SP20_ARTS_2996_504_GarozaV

Arts 2996, section 504

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Syllabus: Composition and Creativity in Photography

The goal of this course is to help you improve your ability to take good photographs from the standpoint of composition, and also to become more creative in your approach in taking photographs. In order to better understand what is involved in composition, I will give you assignments that will engage you in photographic interpretations of the elements of art .

Those elements are: line, shape, texture/pattern, light (value) and color.

As we study photographs that embody these elements, we will also discuss some of the most important concepts of composition: variety/contrast, emphasis, repetition, proportion and balance.

You will have approximately 14 assignments during the semester.

All the knowledge and experience accumulated from these assignments will then find their way into creative challenges (this does not imply in any way that the previous assignments are not meant to be creative). The topics may include shadows, reflections, abstraction, chairs, windows and doors, and others that I may cook up for your greater photographing pleasure.

The final assignment will be a photo essay on a subject of your choice. You will select 15-20 photos to form the essay portfolio.

You will select the best 5-10 examples of your work for each assignment to present for the following session. We will review each person's work and offer suggestions for improvement. You may put your work on a flash drive, or bring in prints.

Then, I will show examples for the next assignment selected from photographs found online, such as at photo.net. This is a good photography site where you can see literally thousands of top quality photos submitted by photographers, professional and amateur, from around the world. I will also show you my own examples. You will then receive an example sheet printed in color for the next assignment along with a page of text clarifying the assignment.

You will present 5 of your best examples from each assignment in a final digital portfolio at the end of the semester.

Grading :

You will receive a grade for each assignment. The average of these grades will be a determining factor in your final grade. Another factor will be the photo essay final assignment that will reveal the sum total of what you have learned via the other assignments. Percentage-wise, the class assignments = 70% of your grade, photo essay = 30%.

Other factors: your improvement. For example, if you start of with some mediocre assignment grades but improve significantly over the semester, the improved assignments will outweigh the weaker ones. You can redo assignments for resubmission until the end of the semester.

Attendance: I will permit one unexcused absence. Exceeding this will negatively affect your grade.

Completion of assignments: I expect you to complete every assignment. Missing assignments will lower your grade, guaranteed.

Expected outcomes:

This course is designed do the following:

Improve the quality of your photographs
Make you aware of the elements of art in the context of photography
Use cropping to improve the composition of your images
Understand the importance of lighting conditions in photography
Make you more visually aware of your surroundings
Stimulate your creativity with assignments that will make you think and see outside the box

What you will need: a digital camera or smartphone camera
16-32 GB flash drive
3-ring binder
Plastic slip sheets

• Computer Lab Responsibility Statement:

Computer Lab Responsibility: Please be advised that use of computer labs on UNM properties is governed by "Policy 2500: Acceptable Computer Use" which can be found at http://policy.unm.edu/university- policies/2000/2500.html. Food and drink are also

prohibited in any computer lab on campus. Anyone violating these policies is subject to possible suspension and loss of computer lab privileges.

• Title IX Statement:

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education (see pg.15 - http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which

includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html

• Academic Dishonesty and/or Plagiarism Policy (see https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html). You should quote UNM's policy on "Dishonesty in Academic Matters"

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including dismissal, against any student who is found responsible for academic dishonesty. Any student who has been judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; and misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or outside the University.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a documented disability, the Equal Access Services office will provide me with a letter outlining your accommodations. I will then discuss the accommodations with you to determine the best learning environment. If you feel that you need accommodations, but have not documented your disability, please contact Stacie Kirtley, the coordinator for Equal Access Services at 925-8560 or skirtley@unm.edu.