

SYLLABUS

In this class you can expect to explore the relationship between the way that you perceive the world and the way that you actually chose to live in this world. We have the ability to see much more in the world than we can understand. We will learn how we perceive the world in patterns as a living-changing phenomenon. Through this process of finding reality in the world through our photographs our images will reveal to us what is really important about this culture that is around us.

Photography is about two very simple elements. Light and surface. If you do not have light you cannot make a photograph. Light that comes from the sun moves through space as energy and cannot be perceived until it strikes a surface. Light moving through space is invisible until it is revealed by surface. That surface can be very simple or very complex. The light can be very rich or very dull. These two simple elements for many years have made very complex and compelling images with very diverse and sometime important content.

Through these two simple elements a very rich and complex media explodes and takes many twist and turns as it describes the world around us. Using the camera in a personal professional enquiring manner will produce documents that represent a critique of the world around you. At the same time you will begin to understand your perspective of your own point-of-view of the world around you. Your perceptions will increase with the amount of energy and honesty that you use making your personal work.

When asked by students, “What should I photograph”? I state quite simply, your passion, what you love or what you hate. You will spend more time working on something that you really care about to make sure that it is perfect. If you are making photographs to just receive a grade you will not care about them and you will not spend the time you need to make sure they are perfect.

You need to think outside the classroom and to the real issues that face everyone today in this time and in this space. You are witness to a unique situation right now. You have your energy with your life in front of you at a wonderful time with a world of possibilities opening up for everyone. If you are present you can take advantage of this fabulous opportunity. The camera is a wonderful instrument that can record the world in a way that we cannot see when we stand and gaze at the landscape. The camera will help us locate ourselves in the world like a dowsing rod can locate water.

Once you have completed the image, then you have to decide how it is to be presented. In what context do you want this particular image viewed? How should you edit this work? When you place it next to other images that you have completed what is the statement that you make? How does it reflect culture, society, religion, or politics? Do you care? What is most important to you as Art maker that you want us as Art viewer to understand about your work? Why do you want to make one more photograph when there are millions of photographs already? And finally what makes it ART?

LAWRENCE McFARLAND, Professor

ART 319T/379T/320K/320L: Photography: Cultural Documentation of Tuscany–Italy

OFFICE: I will establish hours for you to see me in Italy when we learn our class and office assignments.

OFFICE HOURS: They will be flexible so contact me as needed.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

None, but outside reading will be assigned. You must provide proof that you have exposed at least four rolls of film per week during the semester in the form of 20 contact sheets.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

See attached materials list. Students should anticipate spending about \$350.00 to \$550.00 dollars per semester on photographic materials and software not supplied by the University.

GRADING CRITERIA:

One fourth (1/4) of your grade will be based on class participation.

One fourth (1/4) of your grade will be based on your prints from the first half of the semester.

One half (1/2) of your grade will be based on your final longterm project. You will receive a grade judged on your technical ability as well as aesthetic value. The difficulty of your project will also be considered. All pertinent material should be submitted.

These five factor are important toward determining a final grade:

Technical, Originality, Participation in class and assignments, Difficulty of all project, and production and execution of all projects. If you are late to class or sleep during class that will be considered an unexcused absence.

THREE OR MORE UN-EXCUSED ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN THE LOWERING OF YOUR GRADE BY ONE GRADE LETTER FOR EACH CLASSES MISSED AFTER THREE ABSENCES.

IF YOU ARE LATE TO CLASS OR SLEEP DURING CLASS YOU WILL BE COUNTED AS ABSENCE.

THERE WILL BE NO INCOMPLETE GRADES GIVEN.

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This is a unique experience and things will be quite flexible but you must concentrate, be focused, and be engaged to accomplish anything with your photography. I will be photographing almost everyday either around the town or in a near by town. I will be taking wonderful walking trips into the countryside. You are welcome to accompany me on these short trips. You will be required to go on the field trips and to photograph.

MATERIALS LIST;

YOU WILL NEED:

Camera, (digital at least 10 megapixals)

Inkjet Paper, (Epson Ultra Premium Photo Paper Luster

DVD or CD for Storage of Files and a small hard drive to store images.

Lightroom or Photoshop software.

Access to a computer.

YOUR NAME, SS#, AND CLASS SHOULD BE LISTED ON EVERYTHING YOU TURN IN.

NOTICE

“In addition to discussions about the formal artistic and technical content of this class, broad dialogue may occur regarding contemporary art and its social and historic context; and the expression of thoughts, experience, and ideas of contemporary and historic individuals.”

"The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY."