks after they are returned and receive no penalty.

Attendance

ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS: There will be a maximum of one unexcused absences for the quarter. More than one will affect your final points. Each class is worth 5 points. You will be awarded the 5 points on both your attendance and involved attention/participation during the class.

You may be dropped from the class if you are absent for more than two consecutive classes/events and these are not excused absences. Roll will be taken at the start of class. If you are late, come to me after class. It is your responsibility to let me know you are here.

ON-LINE STUDENTS: You must post something thoughtful to the class website each week to count toward your attendance grade. You may be dropped from the class if you are "absent" for more than two consecutive weeks and these are not excused absences.

(If you need to mix your attendance between online and on campus, please contact me at the beginning of the quarter to work out the details. Thanks.)

Lecture and Lab

ON-CAMPUS: The on-campus section meets for 3 hours of lecture per week. Then is then an additional 2 hours per week of to be arranged lab. You will fulfill this lab portion by participation in the online activities and field trips throughout the quarter. You will keep a lab card to document 24 hours of "lab activities." You will submit this information in the "Tasks, Tests and Surveys" area under "Lab Activities."

ON-LINE: The on-line student will also keep a lab card to document 24 hours of "lab activities." You will submit this information in the "Tasks, Tests and Surveys" area under "Lab Activities." If you are local, you are encouraged to participate in the field trips that will be announced at the beginning of the quarter. If you are not local or able to attend organized activities, you will arrange similar experiences at your own schedule.

TIME ON TASK = LEARNING! You will grow so much from all our sharing of images and discussion live and online about the wonderful world of photography!

Portfolio

The Portfolio will present your eight best images in a matted format or twelve prints unmatted or an appropriate number of images in an alternative format as agreed upon with me. These will be your best images from the quarter and can be from assignments. Images will be graded on originality, treatment of subject matter, technical execution and final presentation. You may submit up to two additional images for extra credit.

ON-CAMPUS: You will bring your portfolio to the final meeting held according the finals schedule. (See class schedule)

ON-LINE: If you are local you are welcome to join one of the final meetings (see class schedule.) You can also send your portfolio. It must arrive by the final meetings to be accepted.

Academic Honesty

Please review the information on academic honesty before we start. Visit <http://www.foothill.fhda.edu/services/honorint.html> and <http://www.foothill.fhda.edu/services/honor.html>

for details of this policy. You are responsible to submit your own work, credit all quotes and work with integrity. Failure to do this will carry the strictest consequences.

Details

If you need to drop from this class, you are responsible to drop the class officially at Admission and Records. I will not drop you if you stop participating. If you do not participate or submit assignments you will receive a failing grade.

Handouts are available online as pdfs. If you would like hardcopies to copy, please talk to me within the first week.

Cell phones are to be silence on entering the classroom. Repeated cell phone interruptions will affect your attendance grade.

January 15 - last day to drop and qualify for a refund

January 29 - last day to drop without a grade/last day to file pass/no pass card

February 26 - last day to drop with a W

Important Details

My goal in this class is that each of you succeeds. To this end, it is your responsibility to discuss with me any disabilities or challenges you have in meeting the class requirements. We will work together to get you the assistance or the accommodations necessary for success.

Grading

Attendance/participation	100
<i>(Includes online and in class discussion and lab activities)</i>	
Assignments	200
Written paper(s) on selected topic in photography	100
Portfolio*	100
Total Possible.....	500

Grade

A+	498-500 pts.
A.....	475-497 pts.
A-	450-474 pts.
B+.....	435-449 pts.
B	415-434 pts.
B-	400-414 pts.
C+.....	385-399 pts.
C	365-350 pts.
D+	335-349 pts.
D.....	315-334 pts.
D-	300-314 pts.
F	300-0 pts.

Pass/No Pass:

If you are busy and/or do not need a letter grade in this class, you might consider taking the class "Pass/No Pass." All you need is 350 points to get a Pass. To take it "Pass/No Pass" file a petition directly with Admissions and Records early in the quarter. Do not miss the deadline if you wish to take the class "pass/no pass."

Matrix for success in Introduction to Photography

It is up to you what grade you would like in this class. This class is a four-unit class requiring for 36 hours of lecture and 24 hours of lab time throughout the quarter of the on-campus class. Online you can expect to spend that same time in the "on-line classroom." For each hours of class meeting, you can expect to need 1 to 3 hours for homework and reading. That means you can expect as a student to need 120 to 240 hours in the quarter to complete this class. In summer session, this translates to 20 to 40 hours per week; during regular session, it means you must dedicate 10 to 20 hours per week. Plan your time and pace yourself.

Below is the matrix for succeeding in the Introduction to Photography class. You can excel and I am here to help you do it!

For an 'A'

Participate in class discussions thoughtfully

Submit assignments on time

Assignments will be creative, original and well conceived. They will demonstrate understanding of the concepts and skills as well as being visually interesting

Your best images will show true improvement and thoughtfulness and will be submitted in a professional manner for the final portfolio.

For a 'B'

Participate in class discussions

Submit assignment on time

Assignments will be creative and original. They will show understanding of the concepts and skills.

Finish your best pieces for presentation in final portfolio

For a 'C'

Participate in class discussions occasionally

Submit assignments

Assignments will show basic understanding of the concepts and skills.

Print and present your photographs for final portfolio.

I don't think you will be working for a D or an F...and in any case you can figure out how to earn those grades on your own.

The above schedules and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.