Art 117  
Photography for non-majors  
Stephen F. Austin State University

Fall 2019 | Classroom: Art 131

Instructor: Bill Nieberding Ph.D.  
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday  
1-3 p.m. Monday & Wednesday & by appointment  
Office: 115 Art Building  
Mailbox: 101 Art Building  
E-Mail: Please e-mail through D2L or William.nieberding@sfasu.edu

Course Description
ART 117 - Photography for Non-Majors is a three-credit course that will introduce non-majors to the art of photography. This class includes hands-on practice with digital cameras and computer software while providing an introduction to photography as a fine art medium. Students will learn basic camera operation, digital file management, image editing and printing in the service of expressing ideas. An introduction to historical and contemporary work and concepts in photography will complement and inform these pursuits.

We will learn actively in this class - by DOING and MAKING. Most assignments will be studio-based and will require time spent outside of class to complete. We will also analyze and write about photographs, critique each others’ work, and discuss relevant readings as a group. These activities require the active participation of every student.

Student Learning Outcomes
- Students will learn about photographic seeing, including composition, light and color.
- Students will become familiar with their digital camera’s manual controls.
- Students will learn how technical aspects of photography, such as shutter speed and aperture, affect the aesthetic qualities of an image.
- Students will learn how to import and manage digital image files using Adobe Lightroom.
- Students will learn how to edit digital images for screen display and digital printing.
- Students will learn about historical and contemporary photographic work and concepts.
- Students will learn about and practice interpretation and analysis of photographs.
- Students will engage in constructive critiques that focus on technical, aesthetic and conceptual aspects of their work.
- Students will actively participate in discussions relating to assigned readings/films.
Required Supplies and Equipment
- Digital Camera with manual exposure and focus controls, resolution of 8 MP or higher (if you don't have your own, there are a limited number of cameras available for check-out)
- Portable external hard drive (a thumb drive is recommended)
- AT LEAST 1 envelope 25 sheets 8.5x11” Epson Premium Lustre paper

Recommended Supplies and Equipment
- Personal Computer with Adobe Lightroom Software

Where to Buy Supplies
LOCAL: - SFA Bookstore - basic art supplies, hard drives, textbooks, etc.
ONLINE: (Plan ahead for shipping times and register as a student for discounts and specials)
- B&H Photo  www.bhphotovideo.com/edu
- Adorama  www.adorama.com/
- Freestyle Photo  http://www.freestylephoto.biz

Classroom Behavior Policy
Discussions in critique and of historical and contemporary artwork may involve challenging and sensitive topics including identity, race, religion, and sexuality. Students are expected to maintain a mature and respectful attitude toward their peers and the instructor. Any student who behaves in a way that intimidates or disrespects others will be asked to leave the room and may be referred to university judicial affairs.

Important Student Responsibilities & Course Policies

1. **D2L** Most course information will be posted on the D2L course website, it is your responsibility to retrieve and refer to the files. Please inform the instructor if you have any difficulties posting or retrieving any files. Many projects will be submitted via D2L. **EVERY submission to the D2L dropbox generates an e-mail receipt. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP THOSE RECEIPTS!** If you do not receive a receipt for a submission, it is your responsibility to e-mail the instructor BEFORE the project deadline about the problem. Internet connectivity problems, or problems with D2L ARE NOT acceptable excuses for late work.

2. **Attendance** Absences may negatively affect your grade. Students are allowed 3 absences over the course of the semester with no penalty. **For each absence after two, students will lose 5 percentage points from their final course grade.** A student can fail this course due to poor attendance. Illness or family emergency BEYOND the two excused absences WILL COUNT AGAINST YOUR GRADE. Students experiencing extended illnesses, personal or family emergencies should make contact with the instructor as soon as possible and
meet with the instructor immediately upon return. Documentation of illness or emergency in these circumstances will be required!

3. **Tardiness:** attendance will be taken during the first 5 minutes of class. Anyone not in class by that time will be counted as tardy. Three (3) incidents of unexcused tardiness and/or leaving class early equal one unexcused absence.

4. **Perfect Attendance:** Students who are in class and sign the roll every day will receive an additional 5 percentage points added to their course grade.

5. **Guidelines for Class Discussions:** Students are expected and encouraged to share ideas and thoughts in an open forum in the class discussions. All student contributions will be acknowledged and responded to respectfully and thoughtfully by the instructor and classmates. Students are expected to use appropriate terms and language within all course discussion. Divergent beliefs and worldviews are encouraged and may be shared. Respect for these differences will be maintained within the classroom.

6. **Late Assignments:** Assignment grades are reduced by 10% for every weekday an assignment has not been handed in after the assigned due date. Late written assignments must be posted to the D2L website. Written assignments cannot be handed in as email attachments unless a student has received the instructor’s prior approval. Late projects or anything that cannot be submitted electronically should be handed in during office hours to avoid excessive late penalty. Don’t wait until the next class meeting.

7. **Email:** Email is used as a means of communicating with students about the course. Email will be sent through D2L. It is the student’s responsibility to check D2L e-mail or forward emails to an account that he/she checks regularly.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.
Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

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. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This policy applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp or call the office at 936-468-2703.

Reading & Homework:

All students are expected to have completed all reading assignments for the day that they are due. Class participation in online homework based on the readings is required and a significant part of the grade in the course.
Project Work

All project files are due by the beginning of class on the due date in the syllabus. D2L postings are due at 5 p.m. the date the project is due. Project loaded after 5 p.m. will be counted as late and receive a 10% deduction. Projects up to one week late will be lowered one full letter grade (10%) and will not be eligible for re-shoot. Projects more than 7 days late will receive a grade of zero. Any project initially fully completed and submitted on-time may be re-shot or re-printed for an improved grade. Re-shoots must be submitted no later than 2 weeks after the graded assignment is returned to the student.

All images must be shot by the student for this class and this class only. No photographs shot by persons other than the student, or photographs made previous to this quarter or for other classes during this quarter will be accepted, and attempts to submit such photographs for credit may be considered academic misconduct.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on attendance as discussed above, and the following components:

- Homework, Tests & Quizzes: 15%
- Photo Genre Presentation: 10%
- Photography exhibit reflection: 5%
- Projects: 70%
  - Project 1: Cyanotypes: 5%
  - Project 2: Pinhole Photography: 5%
  - Project 3: Shutter & motion: 10%
  - Project 4: Depth of Field: 10%
  - Project 5: Light, Color & Composition: 10%
  - Project 6: Composing in Color & B&W: 10%
  - Project 7: Human Subjects: 15%
  - Project 8: One from Many: 10%
  - Project 9: Final Project: 25%

Grading Scale:

- A = 100-90
- B = 89-80
- C = 79-70
- D = 69-60
- F = Below 60
## Course Calendar Overview

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; navigating the parts of the camera</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Exposure, shutter speed and motion</td>
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<td>Setting up Lightroom catalogs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Exposure, lenses, aperture and depth of field, basic LR editing</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Light</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Light continued, more LR editing</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Setting up Lightroom catalogs.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Printing from LR</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Color</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Color continued, Introduction to Photoshop</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Still-life</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Portraits- more editing in LR &amp; Photoshop</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Portraits continued</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break—No Class Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Final Projects</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Final Projects</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Finals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final project presentations and discussions</td>
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