School of Fine Art and Music

**Winter Semester 2021**

**SART\*2610**

**PHOTOGRAPHY I**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **INSTRUCTOR:** | Anna Cox | |
| **TECHNICIAN:** | TBD | |
| **TIME:** | | Mon/Wed 2:30 p.m.–5:20 p.m. |
| **LOCATION:** | | Zoom Platform:  <https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/d2l/home/681545>  WordPress blog: <https://photo.sofamstudio.ca/> |
| **EMAIL:** | | [annacox@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sdobson@uoguelph.ca) |

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**:

Students do not need any previous photographic experience to take this course. Students will use a digital camera with basic manual settings, a laptop with Photoshop (software will be supplied), materials supplied at the beginning of the semester under the lab fee, and any materials they have at hand at home or that can be found outside in their immediate surroundings. For example, students will turn their bedrooms into camera obscuras, using simple, everyday materials. Students will make photographic prints outdoors using pre-coated paper, the sun, and water, and turn their living spaces into portable studios using what they have on hand. At the same time, students will learn important technical skills and their creative applications, such as depth of field, shutter speed, and focal lengths; available lighting, both indoors and outdoors; cyanotype printing; compositional principles; and Photoshop techniques.

This course will be taught remotely and will make use of Zoom, Courselink, and a WordPress blog. There is no requirement for in-person on-campus attendance, and materials will be shipped to students at the beginning of the term. A weekly plan with Zoom links and weekly homework requirements will be posted every Monday on the bulletin board on Courselink, to help keep everyone organized and motivated. On Monday of each week, a one hour Zoom meeting will be reserved for a short lecture, class check in, assignment introduction, reading discussion, or critique. Occasionally we will all comment on WordPress posts in real time between 11:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. on Mondays. A one-hour block on Wednesdays will be reserved for additional class time (as required), or individual meetings with the instructor or with the photo technician over Zoom (to be booked in advance). Readings, links to technical demonstrations, instructional videos and supplemental material (podcasts, virtual exhibitions, etc.) will be posted on Courselink and on the course blog. We will share our work on the course blog.

**Note that due to COVID-19, course content may be subject to change.**

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will

* use the basic functions of the camera, such as depth of field and shutter speed, and apply these functions creatively to projects.
* compose interesting images that effectively employ the photographic frame.
* recall and analyze the work of a range of contemporary and historical lens-based artists.
* evaluate the quality and direction of indoor and outdoor available light.
* set up a functioning home studio with minimal materials.
* identify and use historical precursors to the DSLR, such as the camera obscura and the pinhole camera.
* make a photographic print using a historical non-silver printing method.
* organize, compose, and adjust images using Bridge and Photoshop. Acquired skills include image management, RAW conversion, image sizing, contact sheets, and basic image adjustment using levels and curves.

**University Learning Outcomes:**

The five approved outcomes, both undergraduate and graduate are:

1. Critical and Creative Thinking
2. Literacy
3. Global Understanding
4. Communicating
5. Professional and Ethical Behaviour

These five Senate-approved learning outcomes serve as the basis from which to guide the development of degree programs, specializations and courses; as a framework to ensure outcomes are clear to students and to support their achievement; and to inform the process of assessment of outcomes through institutional quality reviews of programs and departments.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION AND DUE DATES:**

Assignments will be graded on creativity, resourcefulness, ambition/effort, originality, and composition. Late assignments will receive a deduction of 5% per day.

Each assignment will be based on a simple premise:

**Attend** the assignment introduction

**Read** any supplied texts

**Watch** any supplied videos

**Reflect** on what you want to do

**Experiment** broadly and fearlessly

**Create and share**!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Value** | **Due** |
| Assignment #1:  How Photography Works | 20%  Three techniques are due and your best two will be graded, at 10% each. | January 31; Feb 14  (Lomography portion due date TBD due to film processing) |
| Assignment #2:  How the Camera Works | 30%  (each part is valued at 10%) | Feb 28 and March 14 |
| Assignment #3:  The Still Life | 40% | March 21; March 28, April 4 |
| Reading Response | 10% | January 29 |

*Notice: Due dates are subject to change. Please check the Courselink announcement page and the weekly schedule for any changes and updates.*

**FACILITIES:**

The Fine Art Department has photography facilities on the third and fourth floors which include: a photographic classroom (412), studio (320), communal darkroom (304), graphic arts darkroom (303), film developing closet (305), and a dry-room (302), as well as digital facilities (406). Storage for student supplies and materials consist of shared lockers, signed out on a “first-come, first-serve” basis. The use of facilities, equipment, and the studio (320), are on a sign-up basis. Keys and/or equipment can be obtained from the technician, Paul Macdonald (room 406B, ext. ext. 53736).

*Notice: Due to COVID-19, classes will be held remotely as the photography facilities may be closed. In some cases, it is possible that timed access to some facilities or equipment loans may be permitted. Please check with the photography technician or the instructor for details.*

**SAFETY:**

All students can complete this course entirely on an online basis. All assignments, discussion and evaluation will take place remotely. While all course content will be delivered remotely, Public Health and University guidelines may permit some limited access to the assigned studio spaces for this class for students wishing take the option. The timetable for such access and the conditions under which it will be available are all TBA. Any decisions regarding access to studios and on campus facilities will be in compliance with those guidelines. The primary purpose will be to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

If access to facilities is granted, safety guidelines provided by the instructor and the technician must be followed without exception. It is the responsibility of each student to attend all safety orientation sessions that are provided and read all safety instructions provided.

**LAB FEES:**

A compulsory materials fee of $110.00 will be charged for materials provided in support of required course projects. The amount will be invoiced by the Office of the Bursar and paid directly with your tuition payment – no additional payment is necessary. ***The lab fee will not be refunded after the third week of classes.***

**SUPPLIED MATERIALS:**

A materials package will be available for pick up at the beginning of the term, or will be shipped to you. You will also receive a semester software licence for Photoshop and Bridge. Specifically, the lab fee covers:

1 Lomography camera

2 rolls of 35mm black and white film

Film processing for one roll of film (the other roll is optional and can be sent to a local photo lab)

Sun printing kit

Grey card

Camera obscura materials (black plastic, construction paper)

Zavitz pick up or one-way shipping for materials package, if required

*Note: If you have picked up or been sent a materials kit and you drop the course, it is your responsibility to ship back the unused materials (at your expense), or drop them off. Left over materials will then be assessed for the value of a partial return of your lab fee.*

**REQUIRED STUDENT SUPPLIES:**

* Internet connection
* A computer (Mac or PC) with video and audio for Zoom meetings
* A laptop or desktop computer (Mac or PC) that can run Photoshop (note that Chromebooks will not work as they cannot download software – for required specifications see <https://helpx.adobe.com/ca/photoshop/system-requirements.html>).
* Digital camera with manual settings. Ideally your camera should have the capability of shooting on RAW mode.
* Memory card for camera.

*Note: Please email photo technician Paul MacDonald* [*pamacdon@uoguelph.ca*](mailto:pamacdon@uoguelph.ca) *if you need advice on your laptop or camera, or if you are planning to purchase a new camera or laptop.*

**RECOMMENDED STUDENT SUPPLIES:**

* Spare camera batteries
* Skylight or UV filter to protect your camera lens
* Tripod
* Cable release or remote
* External memory drive, such as a USB flash drive to save your work.