

ART 806 FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY I Section 0360 Fall 2013
Room: FA 304 Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:35 AM - 12:35 PM 3.00 Units
Instructor: Scott Davis (email: wlac@davisanddavis.org)
West Los Angeles College <http://www.wlac.edu/>
This Syllabus will be revised without notice.

Course Description:

Introduction to Fine Art Photography. Methods and concepts. This studio course assumes no previous knowledge of photography or Photoshop. Lectures, demonstrations, and projects are intended for the beginning student as an introduction to the medium. Digital camera required.

Textbook (optional): Complete Digital Photography by Ben Long
ISBN 13: 9781435459205 ISBN 10: 1435459202
Author's Website: <http://www.completedigitalphotography.com/>
Book Support: http://www.completedigitalphotography.com/?page_id=1567

Required Equipment & Supplies:

1. Digital Camera (3.5 Megapixels or more, preferably with manual exposure controls). See <http://www.dpreview.com/> for digital camera ratings and reviews.
2. Camera manual. You will need it. To download, see camera manufacturer's website or try http://camera.manualsonline.com/manuals/device/digital_camera.html
3. Plenty of fresh batteries for your camera (check camera manual), or, better, two sets of rechargeable batteries and a charger.
4. Memory card(s) for your camera. CF (Compact Flash) or SD. Check your camera manual.
5. Camera to USB cable or USB card reader for CF or SD. Check your camera manual.
6. USB flashdrive to store files (4 GB or larger).
7. A tripod (optional, but highly recommended).

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate

1. knowledge of historical and contemporary concepts of fine art photography.
2. knowledge of the camera functions and lighting control.
3. the ability to perform all necessary digital darkroom techniques from importing files to preparation for printing.
4. useful professional presentation techniques – as in web portfolios and physical exhibition presentations.
5. comprehension and sensitive application of the visual elements of line, form, value, texture, space and motion, as well as the design principles of balance, rhythm, dominance, contrast, variation and unity in photographic projects,
6. creative problem solving from planning and discovery to implementation and evaluation.
7. exploration of the medium and the taking of creative risks.

This course will also facilitate the following Institutional Learning Outcomes:

- A. Critical Thinking: Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.
- B. Communication: Effectively communicate thought in a clear, well-organized manner to persuade, inform, and convey ideas in academic, work, family and community settings.
- C. Quantitative Reasoning: Identify, analyze, and solve problems that are quantitative in nature.
- D. Self-awareness/Interpersonal Skills: Apply self-assessment and reflection strategies to interpersonal, work, community, career, and educational pathways.
- E. Civic Responsibility: Apply the principles of civility to situations in the contexts of work, family, community and the global world.
- F. Technical Competence: Utilize the appropriate technology effectively for informational, academic, personal, and professional needs.
- G. Cultural Diversity: Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.
- H. Ethics: Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.
- I. Aesthetics: Use multiple modes of inquiry and approaches to experience and to engage with the arts and nature; develop and express personal creative visions throughout all aspects of one's life.

Modes of Instruction:

1. Weekly readings.
2. Weekly assignments. All of these assignments will assist directly or indirectly in the completion of the Final Project.

3. In-class exercises, both in groups and individual.
4. There will be 2 short quizzes.
5. Frequent critiques of student work.
6. Midterm Exhibition Review: Each student will complete a review of a real world fine art photography exhibition and present their review to the class. More information about this project will be discussed in 2-3 weeks.
7. Final Project: Each student will create a photography series for their final project. More information about this project will be discussed in 2-3 weeks.
8. Software: For this class, we will primarily be using Adobe Photoshop CS5. This program is installed on the computers in FA 304. You're not required to buy this software for your home computer, but it is available to students at a discount from <http://www.collegesoftware.org>

Class Rules & Information:

1. Please come to class prepared and on time. Be in your seat with the computer on by 9:35.
2. Attendance is mandatory. 3 tardies = 1 absence. 3 unexcused absences = -1 grade. If you miss a class because of an illness or medical emergency, let me know as soon as possible.
3. Assignments: Each assignment should be handed in on time. Partial credit will be given for homework assignments handed in up to one week after their due date.
4. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to make up the work. Ask a friend who did show up what you missed.
5. The use of cellphones, mp3 players, and pagers is not allowed during class.
6. Use the Internet access only for web research related to the topic or exercise at hand during class.
7. Academic integrity: The work you do in this class must be your own. It is not acceptable to put your name on work done by others, or for others to put their name on work done by you.
8. Respect is key to a positive learning environment. Students will respect each other, guests of the class, and the teacher, and act in a professional manner in class.

Class Assessment:

GRADING GUIDELINES		GRADING SCALE	
Class Participation (includes attendance)	10%	90-100	A
Assignments	30%	80-89	B
Quizzes	20%	70-79	C
Midterm	10%	60-69	D
Final	30%	0-59	F
Total	100%		

Shooting Assignments:

1. Camera Test. Exposure, focus, white balance, ISO, resolution, compression, sharpening, dust.
 2. The Boring Assignment. Photograph something boring so that it looks interesting using lighting, angle and composition.
 3. Double Self-Portrait. Photograph yourself twice. Shoot one photo with you in it and one without you in it.
 4. Urban Landscape. Photograph your urban environment.
 5. Diptychs. Using Photoshop, join together two photos of similar things and two photos of unrelated things.
 6. Environmental Portrait with Text. Pose a person in his/her normal surrounding and photograph him/her. Have subject write about his/her portrait. Present photo with writing.
 7. Paper. Make a scene out of paper and photograph it.
 8. Hockney. Take multiple overlapping snapshots and tile them together in Photoshop.
 9. Lost Horizon. Shoot and assemble a panorama with no horizon line.
 10. Candid Camera. Photograph several people without their knowledge.
 11. Wrong.
- Plus various in-class Photoshop Assignments.

HOLIDAYS & BREAKS: Thanksgiving Nov. 28 - Dec. 1

FINAL: Dec. 10, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.