ARTS 4356 - Advanced Photography
Instructor: Amanda Breitbach

Course Description

ART 4356 - Advanced Photography is a three-credit course designed to deepen advanced students’ knowledge and ability in photography. During the Maymester, this class is offered as a field course. The first week of class is spent traveling to a unique destination to make photographs in an environment different than what you are accustomed to seeing around Nacogdoches. Students are given the freedom to shoot digitally or on film, using the camera(s) of their choice. Shooting is informed by readings and discussions about historic and contemporary landscape photography, and the changing methods, goals, and presentations of this kind of artwork. The second week of class is spent back at SFA, editing and printing photographs, with the instructor available to offer individual assistance in refining those skills. During the final week of the Maymester, we will meet as a group for a final critique of each student's work.

We will learn actively in this class - by DOING and MAKING. Students should use every opportunity to make photographs, striving to make the most of the places that we visit. This class requires the active participation of every student, and participation is a significant portion of the student's grade.

Prerequisites: waived for the Maymester course

Course Objectives

• Students will learn about technical concepts of exposure (control of shutter speed, aperture, and ISO) through hands-on practice of landscape and nature photography.
• Students will learn how to make a strong composition, using strategies like the Rule of Thirds, leading lines, symmetry, negative space, etc.
• Students will learn about relevant historical and contemporary photographic work, especially landscape and nature photography and apply aspects of what they observe in their own images.
• Students will work independently to photograph sites that are part of the group trip
• Students will practice thinking carefully while making a photograph, striving to make images that are creative and original
• Students will refine their approach to darkroom or digital printing
• 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 or Film Camera with manual exposure controls (Cameras are available for student checkout)
- Portable external hard drive with 1 TB or more of storage if shooting digitally
- Film if shooting analogue
- Darkroom or inkjet paper adequate to print assignments

**Recommended Supplies and Equipment**
- Personal Computer with Adobe Lightroom Software
- Tripod
- Circular polarizing filter to fit your lens

**Where to Buy Supplies** - Plan ahead for shipping and register as a student for discounts
B&H Photo [www.bhphotovideo.com/edu](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/edu)
Adorama [www.adorama.com/](http://www.adorama.com/)
Freestyle Photo [http://www.freestylephoto.biz](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.

**Attendance and Participation**
Demonstrations, discussions, presentations and other group activities only take place during class time and will not be repeated for those absent. Lateness to or early departure from class will count as a half absence. Students are expected to participate actively in class, speak up during critiques and discussions, ask questions, and demonstrate engagement in the subject. *It is the student’s responsibility to read the schedule and prepare for class each day by completing assignments and readings on time.* Students who are not prepared for class or who do not actively participate in critiques and/or discussions will receive a participation grade of 0 for those class periods.

**Academic Integrity**
I expect the highest standards of integrity from students in my class. Any student involved in cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty may be subject to disciplinary action.
Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. 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/.

Mental Health and Wellness
SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
• SFA Counseling Service
  www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
  Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401
• SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
  www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
  Human Services, Room 202 936.468.1041

Crisis Resources:
• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343S
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255) Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Harassment and Discrimination
As an instructor, one of my priorities is to create a safe learning environment. If you experience harassment or discrimination that makes you feel unsafe or that interferes with your ability to learn, please feel welcome to talk to me. As a faculty member, I have a legal responsibility to share information regarding sexual misconduct or crimes that occur on campus with the university’s Title IX compliance officer, who will offer affected students appropriate counseling and support services. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the SFA Counseling Center, 936-468-2401, the Family Crisis Center of East Texas - SFA Office, 936-468-SAFE (7233), or the 24-hour crisis hotline at 1-800-828-7233.
**Withheld Grades**
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. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

**Grading:**
Grading scale: 100 - 90% A, 89 - 80% B, 79 - 70% C, 69-60% D, 59% and below F
LATE ASSIGNMENTS will not be accepted for the Maymester course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Evaluation criteria</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>attendance, critique participation, preparation for class</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Print Portfolio</td>
<td>final prints - technical, conceptual and aesthetic qualities</td>
<td>60%</td>
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**Instructor Contact information:**
Amanda Breitbach
breitbaca@sfasu.edu
office/studio: Art 123A
office hours: daily 1-2 pm
office phone 936-468-1797
The following is a tentative schedule of class activities, assignments, and due dates. This schedule is flexible and subject to changes as necessary throughout the semester. Updates and schedule changes will be posted to the class calendar on D2L.

**Maymester 2023 - Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

**Monday, May 8**  
- Leave SFA 8:30 a.m., drive to DeSoto State Park, AL ~ 10 hours

**Tuesday, May 9**  
- morning hike in DeSoto State Park?  
- drive to Great Smoky Mountains National Park ~ 3.5 hours  
- drive Cade’s Cove loop, hike Abrams Falls  
- camp in Cade’s Cove Campground

**Wednesday, May 10**  
- hike in Cade’s Cove  
- Explore Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Clingman’s Dome?  
- camp in Deep Creek Group Camp

**Thursday, May 11**  
- raft on the Nantahala River near Bryson City  
- drive to Asheville, NC ~ 1 hour  
- camp at Lake Powhatan Recreation Area

**Friday, May 12**  
- visit Ashville Museum of Art  
- River Arts District  
- dinner out  
- camp at Lake Powhatan Recreation Area

**Saturday, May 13**  
- drive to Tuscaloosa, AL ~6.5 hours  
- camp in Deerlick Creek Campground

**Sunday, May 14**  
- drive back to Nacogdoches ~ 8 hours

**May 15-19**  
- Class meetings daily - times TBA  
- Instructor available to assist with printing, editing, etc.

**Friday, May 19**  
- Final Critique 10-15 prints