



COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: ART 1184: Introduction to Digital Photography

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. **Credits:** 3
2. **Hours/Week:** 6
3. **Prerequisites (Course discipline/number):** None
4. **Co-requisites (Course discipline/number):** None
5. **MnTC Goals (if any):** Goal 2/Critical Thinking, Goal 6/Humanities – The Arts, Literature and Philosophy

This course is an introduction to photography as a creative medium. The emphasis is on aesthetic, technical, conceptual and historical concerns in photography. Instruction will include basic and creative camera, lighting and image processing skills; assignments will direct students toward development of personal expression and seeing photographically; media presentations, discussion and studio critiques will address photo-history, interpretation and analysis. **RECOMMENDED ENTRY SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE:** basic math.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): January, 2011

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. Cultural Investigation and History of Photography
 - a) Overview of the history of photography with an emphasis on mid 20th Century to Contemporary photographers
 - b) Current issues in photography and photo-criticism
2. Interpretation and analysis of photography
 - a) The photograph in the context of time and place
 - b) Content and meaning
 - c) Symbolism and metaphor
 - d) Judgments and Criteria
 - e) Current issues in photography
 - f) Studio Critique
3. Aesthetics and Composition
 - a) Visual Composition and Image Structure
 - b) Basic Design Elements
 - c) Creative control using photographic tools and software
4. Camera, Lens and Exposure
 - a) Camera types; Pinhole to Digital
 - b) Basic Camera Controls
 - c) Exposure
 - d) Creative Camera and Exposure Techniques
 - e) Focal Lengths
 - f) Lens and Creative Visual Effects
 - g) ISO speed and purposes
5. Processing Images
 - a) Image File Processing
 - b) Burning and Dodging for Creative Effects
 - c) File Storage and Backup
 - d) Color Management
 - e) File output
 - f) Overview of the Chemical Darkroom
 - g) Print Finishing

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of elements of design and photo structure.
2. Demonstrate skills and technical knowledge in camera controls, image processing and printing.
3. Identify important photographers and important photographic movements.
4. Articulate a personal, critical response to technical and aesthetic concerns when viewing photographs.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Competencies from the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MNTC):

Goal 2: Critical Thinking: Students will be able to:

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives that can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions that underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 6: Humanities and Fine Arts: Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities
4. Engage in the creative process or interpretive performance.
5. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:

1. Evaluation of photo projects
2. Response papers
3. Exams
4. Participation during critiques and class discussions
5. Attendance

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any):

1. Special Fees Apply.
2. Students need access to a Digital SLR camera.
3. MSDS Sheets relating to photography chemistry will be made available to students.
4. The initial lab session explains and familiarizes the student with general safety hazards and safety equipment in the lab. During the pre-lab discussion, the hazardous characteristics of the chemicals used during the lab are discussed. The students will be instructed on the proper disposal of any hazardous products. The instructor will direct all students to wear necessary protective equipment while working with the chemicals. A copy of Material Safety Data Sheets for chemicals used is available in the lab.
5. This course aligns with the following RCTC Core Outcomes:
Critical Thinking
Aesthetic Response