

Photo 1
Instructor: Jason Long

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course combines lectures with hands-on experience in digital photography, as well as an introduction to the darkroom and film photography. Instruction includes digital camera function, exposure control, technical and creative control, computer manipulation of images, pinhole cameras, and photograms. The format of the class includes lectures, visual presentations, lab time (photo projects with digital cameras and mobile phones), and a final portfolio.

MATERIALS

All materials are provided in class, however if a student has a DSLR camera at home they would like to use in class, they should plan to bring it every day.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- operate a DSLR camera.
- demonstrate basic exposure techniques (ISO, shutter speed, and aperture).
- recognize and use appropriate compositional techniques.
- produce a digital portfolio.
- perform basic image manipulation in Photoshop and/or PIXLR.
- describe basic photography techniques.

ATTENDANCE

This is a visual arts lab class; attendance and active daily participation are absolute musts.

Tardiness and lack of participation adversely affect the rest of the class, so please be mindful. Any work missed due to a cut cannot be made up and can lower your grade in the class.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Students will primarily be evaluated on their ability to grow as visual artists (via rubrics), as well as how successfully they use consistent feedback to improve work.

GRADING

As a project-based class, grades will be accurate reflections of students' levels of academic and artistic performance, based on a 4-point rubric grading scale and on evidence of students' content knowledge and skill development. For all projects, students will have the opportunity to "retake or re-do," if they want to improve their score on individual rubrics. Students develop craft and grow as artists by persisting through the series of projects (each designed to teach a new photographic skill) that are designed to allow for scaffolded skill acquisition and gradual improvement. All lessons and assessments encourage student agency through meaningful feedback, from teacher-, peer-, and self-evaluation.

Enrollment in this class is an implicit agreement to:

1. Attend and actively participate in every class and assignment.

2. Approach each project, assessment, etc. with willingness to grow.
3. Report any harmful actions or personal injuries/concerns to the teacher.
4. Show care, concern, and respect for all participants and guests in the class, as well as for all photographic subjects.

VAPA ELO'S

- **Develop Craft:** Learning to use and care for tools & materials. Learning artistic conventions.
- **Engage & Persist:** Learning to embrace problems of relevance within the art world and/or of personal importance, to develop focus and other mental states conducive to working and persevering at art tasks.
- **Envision:** Learning to picture mentally what cannot be directly observed and imagine possible next steps in making a piece.
- **Express:** Learning to create works that convey an idea, a feeling, or a personal meaning.
- **Observe:** Learning to attend to visual contexts more closely than ordinary "looking" requires, and thereby to see things that otherwise might not be seen.
- **Reflect:** Learning to think and talk with others about an aspect of one's work or working process.
- **Evaluate:** Learning to judge one's own work and working process and the work of others in relation to standards of the field.
- **Stretch & Explore:** Learning to reach beyond one's capacities, to explore playfully without a preconceived plan, and to embrace the opportunity to learn from mistakes and accidents.
- **Understand Art World:** Learning about art history and current practice. Learning to interact as an artist with other artists (i.e., in classrooms, in local arts organizations, and across the art field) and within the broader society.