



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number
PHO 285

Course Title
Special Studies in Photography

Credits
3

Hours:
Lecture/Lab/Other
1/4/0

Co- or Pre-requisite

Implementation
Semester & Year
SPRING 2022

Catalog description:

Topics in both traditional and digital photography. Course material is tailored to satisfy special requests by students and to share the specialized talents of the college faculty. Lab time is provided during class time. [occasional offering]

General Education Category:
Not GenEd

Course coordinator:

Michael Chovan-Dalton, 609-570-3835, daltonm@mccc.edu

Required texts & Other materials:

To be discussed with the instructor on the first day of class.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the use of a variety of film and digital cameras with all their controls, including focusing, viewing, and regulating the shutter speed and aperture control (ILG: 4; PLO 1)
2. Utilize various darkroom and digital techniques to create archival images (ILG: 4,11; PLO 2,3,5)
3. Evaluate how well an image communicates a concept (ILG: 1,11; PLO 6)
4. Criticize and defend photographs in a group setting (ILG: 1,11; PLO 6)

Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):

Institutional Learning Goal 1. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Institutional Learning Goal 4. Technology. Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.

Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking: Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

Program Learning Outcomes for Photography (PLO)

1. Demonstrate proficiency with photographic capture devices;
2. Process, manipulate, and print images in photographic labs;
3. Practice archival image work flow;
4. Identify and explain the significant events in art history as well as contemporary practices;
5. Integrate different techniques and approaches to photography and digital imaging;
6. Analyze and evaluate images in the context of group critiques;
7. Create a portfolio for education transfer.

Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:

Unit I [Cameras: Multi-Format] [Supports Course SLO #1]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Solve problems with exposure through chemical and digital processing
- Employ more advanced exposure controls for detail description and creative effects

Unit II [Darkroom: Wet and Digital] [Supports Course SLOs #2]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Practice non-destructive and archival workflow techniques through proper file management, software tools, wet processing, image file formats, and print output
- Utilize appropriate software and darkroom tools to improve image details and concept intent

Unit III [The Critique] [Supports Course SLOs #3,4]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Identify relationships of details in photographs
- Articulate the meaning of photographs
- Debate the qualities of student photographs in a group setting
- Evaluate the overall success of how well a photograph communicates to a group of peers
- Evaluate and Organize the photographs made over the course of a semester into a final presentation

Evaluation of student learning:

- 70% – Assignments/Quizzes
 - Photo assignments require that you gradually integrate all of the skills and techniques demonstrated in class. The assignment will reinforce technical concepts and require you to investigate what you want to photograph and how you want to treat the subject matter. You will be graded on both technical and creative aspects of your work. Quizzes will test your comprehension of assigned tutorials and lectures.
- 15% – Mimic A Photographer Presentation

- An oral presentation that combines biographical and aesthetic analysis of a well-known photographer with photos made by the photographer and made by the student in the style/genre of the chosen photographer.
- 15% – Final Presentation
 - Students will organize their best work into a presentation for a final group critique. Grades are based upon technical and aesthetic concerns as well as participation in the group critique.